OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INITIATIVE

ACADEMIC SENATE FOR CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

ASCCC OERI November 2026 OER Liaison Newsletter

As we transition into November, we can see the end of 2026 coming quickly. The OERI has distributed two discipline surveys so far this term and will deploy more in the weeks ahead. The information gathered from these surveys will assist in prioritizing OERI's work in the spring term and the years ahead so please be sure that your faculty complete the surveys. As we strive to finish our activities for the present term, we are also planning our spring activities. If you would be interested in having an OERI-hosted training at your college, please let us know.

• Fall 2026 OER Liaison Expectations and Tracking •

All OER Liaisons need to document their Fall 2026 OER Liaison "attendance" activities using the Fall 2026 Liaison Tracking Spreadsheet (tinyurl.com/OERL-2026F). OERLs are expected to complete – and document – their activities by Wednesday, December 9. Access the Fall 2026 OERL Expectations document for more information. Please note that you should be attending or viewing a Fall 2026 Kick-Off by October 9. Contact your Regional Lead for any questions or concerns. Presentation slides and a recording of a Kick-Off will be archived on the OERI website in the OER Liaisons tab under "OER Liaison Expectations".

• Accessing Resources in Canvas Commons •

Have you ever selected a link to access something in Canvas Commons and instead of accessing the resource you wanted to see you got a message that says, "Canvas Lite is Live!"? If so, you are not alone. This is a common error that results from the link taking you to Canvas Lite (previously Free for Teachers) instead of Canvas Commons. Although this issue has yet to be resolved, you can prevent this from happening by logging into Canvas and accessing Canvas Commons before you try to retrieve an OER that is in Canvas Commons.

• Accessibility and OER •

The OERI will soon begin assessing commonly adopted OER for accessibility. The prioritization of OER for review (and the approach to remediation) will be informed by the adoption data we receive. If your college or district has already assessed (and remediated) OER, we would like to prevent any duplication of effort – please let us know what accessibility work you have done and/or what you plan to do. If you have already identified resources you intend to work on, please share these with the OERI. Ideally, the work can be distributed across the colleges.

• Discipline Surveys – Group 1 and 2 •

The OERI is in the process of deploying discipline surveys to gather OER adoption data and identify remaining OER needs. Each survey gathers information from 4-6 disciplines to simplify their distribution. OERLs are encouraged to employ the most effective means of sharing the surveys. Where possible, we have strived to group disciplines that would typically be housed together to facilitate dispersal of a given survey by sending it to chairs or deans for distribution. The first survey, OER 26F Discipline Survey Group I, will gather information from anthropology, child development, early childhood education, political science, psychology, and sociology faculty. Group 2 gathers information from faculty teaching in art/art history, communication studies, English, kinesiology, music, and philosophy. Each survey will be shared with OERLs, distributed via the existing discipline and OERI listservs, and posted on the OERI website. To ensure your faculty don't miss developments in their discipline, please encourage them to sign up for their discipline list serv. These one-way listservs are used by the OERI to inform and recruit faculty and by the ASCCC to inform faculty of C-ID and Common Course Numbering (CCN) developments.

Group 1 – Anthropology, Child Development, Early Childhood Education (ECE), Political Science, Psychology, Sociology

Please complete the survey no later than Tuesday, November 3, 2026. If you have any questions about the survey, or need any assistance, please let us know. On behalf of the ASCCC OERI, we thank you for your time.

Access the Fall 2026 ASCCC OERI Discipline Survey for Group 1

Group 2 – Art/Art History, Communication Studies, English, Kinesiology, Music, Philosophy

Please complete the survey no later than Monday, November 16, 2026. If you have any questions about the survey, or need any assistance, please let us know. On behalf of the ASCCC OERI, we thank you for your time.

Access the Fall 2026 ASCCC OERI Discipline Survey for Group 2

• XB12 Low-Cost Text Definition •

In a California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office memo titled "Establishment of Standardized Low Textbook Cost (LTC) Threshold", the following XB12 change was documented:

> Effective summer 2027, a course section shall be reported as Low Textbook Cost (LTC), under MIS data element XB12, only when the total required course material cost to the student for the course section does not exceed $30 (code "D" to be updated or new code to be established).
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> This threshold applies solely to MIS reporting, and it does not restrict colleges from maintaining locally determined LTC designations for instructional purposes. However, the Chancellor's Office strongly recommends colleges consider the benefit of the $30 threshold for student-facing communications to improve consistency for cost planning throughout the system. As students more frequently engage in inter-college and inter-district enrollments, including the

California Virtual Campus (CVC) Exchange, consistency and cost transparency are of increasing importance to students.

To support colleges discussing aligning their LTC definition to the XB12 LTC $30 threshold, the OERI has compiled sample resolutions to facilitate a change and is tracking local thresholds. If your LTC definition has been modified, or you would like to share a resolution or other resources, please let the OER know.

• OER Liaison Events – November 2026 •

While OERL events are intended for OERLs, please invite your colleagues to attend if you think they would be interested.

Thursday, November 12, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Auto-Billing and the College Bookstore: What Faculty Need to Know
Have you ever heard from your college bookstore or an administrator that your college can achieve “100% equitable access” to textbooks starting on day one? First Day Complete, Inclusive Access, Equitable Access, BookSaver – the names and business models vary, but the sales pitches often sound remarkably similar: convenient, affordable textbooks for every student. But what happens when these programs automatically charge students for course materials? Who determines which materials are included, how prices are negotiated, and whether students can easily opt out? What do these agreements mean for faculty academic freedom, student choice, and local efforts to expand the adoption of open educational resources (OER) and the establishment of Zero Textbook Cost pathways? Join us for a panel discussion featuring three OER Liaisons who have navigated bookstore auto-billing programs from different institutional perspectives. From challenging proposed programs through the purview of the academic senate to examining bookstore contracts, institutional agreements, and student billing practices, panelists will share their experiences, lessons learned, and strategies for protecting students and faculty. Whether your college is considering an auto-billing program, already has one in place, or is simply trying to understand the growing number of branded textbook access models, this webinar will provide practical tools for informed governance, transparency, and student-centered decision-making.
Register for Auto-Billing and the College Bookstore

Monday, November 16, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Using Rubrics for High-Quality, Equitable Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Course Design: An Interactive Toolkit
Join East Los Angeles College's OER Coordinators to learn about the rubrics they've developed, inspired by Peer Online Course Review and Universal Design for Learning, to support faculty in creating equitable, high-quality open educational resources and ZTC Canvas courses.
Register for Using Rubrics for High-Quality, Equitable ZTC Course Design

Wednesday, November 18, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Mapping Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Pathways
Join your OER Liaison colleagues from Coastline College, Fullerton College, and Cosumnes River College to learn how they have identified ZTC degree and certificate pathways and made them visible to students. They will share what’s working and where they have run into challenges to help you find successful strategies for your own college to implement.
Register for Mapping ZTC Pathways

• End of OERL-Specific Newsletter •

The rest of this newsletter contains content for a general audience, and you are expected to share it with your colleagues, as appropriate. We've provided a sample message that you can use, but please adapt it to your college culture. Also note that as an OERL, you are automatically signed up for our general newsletter. The general newsletter can easily be forwarded with your personalized message added as an introduction.

• Sample Cover Message to Send to Your College •

Hello! As the Open Educational Resources Liaison for our college, it is my pleasure to share communications from the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) Open Educational Resources Initiative (OERI). Please read on to learn about upcoming events and opportunities that are free and open to all. If I can assist you as you consider OER for your classes or answer any OER related questions, please let me know.

• OERI Discipline Leads Wanted •

The OERI is recruiting Discipline Leads for the 2026 – 2027 academic year. Discipline Leads receive a stipend of $600 per term for completing their assigned tasks and are also eligible to receive a stipend for taking the OERI's self-paced OER Basics and OER Accessibility Basics courses. Read more about the Discipline Lead role and the process for applying. Access the Power Point and archive of the September 15th webinar: Why Be an OERI Discipline Lead? (AKA OERI Discipline Lead Information Session) for more information. While we are actively recruiting Leads for the following disciplines, we are always happy to consider other disciplines as well.

- Agriculture – Animal Sciences and Plant Sciences
- Alternative Fuels and Advanced Transportation Technology
- Asian American Studies
- Data Science
- Dental Assistant
- Electronics
- Emergency Medical Services
- Fire Technology
- Health
- Health Information Technology
- Medical Assisting
- Nursing
- Office Technology/Business Information Worker
- Public Health
- Social Justice Studies
- Welding Technology

• Interactive Office Hours: Artificial Intelligence (AI) •

Join the OERI's AI Lead, Liz Encarnacion, for a series of interactive office hours centered around using AI to create and adapt OER.

Thursday, November 13, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Artificial Intelligence (AI) Office Hour: AI Resilient Assessments for Courses Using Open Educational Resources (OER)
Join this interactive office hour that will focus on designing AI-resilient assessments for OER and OER-based courses. Bring your assessments and OER material that need the most support to workshop practical solutions that emphasize authentic learning, student process, reflection, application, and meaningful demonstration of course outcomes. We will discuss how the flexibility of OER can be used to create accessible, equitable, and AI-aware assessments that support learning, rather than just simply detecting AI use.
Register for AI Office Hour: AI Resilient Assessments for OER Courses

• Teaching Online with Open Educational Resources (OER) •

Online courses and OER are a natural fit. OER can be adapted, remixed, and built directly into a course shell, and that flexibility creates possibilities that commercial materials can't match. The ASCCC OERI Distance Education (DE) Webinars explore that intersection, helping California community college faculty, instructional designers, and DE coordinators use OER to design stronger online courses. Sessions cover topics such as integrating OER into Canvas, aligning open content with course outcomes and regular and substantive interaction requirements, ensuring that adapted materials meet accessibility standards, and using zero-cost resources to remove barriers for online students from the first day of class. Whether you're building your first fully online course or transitioning an existing one to OER, these sessions offer practical strategies you can use right away. All webinars are recorded and archived on the OERI's website under Webinars and Events.

Wednesday, November 4, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Backward by Design: Building a Fully Online Canvas Shell with Open Educational Resources (OER)
Explore how backward design principles can guide the creation of a complete, ready-to-teach online course in Canvas. Participants will learn to start with clear learning outcomes with design aligned assessments, and then select and sequence OER to build engaging instructional content. We'll walk through practical strategies for structuring a fully online Canvas shell—from module organization to activity design—using freely available, high-quality OER materials.
Register for Backward by Design

• OERI Events – Friday Forums •

During the Fall 2026 academic term, the OERI Friday Forums will be held from 10:30 am – 11:30 am on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month through December 4. All Friday Forum webinars are recorded and archived. The ASCCC OERI will provide automated captioning for all webinars. If you would like to request live human closed captioning for any of our offerings, please contact us by e-mail at least 10 business days in advance.

Please note: There will be no Friday Forum on November 6 due to the ASCCC Fall Plenary Session.

Friday, November 20, 10:30 am – 11:30 am
Hot Off the Server: What's New in LibreTexts and ADAPT

Building your openly-licensed textbook just got faster, and your discussions just got a whole lot richer! In this live showcase, you'll see the brand-new Remixer v3 pull in an entire book in seconds and let you name chapters your way as well as the Glossary Manager, the License Restacker that untangles CC licenses for you, and an AI-powered Meta Editor that drafts summaries, tags, and alt text in one click. Then get a first look at ADAPT's fresh new interface, assignment time limits, and a supercharged Discuss-It with "daisy-chain" discussions that allow for different due dates and grading criteria within a topic, file attachments, a post-first option, and timestamped replies that sync right to audio and video. Bring your questions, grab a seat, and walk away with tools you'll want to use tomorrow. Save your spot today!
Register for Hot Off the Server

• OERI Discipline Events •

The OERI Discipline Leads regularly host conversations and webinars to share resources, identify needs, and build community. These events are intended for discipline faculty and for those who have an interest in the discipline as supporters or advocates. Webinars will be recorded and archived. A "conversation" or an office hour is an informal discussion. The ASCCC OERI will provide automated captioning for all webinars. If you would like to request live human closed captioning for any of our offerings, please contact us by e-mail at least 10 business days in advance.

Many of this year's Discipline Lead webinars will focus on new open educational resources (OER) that have been added to COOL4Ed as required by the Zero Textbook Cost legislation. In addition, discipline surveys are scheduled to be distributed this year that are intended to gather adoption data and identify unmet discipline needs. Consequently, some webinars may seek input from attendees regarding aspects of the discipline's survey.

Monday, November 2, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Automotive Technology: Open Educational Resources (OER) and Video Content
Join us to discuss the state of OER for auto tech. We will review automotive-related training and history, discuss OER that are under development, and explore the discipline's unmet resource needs. Finally, we will share the different types of free videos and manufacturer-specific content that may be used until OER is developed and readily available.
Register for Automotive Technology: OER and Video Content

Monday, November 2, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Hospitality Management Open Educational Resources (OER) – New Resources and the State of the Discipline
As of Fall 2026, most new pathways funded with Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Degree Program dollars are required to be implemented and many colleges have added new resources to COOL4Ed as required by the ZTC legislation. Join us for an overview of newly available hospitality management OER, to share what OER you're working on, and/or to discuss your unmet OER needs.
Register for Hospitality Management OER – New Resources and the State of the Discipline

Monday, November 2, 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Building Information Technology and Information Systems (ITIS) Zero Textbook

Cost (ZTC) Cybersecurity Courses with ACM Curriculum Guidance
Explore free, open, and low-cost alternatives to commercial cybersecurity courseware such as CertMaster. This webinar introduces ACM curriculum guidance and practical approaches to combining readings, hands-on labs, and assessments to ZTC and low-textbook-cost cybersecurity courses.
Register for Addressing the Cost of ITIS Courses

Tuesday, November 3, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Open Educational Resources (OER) for Addiction Studies (ADS) – New Resources and the State of the Discipline
As of Fall 2026, most new pathways funded with Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Degree Program dollars are required to be implemented and many colleges have added new resources to COOL4Ed as required by the ZTC legislation. Join us for an overview of newly available ADS OER, to share what OER you're working on, and/or to discuss your unmet OER needs.
Register for OER and ADS – New Resources and the State of the Discipline

Tuesday, November 3, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Open Educational Resources (OER) for Physics – New Resources and the State of the Discipline
As of Fall 2026, most new pathways funded with Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Degree Program dollars are required to be implemented and many colleges have added new resources to COOL4Ed as required by the ZTC legislation. Join us for an overview of newly available Physics OER, to share what OER you're working on, and/or to discuss your unmet OER needs.
Register for OER for Physics – New Resources and the State of the Discipline

Wednesday, November 4, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Foreign Languages and Open Educational Resources (OER) in Practice: LibreTexts, ADAPT, Playlab, and Artificial Intelligence (AI)
Join us for a practical look at OER to support French and Spanish language courses that could be modified for any language. Resources developed in LibreTexts ADAPT will be shared and how generative AI and Playlab are being thoughtfully integrated to support teaching and learning will be demonstrated. Attendees will leave with concrete models and strategies they can adapt for their own language courses and OER projects.
Register for Foreign Languages and OER in Practice

Thursday, November 5, 9:00 am – 10:00 am
Agriculture Business and Open Educational Resources (OER) Conversation
Join your agriculture business colleagues to connect and explore how OER can support teaching and learning.
Register for Agriculture Business and OER Conversation

Thursday, November 5, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Engineering Statics: Open and Interactive – The Authors' Perspectives on Open Educational Resources (OER) for Mechanics Courses
Join us for an engaging conversation with Drs. Dan Baker and William Haynes, the authors of the widely used Engineering Statics: Open and Interactive OER text. The authors will share their motivations for creating the text and how the text has impacted them and their students in the years since its publication. In addition, the authors will discuss their vision for how the OER community can continue to support engineering

students in today's educational landscape.
Register for Engineering Statics

Friday, November 6, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Developing Open Educational Resources (OER) for American Sign Language (ASL)
Join us for a conversation where you can bring both your ideas and your questions about developing OER for ASL.
Register Developing OER for American Sign Language

Monday, November 9, 10:00 am – 11:00 am
Free Music Performances Online
Join us for a survey of resources for free performances hosted online. Although not open, access to free, high-quality performances are essential for teaching many music courses online.
Register for Free Music Performances Online

Monday, November 9, 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Defining our Disciplines to Facilitate the Discovery of Open Educational Resources (OER): Are we Kinesiology, Exercise Science, Health…or All of the Above?
Join us for an informal conversation about the intersections among kinesiology, exercise science, health, fitness, and related fields. Where do these disciplines overlap, where are the meaningful differences, and what does that mean for faculty when creating and finding OER? We'll discuss ideas for how discipline resources are best organized in the OERI's collections, explore what resources are truly missing or what may be hiding under different disciplinary labels, and where we most need OER.
Register for Defining our Disciplines to Facilitate the Discovery of OER

Tuesday, November 10, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Open Educational Resources (OER) for Business – New Resources and the State of the Discipline
As of Fall 2026, most new pathways funded with Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Degree Program dollars are required to be implemented and many colleges have added new resources to COOL4Ed as required by the ZTC legislation. Join us for an overview of newly available business OER, to share what OER you're working on, and/or to discuss your unmet OER needs.
Register for OER for Business – New Resources and the State of the Discipline

Thursday, November 12, 10:00 am – 11:00 am
Elementary Teacher Education: Pros and Cons of Canvas Commons
If you've ever wondered what might exist in the depths of Canvas Commons for teaching education courses, please join us for a lively dive into what is available in this mighty resource. We will search for and then look through materials relative to the field. We will talk about how we might adapt them for our own use in the classroom. To round out our discussion, we'll chat about the pros and the cons of using Canvas Commons.
Register for Elementary Teacher Education: Pros and Cons of Canvas Commons

Thursday, November 12, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Open Educational Resources (OER) for Criminology/Administration of Justice – New Resources and the State of the Discipline
As of Fall 2026, most new pathways funded with Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Degree

Program dollars are required to be implemented and many colleges have added new resources to COOL4Ed as required by the ZTC legislation. Join us for an overview of newly available Criminology/Administration of Justice OER, to share what OER you're working on, and/or to discuss your unmet OER needs.
Register for OER for Criminology/Administration of Justice – New Resources and the State of the Discipline

Monday, November 16, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Finding, Evaluating, and Adapting Open Educational Resources (OER) for Economics
Looking for high-quality, no-cost instructional materials to enhance your economics courses? OER provide opportunities to reduce textbook costs, improve student access, and customize learning materials to meet diverse instructional needs. This webinar is designed for both faculty new to OER and experienced users, offering an overview of economics-specific textbooks, supplemental resources, and platforms such as OpenStax, LibreTexts, and OER Commons, along with practical strategies for finding, evaluating, adopting, and adapting materials for microeconomics and macroeconomics courses. Participants will explore useful resources through guided demonstrations and leave with practical tools and strategies they can immediately apply to their teaching, followed by an opportunity for questions and discussion.
Register for Finding, Evaluating, and Adapting OER for Economics

Tuesday, November 17, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Introducing Arabic Open Educational Resources (OER): Levels 1–4
Join us for an introduction to the available Arabic OER for Levels 1–4. Participants will explore the textbooks, review their key features, and learn how to access and integrate these OER into their courses using LibreTexts and Canvas. The session will conclude with time for questions and discussion.
Register Introducing Arabic OER: Levels 1–4

Tuesday, November 17, 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Open Educational Resources (OER) for History – New Resources and the State of the Discipline
As of Fall 2026, most new pathways funded with Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Degree Program dollars are required to be implemented and many colleges have added new resources to COOL4Ed as required by the ZTC legislation. Join us for an overview of newly available history OER, to share what OER you're working on, and/or to discuss your unmet OER needs.
Register for OER for History – New Resources and the State of the Discipline

Wednesday, November 18, 10:00 am – 11:00 am
Sparking Curiosity with Nutrition Open Educational Resources (OER)
What makes students want to open the textbook? A mystery worth solving. Join fellow nutrition faculty to explore how a surprising cellular puzzle can spark curiosity, draw students into OER, and turn reading into a search for evidence. Leave with an approach to try in your next OER chapter.
Register for Sparking Curiosity with Nutrition OER

Friday, November 20, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Making your Own Custom Philosophy Textbook using the Philosophy Open Educational Resources (OER) Repository in LibreTexts
For a sabbatical project this semester (Fall 2026), Professor Noah Levin is revising and

entering all of the standalone chapters in eight OER textbooks into a single, organized database on LibreTexts to allow other faculty to easily find chapters and generate their own custom textbook with enough materials to cover most philosophy courses taught in the California Community College system. Come see the progress of this project and get a demonstration on how to use it to easily create your own textbook.
Register for Making your Own Custom Philosophy Textbook

Friday, November 20, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Spotlight on Open Educational Resources (OER) in Noncredit English as a Second Language (ESL): Sharing What Works!
Noncredit ESL classes are unique in that they require materials flexible enough to meet a wide range of needs, from vocational ESL and basic conversation to beginning materials designed for adult learners. In this interactive conversation, faculty will share how they use OER in their noncredit ESL classes, the challenges they face, and the resources they still need. We invite participants to share and connect.
Register for Spotlight on OER in ESL: Sharing What Works!

Monday, November 23, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Accounting: Adopting Open Educational Resources (OER) – Practical Strategies for Implementation in Your Course
This session introduces faculty to the practical process of adopting OER for accounting courses. Participants will learn about the benefits of OER for equity, cost savings, student success, and course sustainability. The presentation includes a demonstration of how to adopt an OpenStax textbook, an overview of ready-to-import Canvas course materials and assignments, and strategies for aligning OER with course learning outcomes. The session concludes with a discussion of implementation and accessibility practices.
Register for Accounting: Adopting OER – Practical Strategies for Implementation in Your Course

Monday, November 30, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Open Educational Resources (OER) for Chemistry – New Resources and the State of the Discipline
As of Fall 2026, most new pathways funded with Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Degree Program dollars are required to be implemented and many colleges have added new resources to COOL4Ed as required by the ZTC legislation. Join us for an overview of newly available chemistry OER, to share what OER you're working on, and/or to discuss your unmet OER needs.
Register for OER for Chemistry – New Resources and the State of the Discipline

Math and Open Educational Resources (OER) Office Hours
The OERI is pleased to offer a series of math OER office hours throughout the term. These office hours will serve as a question-and-answer session where attendees bring in their math OER needs, requests, and questions. Attendees can also use this space to receive guidance and ask questions pertaining to MyOpenMath.
Register for Math and OER Office Hours on Thursday, November 5, 10:00 – 11:00 am
Register for Math and OER Office Hours on Friday, November 20, 9:30 am – 10:30 am