

WSAC Grant Number 2019-GR- IA-178

Final Report

Grant Start date: 1/20/19

Grant End date: 9/20/19

University: Central Washington University

Project Director: Maura Valentino

Date: 9/30/19

The Zero Textbook Cost General Education OER Pathway Project funded by the WSAC Grant accomplished its goal to create a path through the new General Education Framework in which a student will not have to purchase a textbook. The framework consists of 7 areas of knowledge and 4 other groups. Each student is required to take one course in each area of knowledge as well as a first-year experience course, a first level academic writing course, a quantitative reasoning course and a culminating experience. Within these knowledge areas, there are 5 pathways, one of which is social justice. Students are required to take 3 courses within one pathway and can get a focus certification, called a milestone, for taking 5 courses within one pathway. Many of the courses already exist, and use expensive textbooks, but have been redesigned to fit the new framework. By offering at least 11 courses, one in each knowledge area and one in each of the 4 other specific areas, a student could complete the General Education Program without spending money on textbooks. With this grant, 26 courses were changed to OER, creating many paths through the Gen Ed curriculum with no textbook cost.

Not only was this a success with the courses changed to OER through this grant, but the professors who received stipends to change over their course realized the importance of OER and changed over other courses they were teaching as well. The bookstore is working with us to identify courses that have no textbook cost within the student scheduler. After the grant supported courses were filled in to the framework of the Gen Ed, we didn't have a milestone path with no textbook costs. So, the campus coordinator looked at other courses in the pathway and determined that there were other courses in the Gen Ed with no textbook cost, so if you include those courses, students will be able to achieve a milestone. I included a sheet in the excel spreadsheet with the whole path. Courses in red came from the grant.

There have also been speaking opportunities due to this grant. Maura Valentino and Geri Hopkins are speaking at the OLC (Online Learning Consortium) Accelerate conference in November and the Amigos OER Online conference in December.

The Campus Coordinator sent out a call for proposals to faculty teaching in the new General Education Program offering stipends to faculty who will use existing OER materials in their course and continue to use OER materials for three quarters. It was also required for the faculty member to survey the students at the end of the quarter regarding the use of OER materials in the course. The liaison to the Faculty Senate General Education committee will encourage faculty to apply.

Each professor who uses existing OER material in a General Education course was awarded \$1,000. One professor was awarded another \$500 for creating a textbook. We had 27 applications and were able to accept all of them. Two professors dropped out due to low enrollment, and we were able to substitute one professor, and gave an extra \$500 to one professor.

Once we had the applications, the campus coordinator and the course designer split up the stipend winners and each helped half of the professors to find resources. Professors used OER textbooks, professional association websites, Youtube videos, scholarly articles and government resources. The faculty senate general education coordinator reviewed the courses to be sure a pathway through the Gen Ed curriculum was possible.

In order to get the maximum number of applications, the campus coordinator presented on the grant and the application process. She presented three times across campus, March 6, April 8 and 12, and once at a satellite campus, on May 14, each for one hour.

As English 101 was an integral to the completion of an OER, the campus coordinator met with the chairs of the English department to encourage applications for English 101, on January 11 for one hour.

This campus works on an RCM budget model which has caused some competitiveness among departments. There is some pushback against listing Zero Textbook Costs in the online scheduler. We are working with the Faculty Senate to address this.

Now that there are so many OER Gen Ed courses, I think others may be pressured to go OER also. I think this OER path through the Gen Ed will continue for many years and the savings will multiply for the students. I plan to work with departments across campus to create majors with no textbook cost, so that students can complete an entire degree at CWU with no textbook cost.

Out of 25 professors, we had 23 answer the faculty survey. 9 professors found the process very easy (0-2 on a scale of 0-10), the others ranged in scale from 3-7, no one answering 8 or above. 8 teach other courses in an OER format. 19 responded that they are interested in transitioning other courses to OER or have already done so. Most of the comments were very positive in terms of the finding of the materials being easy, but sometimes time consuming. One professor commented that he would like an OER search solely for composition, another two commented that they would like a library OER page, which already exists. Another commented that he would like experts in the field to help. Generally, I was extremely encouraged by the results of the survey. One professor even suggested that funding should be generally available, perhaps through the provost's office.

Next time, I would allow for faculty to use the money for professional development. I didn't realize I needed to specify that.

Two Specific Outcomes

Name: Elaine Glenn

Course: World Regional Geography

Previous Book: Globalization and Diversity (Pearson)

New Books: Global Geography
<http://caitiefinlayson.com/WRGTextbook.pdf>

Emerging China

<https://courses.lumenlearning.com/suny-worldgeography/chapter/10-2-emerging-china/>

<https://courses.lumenlearning.com/atd-westhillsc-geography/chapter/the-realm-regions-4/>

Previous Cost: \$140

New Cost: \$0

Number of students per year: 480

Total Savings \$67,200

Name: Susan Rivera

Course: Sustainable Decision Making

Previous Book: Measuring Sustainability – Life Cycle Assessment

New Books: “Life Cycle Assessment: Quantitative Approaches for Decisions that Matter” by Matthews, Hendrickson and Matthews.
<http://www.lcatextbook.com/>

“Sustainability: A Comprehensive Foundation” by Theis and Tomkin,
Editors <https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/BookDetail.aspx?bookId=96>

Previous Cost: \$108

New Cost: \$0

Number of students per year: 1200

Total Savings: 129,600