2024 OER Annual Report

Middle Tennessee State University

The mission of the OER program is to expand the use of open educational resources at MTSU and to educate and promote the value of OER to the MTSU community.

Our program goals:

- Promote the creation, adaptation, adoption, curation, and discovery of openly licensed materials by our instructors and students
- Provide support for instructors to incorporate openly licensed educational resources into their curriculum
- Improve availability and affordability of course materials
- Advocate for inclusivity and removal of barriers for student learning through OER adoption

OER Quick Facts:

Since Spring 2022, the OER initiative has:

- impacted **14,221 students**
- affected **78 courses & 684 course sections**
- saved students approximately **$1,422,100**

OER Program Highlights from 2023-2024:

- Changed the name of the OER attribute in Banner to **Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC).**
- Worked with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Planning & Research (IEPR) to create a **ZTC Data Dashboard**.
- Partnered with the LT&ITC to provide **3 faculty OER workshops as well as an OER faculty learning community (FLC**). FLC participants asked the Provost to fund an Affordable Course Materials Program, which was approved and will be piloted this fall.
- Presented to SGA Senate and Freshmen Council, which resulted in an **SGA resolution** in support of expanding OERs for MTSU students.

- Merged the library's OER Task Force with the Academic & Student Success Subcommittee of the Community Engagement Advisory Group (CEAG) to form **one single campus committee** focused on OER.
- Continue to provide the **Pressbooks platform** for faculty to publish OER projects. So far, 14 open-access books have been published, and 16 new projects were started this year.
- Currently supporting three faculty teams who received **Cycle 4 Open Education grants** from the Tennessee Board of Regents to develop OER materials for their courses. These course materials will be implemented in Spring 2025.
  - "Development of Robotics & Control Engineering Interactive Textbook" - Dr. Hongbo Zhang, Dr. Vishwas Bedekar, & Elissa Ledoux
  - "Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Knowledge Test Study Guide" - Dr. Kevin Corns & Collin McDonald
  - "Development of OER for Engineering Capstone to Enhance Quality & Accessibility of Materials" - Elissa Ledoux (with 4 faculty members from ETSU)
- The OER program was highlighted in two MTSU News articles:
  - MTSU team completes training to expand OER free course accessibility for students
  - MTSU digital resource program has saved students $1.4M in textbook costs

Our Next Steps:

1. Pilot an Affordable Course Materials Grant Program. We expect to release the call for proposals in October 2024.
2. Consider adding a "low cost" attribute.
3. Raise advisor awareness of OER through targeted training and outreach.
4. Explore developing a textbook affordability page on the library's website.
5. Continue to raise faculty awareness of OER & provide OER support through departmental presentations, webinars, workshops & individual consultations.

OER Resources:

- MTSU's OER website
- Walker Library's OER Research Guide
- MTSU Pressbooks Network