



OREGON COAST  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Textbook Affordability Plan 2021-2025

In Accordance with [Oregon House Bill 2213](#) The following Textbook affordability plan has been created for the Oregon Coast Community College Community and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC).

A group of faculty, students and staff came together to compose a draft of a plan for textbook affordability for OCCC, and this plan will be presented to the college council and the board of education. The committee realizes this process will be ongoing.

### Support for Academic Freedom

The college seeks to educate its students in the democratic tradition, to foster recognition of individual freedoms and social responsibility, and to inspire meaningful awareness of and respect for a collaborative learning environment.

Freedom of expression will be guaranteed to instructors to create a classroom atmosphere that allows students to raise questions and consider all sides of issues. OCCC instructors are responsible for exercising judgment in selecting topics of educational value for discussion and learning consistent with course requirements, goals, and desired outcomes.

The Board of Education, administration, faculty, staff and students at Oregon Coast Community College commit to these values:

- **Accountability:** We accept responsibility for our actions and commit to transparent practices.
- **Collaboration:** We purposefully build partnerships to achieve common goals.
- **Excellence:** We hold ourselves to the highest standards and are committed to continuously improving the work we do.
- **Inspiration:** We show curiosity, illuminate new possibilities and ignite the joy of thinking well.
- **Integrity:** We act with honesty and authenticity to foster a culture of ethics and respect that embodies our work and serves the community.
- **Learning:** We celebrate the life-long process of developing valuable knowledge and skills.
- **Sustainability:** We are responsible stewards of our financial, material, natural and human resources.
- **Equity:** We embrace diversity and address the inequities and barriers that prevent people from learning and working to their full potential.

Faculty have also committed to the following for student success:

- Creating an inclusive classroom environment that is sensitive to and respectful of student diversity.
- An interest in teaching across the curriculum and interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Giving students access to learning where and when it supports their success (days, evenings, weekends; at all our locations; as well as on-line).

- A passion for pedagogy and commitment to continuous improvement.
- Excitement about technology; already savvy or excited to learn.
- Collaborative engagement outside of the classroom to improve institutional outcomes for our students and staff.
- An entrepreneurial mindset and propensity to “see what is possible.”
- Faculty ownership and leadership in the classroom, discipline, and College.
- Collegiality and respect for everyone.

## Goals

1. *Adjust the institutional culture of text adoption and syllabus publishing to make materials available in order to inform student curriculum choices and planning.*
  - a. By Fall 2023, a year-long schedule will be developed, including required low-cost and no-cost textbooks.
  - b. By Fall 2021, a master list of textbooks will be developed that will be updated annually
  - c. Ensure the Bookstore and Office of Instruction are working in collaboration to ensure the year in advance book list is up to date. Including updates during the year.
  - d. By 2025, publish sample syllabi in 50% of classes for students to access at registration.
2. *Increase percentage of low-cost or no-cost textbooks used by 2025, to reduce material costs to students.*
  - a. Each quarter the Director of Library and Media Resources will provide updated information that is gathered through Open Oregon Educational Resources. Graduated increase in the use of low-cost or no-cost textbooks as follows (currently OCCC is at 50%):
    - a) 5% for the 21-22 academic year to 55%
    - b) 10% for the 22-23 academic year to 65%
    - c) 23-24 academic year TBD
    - d) Based on the results of a – c, we will set a long term plateau
3. *Develop a toolkit for textbook adoption and changing textbooks accessible to all faculty.* Resources will be posted for faculty on the public facing website for OERs by Fall 2021, with updating schedule of development opportunities by the Director of Library & Media Services each quarter thereafter.
4. Participate in statewide OER efforts to increase resources for students in our state" as a goal or tactic.
5. *Provide professional development and faculty support in affordable and open text options.*
  - a. Access to asynchronous trainings on open education and low-cost or no-cost textbooks be available to faculty by Winter 2022.
  - b. OCCC will continue partnership with Open Oregon Educational Resources with the Director of Library & Media Services and other entities in order act as a point person to provide external professional development opportunities.
  - c. A plan to communicate professional development opportunities will be identified by the Director of Library & Media Services and shared with faculty.
  - d. The college will establish a plan for utilization of professional development funds for faculty who are interested in using OERs (low cost/no cost), including trainings and peer mentoring.

## **Communication plan**

Upon completion and approval, the textbook affordability plan will be submitted to the HECC and posted on a public facing webpage of the college. In addition, the plan will be communicated to faculty and staff through the College Council. The plan will be made available to students through ASG student leadership, New Student Orientations, First Year Experience Course, and the College Webpage. Comments and suggestions will be available using Microsoft forms or a comparable communication system where the plan is publicly posted.

The OER webpage will have a link to the OpenOregon repository, so faculty can view what's being used at OCCC in addition to what's being used at other colleges statewide. (<https://openoregon.org/resources/>)

## **Economic Impact on Bookstore Revenue**

Due to the rapidly changing textbook industry over the past decade, it is difficult to demonstrate a distinct relationship specifically between low-cost or no-cost textbook adoptions and reduced Bookstore revenue at OCCC.

In recent years OCCC's Bookstore revenue has dropped significantly, the OCCC Bookstore is no longer generating income for the College and is at a crucial point of barely breaking even. At the same time, the number of courses utilizing low, and no-cost materials has increased significantly. The average low-cost/no-cost percentage during the 2020-2021 year was 50%.

Recommending a specific course of action to mitigate the potential impact of textbook affordability initiatives on the OCCC Bookstore will require input from college stakeholders not represented on this Task Force. The executive leadership team at OCCC will be collaborating with Auxiliary Services and other relevant departments to explore a variety of strategies.

### **Timeline:**

- May 2019 OR HB 2213 passed requiring State Universities and Colleges to have textbook affordability plans.
- January 2021 Textbook use survey of faculty
- May 2021 Plan goals established.
- May 2021 Plan submitted for final approval to College Council and College Administration
- July 2021 Plan submitted to HECC

### **Sustainability and next steps**

- This plan is an adjustable and growing document to best support the needs of the students and the college. It is essential to success and sustainability of the plan that these parties communicate and adjust the plan periodically.
- It is expected that there will be continued communication and planning each academic year to support updating the plan.
- The OCCC Foundation is considering a method to support the cost of printable OER's when student(s) needs are identified
- The college is considering incorporating a print center into the campus bookstore, and that the OCCC Foundation could be part of this process to pay for students' costs.

**Taskforce Membership:**

- Darci Adolf, Director of Library and Media Services
- Crystal Bowman, Director of Nursing and Allied Health Programs
- Sharon Hahn, Director of Business Services
- Dan Lara, VP of Academic Affairs
- Tony Noble, Business Adjunct Faculty
- Jennifer Margarett Parker, Student