Lewis-Clark State College – OER / Low-Cost Course Materials Report6.22.2022

# Introduction

This brief report describes Lewis-Clark State College’s efforts surrounding the Idaho State Board of Education’s *Policy III.U Instructional Materials Access and Affordability*. At LC State, due to the makeup of our student population, we have been engaged in practices associated with access to affordable materials long before the State Board policy was instituted. Some of the common practices included (and still include):

* Using available OER materials for courses
* Design and implementation of OER has been accepted as evidence of scholarship or teaching excellence as part of annual performance review and the tenure / promotion processes
* Deliberately using older editions of textbooks that were attainable at much lower cost to students
* Using the same textbook for a sequence /series of courses (i.e. - SPAN 101, 102, 201, and 202 or BIOL 227 and 228)
* Hosting informal textbook exchange libraries in the lobbies of the Nursing and Science buildings

With the advent of policy III.U, the College has expanded its efforts, particularly focused OER / Low-cost efforts on General Education Core classes, and is now tracking OER / Low-cost implementation on an annual basis. As a consequence, our tracking data shows the following results:

* We survey annually our General Education Core offerings (from the six State Board of Education policy-defined areas/ways of knowing).
* 27.7% of our General Education Core course sections are offered with OER materials or at no cost to students
* Another 34.4% of the sections offered fall into the low-cost category (defined as costing between $10 to $50.
* See appendix (below) for complete listings and results.

# Plan

LC State’s plan is to fully comply with the stipulations which are outlined in policy III.U. The institutional plan is to consist of the following elements at a minimum. For each of the elements, institutional comment is provided.

* *Resources and support to help faculty ensure all instructional materials are relevant and accessible for all students, especially students who require learning accommodations or additional modes of delivery (e.g. a print version of a digital textbook, internet access, etc.).*
	+ This is being accomplished through a variety of partnerships and resources. These include our campus bookstore, Library, Center for Teaching & Learning, e-Learning Services, and Accessibility Services.
	+ Workshops are being provided on a regular basis hosted by the CTL and/or e-Learning services.
	+ These resources are introduced to all new faculty as part of our *New Faculty Orientation* program.
* *Policies and/or strategies that minimize the cost of instructional materials for students while maintaining the quality of education, the academic freedom and responsibility of faculty and students, and the recognition that the average cost of instructional materials is higher in certain disciplines, and some disciplines require higher cost materials which are used over multiple terms or throughout an entire program.*
	+ LC State administration and faculty have made this commitment.
	+ Textbooks and materials selections are reviewed by programs and divisions each year.
	+ The Provost’s Office will work with faculty leadership to create a student-centered institutional textbook selection policy.
* *Professional development opportunities for faculty and staff related to the discovery, adoption, and use of OER and other affordable instructional materials.*
	+ LC State has been actively involved in funding and supporting OER implementation efforts by faculty.
		- As mentioned above, regular training and workshops are offered by e-Learning and the CTL.
		- The Dean of Liberal Arts & Sciences offered GEM-TRAC mini-grants to faculty to develop OER / Low-cost options for Gen Ed courses.
		- Participation of 3 different faculty members in the statewide OPAL Fellows program (sponsored by the OSBE).
		- Support for faculty travel and participation in OER-themed conferences.
		- Sabbatical support for faculty OER projects.
* *Strategies to support faculty adoption, adaption, and/or use of OER and other affordable instructional materials.*
	+ See above:
		- Regular trainings.
		- GEM-TRAC mini-grants.
		- OPAL Fellowship participation.
* *Programs, incentive structures, or other strategies to encourage and support faculty to publicly share OER developed for their own courses.*
	+ See above:
		- CTL & e-Learning support / trainings.
		- GEM-TRAC mini-grant participants included faculty from 11 separate General Education Core courses. Nearly $20,000 has been spent since 2018 on these projects which have included:
			* Purchasing textbooks for HUM 150, HIST 101 & 102, and ENGL 261 and establishing a lending library in partnership with the LC State Library.
			* Creating OER curriculum from scratch for COMM 204 and MUS 101.
			* Creating an online course shell (using Canvas) for ENGL 101 & 102 that is accessible to all first-year composition instructors. It is outfitted with complete course templates using OER materials. Instructors also freely add in their own materials to share.
			* Creating OER resources/materials for NS 150, ENGL 175
		- OPAL Fellow participation in ENGL 101, MATH 153, and ECON 201/202 over $11,000 of support funding.
* *Course marking processes at the time of course schedule releases that indicate the cost of instructional materials in course sections that are reliably zero cost or very low cost, as defined in this policy.*
	+ This is something that we are currently working on with the Registrar.
	+ We have built, in partnership with our campus bookstore, links to required course materials for every class that is listed in the course registration system. Students can look, prior to signing up for a class, what the required materials will be (including if no materials are required).
* *Strategies with measurable goals for improving and using readily available and relevant OER or other very low-cost instructional materials in common-indexed courses as articulated in Board Policy III.N.6.b., including dual credit courses.*
	+ The focus of our efforts over the past three to four years has been to increase OER and low-cost option in our General Education Core areas, which specific attention paid to the common-indexed courses.
	+ The latest tracking data is provided below in an appendix that shows OER and Low-cost options in relation to our entire Gen Ed Core offerings.
	+ LC State’s current dual-credit course model does not require high school students taking courses at their own high school to purchase additional materials. Students are either supplied the texts/materials by their high school or through cooperation of our Early College Programs office.

**Appendix:**

Tracking data for 2020-21 of OER and Low-Cost sections offered of all General Education courses from the six State Board of Education policy-designated ways of knowing Core areas.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Course | #Sections | # OER or No-Cost Sections | # Low ($10-$50) Cost Sections | Comments |
| ART 100 | 5 | 0 | 0 |   |
| COMM 101 | 4 | 0 | 4 |   |
| COMM 203 | 2 | 0 | 0 |   |
| COMM 204 | 16 | 3 | 9 |   |
| ENGL 101 | 26 | 22 | 4 |   |
| ENGL 102 | 21 | 9 | 8 |   |
| ENGL 175 | 8 | 0 | 2 | Requires a number of classic texts |
| ENGL 257 | 2 | 0 | 1 | Requires a number of classic texts |
| ENGL 258 | 3 | 0 | 2 | Requires a number of classic texts |
| ENGL 261 | 1 | 1 | 0 | Requires a number of classic texts |
| HUM 101 | 3 | 0 | 1 |   |
| HUM 150 | 2 | 2 | 0 |   |
| MUS 101 | 2 | 0 | 0 |   |
| MUS 102 | 0 |   |   |   |
| MUS 150 | 0 |   |   |   |
| MUS 151 | 0 |   |   |   |
| NP 101 | 1 | 0 | 1 | A packet created by the professor |
| NP 102 | 1 | 0 | 1 | A packet created by the professor |
| SPAN 101 | 7 | 0 | 0 | Same textbook is used for SPAN 101 -- |
| SPAN 102 | 3 | 0 | 0 | -- SPAN 102, 201, & 202  |
| THEA 101 | 6 | 4 | 0 |   |
| MATH 123 | 2 | 1 | 1 |   |
| MATH 130 | 0 |   |   |   |
| MATH 143 | 3 |  0 |  0 |   |
| MATH 147 | 1 |  0 |  0 |   |
| MATH 153 | 10 | 3 |  0 |   |
| MATH 170 | 2 |  0 |  0 |   |
| MATH 253 | 0 |   |   |   |
| MATH 257 | 1 | 0  | 0  |   |
| BIOF 100 | 1 | 0  | 0  |   |
| BIOL 100 | 0 |   |   |   |
| BIOL 120 | 1 |  0 | 1 |   |
| BIOL 123 | 0 |   |   |   |
| BIOL 175 | 1 | 0  | 0  |   |
| BIOL 227 | 6 | 0  | 0  |   |
| CHEM 100 | 0 |   |   |   |
| CHEM 105 | 11 | 2 | 4 |   |
| CHEM 111 | 4 | 2 | 2 |   |
| CS 108 | 2 |  0 | 0  |   |
| FSCI 101 | 0 |   |   |   |
| GEOL 101 | 2 |  0 | 2 |   |
| GEOL 120 | 0 |   |   |   |
| GIS 271 | 1 |  0 | 1 |   |
| NS 140 | 1 | 0 | 0  |   |
| NS 150 | 3 | 1 | 2 |   |
| NS 174 | 2 | 0  | 0  |   |
| PHYS 111 | 1 | 0  | 0  |   |
| PHYS 112 | 1 |  0 |  0 |   |
| PHYS 171 | 2 |  0 | 2 |   |
| PHYS 205 | 1 | 1 |  0 |   |
| PHYS 211 | 1 |  0 |  0 |   |
| ANTH 102 | 6 | 6 | 0 | OER text used |
| ANTH 120 | 1 | 0 | 1 |   |
| ANTH 170 | 1 | 1 | 0 | No cost non-OER materials assigned |
| GEOG 102 | 2 | 0 | 2 |   |
| HIST 101 | 3 | 3 | 0 | All sections have no cost checkout from library |
| HIST 102 | 3 | 3 | 0 | All sections have no cost checkout from library |
| HIST 111 | 5 | 0 | 5 | Most students can purchase used texts for under $10 |
| HIST 112 | 1 | 0 | 1 |   |
| POLS 101 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 texts required; each is under $50 but combined are about $59 |
| POLS 237 | 0 | 0 | 0 | No sections offered AY20-21 |
| POLS 285 | 1 | 0 | 1 |   |
| PSYC 101 | 6 | 0 | 6 |   |
| PSYC 205 | 11 | 0 | 5 |   |
| SOC 101 | 6 | 0 | 6 | Older edition used which commonly retails between $10 and $35 |
| SOC 102 | 2 | 0 | 2 |   |
| SS 184 | 2 | 0 | 2 |   |
| SS 185 | 2 | 2 | 0 | No cost non-OER materials assigned |
| ECON 201 | 4 | 0 | 4 | OER text used along with low cost publisher-provided homework platform |
| ECON 202 | 5 | 0 | 5 | OER text used along with low cost publisher provided homework platform |
| CITPT 108 | 4 |  4 |  0 |   |
| MTHPT 130 | 2 | 0  | 0  |   |
| MTHPT 137 | 6 | 0  | 0  |   |
| MTHPT 153 | 4 | 0  | 0  |   |

TOTALS: **253** 70 **(27.7%)** 87 **(34.4%)**