

# How do OER help students?



## 1. Afford college

*"I have to ration myself in taking the courses I need towards my degree. I've often dropped courses simply because I couldn't afford the books"*



31% take **fewer classes** because of textbook costs



27% **do not register** for a specific class because of the cost of textbooks

16% **drop or withdraw** from a class because they can't afford the textbook

17% **earn a poor grade** because they could not afford the textbook for a class

*"I always have an anxiety attack the first week of class because I know the process I have to go through to buy my books. I borrow money, work late to pick up extra hours to afford my books, try to buy used throughout the internet (most don't carry version required by class), or obtain a short-term high interest loan to afford the books."*

## 2. Succeed in their classes

*"The content of this course meets the required assignments needs. There isn't any "fluff" or filler text. All of the information presented to the students is useful, pertaining to the assignments and enough to fully understand the course"*



Students have access to the book on the first day of class - no waiting for financial aid, delivery, back-orders, etc.



Students can keep the book forever – no access codes that expire



Your bookstore can provide low-cost print copies for students that prefer paper

Surveys show that students are more likely to read OER texts. Students also rate these books highly with 90% stating the book was helpful, easy to understand, engaging, etc. The overwhelming majority of students would recommend these books to their peers.

## 3. Engage with their learning

*“I spent more time actually utilizing this content because I was able to read and study anywhere without having to carry a large textbook. It was also a much faster process to some degree because I didn’t have to sit and flip through pages hoping to find the relevant content.”*



Students can choose to use either digital or print based on their preferences



Instructors can customize the book to align the content to the course



Instructors can customize the book to reflect their student needs and experiences



Open Teaching Practices increase student engagement and learning



*“Need more classes to be like this. Simple, easy, and the start of 21st century learning that does not involve hundreds of dollars in physical textbooks.”*

## How can you help?

### 1. Find OER for your classes

Contact your librarian or ASCCC OER Liaison. They can help guide you look for resources. There are many resources available; getting help will make the search process more efficient.

### 2. Learn about OER

The ASCCC OER Initiative hosts webinars about OER as well as discipline specific OER discussions. Your OER Liaison can guide you to these webinars.

### 3. Join the Community

The ASCCC OER Initiative has developed a Canvas Course where faculty can connect with others in their discipline about OER. <https://tinyurl.com/ASCCC-OER>

*\* Data and quotes are from surveys conducted at Butte College and Reedley College.*