FAQ for Open Texts @ Columbus State

Shared Knowledge Empowers

1. What’s my incentive to do this work?
   - Reassigned time to do the work. Generally speaking, we will offer:
     - Three hours of reassigned time (6 working hours/week) for one semester if you find an open textbook you like and you want to adopt it. Work required might include limited revisions to the text, creating/finding ancillary and supplemental materials. For courses other than 3-hour courses, we will consider less or more reassigned time accordingly.
     - Three hours of reassigned time (6 working hours/week) for two semesters if you find some OER, but you don’t find anything that’s close to “plug and play.” Work required might be finding multiple OER and remixing them in addition to some original creation of material.
     - Three hours of reassigned time (6 working hours/week) for three semesters if you cannot find sufficient OER for a remixing project after an exhaustive search. Work required might be using a few OER but the majority will be creating course material to fill the course.
   - Library, DEIS, and Faculty Fellow support. Participating faculty have a dedicated librarian, DEIS instructional designer, and an OER Faculty Fellow.
   - Reinvigorated pedagogy. Studies have shown that faculty who invest the time to remix, revise, and create their content are more engaged with the material and excited to teach.
   - Professional recognition. Material developed in this program will be openly licensed. Opportunities exist for nationwide adoption and recognition of material created where there are subject matter gaps.
   - You are helping students! You are especially helping disadvantaged students who may have previously gone without a textbook or couldn’t pay for a textbook until several weeks into a course once financial aid arrives.

2. What if I spend all this time adopting/adapting/creating OER and in the end I’m not permitted to use the material in my course sections?
   - The time to address these issues with your department is before you submit your intent form. If your curriculum department or chair is uncertain whether or not the course material you adopt, adapt, or create will be suitable, discuss the possibility of a lengthy piloting period where the material is offered in an increasing number of sections over a few semesters, then student success and enrollment numbers can be compared between OER sections and commercial text sections.
   - If your department does not ultimately widely adopt the OER, any new content you create can be shared openly nationwide and will likely have adoptions at other institutions, benefiting students elsewhere. Your work will not be in vain!

3. A lot of my students prefer print materials to digital. How will that be handled?
   - Many existing open textbooks are already available in print at very low cost. Additionally, depending upon your project, we can arrange to have the print shop make print copies available at the bookstore for purchase.
   - It’s a guessing game as to how many students will want print for a cost vs. free digital material. The CSCC Bookstore indicates that the percentage is about 25% to 30% in their experience.
4. **How do I make sure my content is accessible to students with disabilities?**
   - We will provide training in how to make materials accessible and will consult with Disability Services on an as-needed basis.

5. **Is the state going to ultimately mandate OER use in the future?**
   - It is unlikely at the present. Academic freedom is important. Plus, at this point in time, there’s not nearly enough OER existing to cover all subject areas. However, you should expect to see OER strongly encouraged by federal and state governments.

6. **Once I begin using my OER course materials, how do they stay updated with advancements in my discipline?**
   - Some open textbooks from OpenStax and the Open Textbook Library do get regular updates and even new editions.
   - For OER that you have remixed or created yourself, one way to keep the material fresh is to update it with developments in your field prior to the beginning of each semester.
   - If and when your OER material needs a complete overhaul, new open textbooks or course material may have been released. Don’t reinvent the wheel if you don’t have to.

7. **I already use free material from quality websites. Why do I need OER?**
   - While the material you use from various websites might be high quality, it is likely to have copyright protections which prohibit the revision or redistribution of the material.
   - OER is powerful because it is flexible. You have proactive permission from the copyright holder to revise, remix, and redistribute the material. Copyright concerns are negated as long as you follow the open license on the material.

8. **Can this be a team project?**
   - Yes! We encourage teams, especially for high enrollment courses with many sections. Teams of up to three members are optimal, though other team sizes can be discussed.

9. **What if I can replace some of the commercially prepared course material with OER but not all of it?**
   - Any project which will significantly reduce student course material cost will be considered. While it is preferable that the material cost be eliminated completely, there are some circumstances where it will not be possible.

10. **I’m interested in this initiative, but the timing is not good. Will there be other chances?**
    - Yes. This is a three-year initiative, so there will be a few cohorts of faculty over that time period.

Download the application at [http://csc.edu/opentexts](http://csc.edu/opentexts)

Questions? Contact Rachel Dilley at rdilley2@csc.edu or 287-2895