# Open Educational Resources (OER) Course Development Grant - FAQ

## Overview

The purpose of this FAQ document is to provide faculty members with an introduction to open educational resources (OERs) and how to apply for the OER Course Development Grant.

## What is an OER?

“OERs are teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license that permits their free use and re-purposing by others. Open educational resources include full courses, course materials, modules, textbooks, streaming videos, tests, software, and any other tools, materials, or techniques used to support access to knowledge.”


## What is an Open-Access Textbook?

Open-access textbooks are high-quality, peer-reviewed, openly licensed college textbooks that are 100% free online and low cost to print for students. Some open-access textbook providers include:

- OpenStax - [https://openstax.org/](https://openstax.org/)
- Open Textbook Library - [http://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/](http://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/)
- Open SUNY Textbooks - [http://textbooks.opensuny.org/browse/browse-by-subject/](http://textbooks.opensuny.org/browse/browse-by-subject/)
- BCCampus OpenEd - [https://open.bccampus.ca/](https://open.bccampus.ca/)
- CollegeOpenTextbooks - [http://www.collegeopentextbooks.org/](http://www.collegeopentextbooks.org/)
- Intech - [https://www.intechopen.com/books](https://www.intechopen.com/books)

## Why would I use an Open-Access Textbook for my course?

**Access:** Many students don’t buy textbooks or delay their purchases until later in the semester

**Cost:** Open-access textbooks can represent a significant cost savings

**Quality:**
- Many Open-access textbooks are peer-reviewed
- Studies have shown similar outcomes in courses using open-access textbooks.
| What is the Open-Access Textbook Grant? | To help promote the use of open-access textbooks at SRU, Transformational Experiences is offering a professional development grant for faculty members who select, adopt, and make use of an open-access textbook(s) or course material to replace current textbook(s) or course material. |
| Who is eligible to receive the Grant? | Faculty members who have selected, adopted, and made use of an open-access textbook or course materials within a new or existing course - online or on campus provided that:

1. The textbook(s) or course materials currently used cost the student more than $25 and are being replaced with materials that have zero cost, or
2. The textbook(s) or course materials currently used cost the student more than $50 and are being replaced with materials from the Top Hat Marketplace that provide a minimum 50% savings over the current cost.

To receive the grant, faculty members are also required to consult with our Top Hat liaison about OER resources and the Top Hat delivery platform (there is no cost to students or SRU for use of this platform). See the next section for more information about Top Hat.

Faculty members who teach courses that meet the criteria will be awarded professional development funds based on the number of students impacted in the first semester in which the course is taught:

- 0 - 50 students: $300
- 51 – 100 students: $400
- 100+ students: $500

Professional development funds are awarded only the first time the class is taught, not each semester. For multiple sections of the same course, professional development funds are awarded based on the total number of students in all sections combined.

For this initial pilot program, faculty members are only permitted to apply for a grant for one course. We expect to award a maximum of 15 grants to faculty for courses to be taught using open-access textbooks in the Fall 2019 semester. |
| What supports are available to faculty? | To help make the transition to an open-access textbook as smooth as possible, certain supports and services will be made available to faculty participating in the Open-Access Textbook Adoption Grant.

**SRU OER Initiative Webpage:** [www.sru.edu/oer](http://www.sru.edu/oer)

**Top Hat:** SRU has partnered with Top Hat – a leading provider of open-access textbooks and in-class instructional technology. For faculty members interested in including open-access textbooks in their courses, Top Hat has support staff available to help locate, customize, and integrate open-access textbooks into their courses.

**Top Hat Main Webpage:** [https://tophat.com](https://tophat.com) |
Top Hat Textbook Webpage: [https://tophat.com/textbook/](https://tophat.com/textbook/)

Top Hat Liaison: Razi Moosavi, Razi.moosavi@tophatmonocle.com

Bailey Library Faculty Support: SRU librarians are a wonderful resource for faculty seeking assistance with locating and incorporating open-access textbooks into their courses. Two library faculty members are directly involved in the OER initiative:

Allison Brungard, allison.brungard@sru.edu
Rocco Cremonese, rocco.cremonese@sru.edu

How do I apply and what evidence is needed?

The deadline for the first round of Open Textbook Adoption Grants is March 29, 2019. You can apply using the application form:

Submit the current syllabus for the course that the faculty member intends to adapt to an open-access textbook. As part of the final approval for grant funds, the applicant will present to the OER Steering Committee the syllabus for a currently offered and enrolled course that indicates the use of an open-access textbook as the primary text for the course.