

March 2025 – N. 1

OER Initiative Newsletter

Supporting our students with the OER Initiative

Since their emergence in the early 2000s, Open Educational Resources (OER) have transformed higher education by providing freely accessible, openly-licensed learning materials. These resources have consistently demonstrated their value by reducing financial barriers for students, enabling faculty customization of course materials, and fostering collaborative educational approaches that enhance student engagement and strengthen learning outcomes. To advance our educational mission and support faculty, students and the community, East Texas A&M University is proud to announce the launch of its comprehensive OER Initiative beginning in Spring 2025. This campus-wide program aims to transform how educational resources are developed, modified, shared, and implemented across all disciplines within our campus.

Mission

The central mission of the Open Educational Resources (OER) Initiative is to support the quality and accessibility of college education by promoting the adoption, creation, and dissemination of OER while fostering a collaborative environment that supports academic excellence and expands Open Education best practices across the curriculum. Core goals include:

1. Grow awareness and increase implementation of OER across all disciplines.
2. Monitor student retention and performance while using highly adapted OER.
3. Lower the cost of learning materials to support educational access and learning success.
4. Support faculty and foster communities of practice to advance pedagogical perspectives aligned with Open Education.

An exciting roadmap ahead!

The OER Initiative has an ambitious plan for the next two years, focusing on enhancing Open Educational Resources (OER) at ETAMU. Key activities include:

- *Faculty Training & Workshops*: A series of sessions to build expertise in OER development, covering topics from finding existing OER to creating new materials.
- *Digital Commons Expansion*: Increasing OER publications in the Digital Commons repository, creating a centralized hub for faculty-created resources.
- *Communities of Practice*: Supporting interdisciplinary faculty collaborations to share and advance OER implementations.
- *Student Involvement through Open Pedagogies practices*: Piloting courses where students help revise and create OER materials, taking the lead as active contributors in the educational process.

We invite the ETAMU community to join these events, share their resources, and collaborate to advance Open Education practices. Join us!

Resource highlight

[ETAMU Digital Commons](#)



The purpose of the East Texas A&M Digital Commons is to collect, preserve, and make publicly accessible the scholarly and creative works produced through the university. ETAMU Digital Commons is a service from the Velma K. Waters Library.

OER Reality Check

Myth: “You get what you pay for.”

Fact: OER can be produced to the same (or higher) quality standards as traditional textbooks.

(SPARC. 2017. [OER Mythbusting](#). Washington, DC: SPARC)

Upcoming events

- **OER & Universal Design for Learning Guidelines**
OERTX. Wednesday, March 5th, 3:00-4:00pm CT. Free registration: [OER & UDL](#).
- **AI Literacies for Open Educators: An Exploration**
We Are Open (WAO). Friday, March 7, 9:00-10:00am CT. Free registration: [AI Literacies for Open Educators](#).
- **OER 101: Discovering Affordable Course Materials**
ETAMU Lunch and learn (online). Thursday, April 3rd, 12:00-1:00pm CT. Presented by Sarah Northam & George Swindell. Free registration: [OER 101](#).



Contact Us

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