

October 2025 – N. 3

# OER Initiative Newsletter

## TAMU System Pressbooks now available

In the exciting world of OER publishing, Texas A&M University recently subscribed to the Pressbook publishing platform. It is part of the Texas A&M University System [Open Digital Publishing](#) (ODP) initiative. ODP seeks to support OER creating and publishing efforts across the system providing tools and a discovery platform.

[Pressbooks](#) is a well-known and respected publishing platform used by over 500 institutions worldwide. The platform is extremely easy to use and provides multiple formats for publishing educational materials (including eBooks, PDF, and ready-to-print formats). It also supports integration of multimedia and interactive content, which provides a rich and engaging reading experience. Pressbooks includes built-in accessibility features to inclusive access to the content. There is also a robust analytics tool to track key information, such as showing how often your books is accessed, where the readers are coming from, or what are the most read chapters or sections. TAMU has initially allotted five Pressbooks licenses to each school in the A&M system. If you are interested in publishing OER and want to know about Pressbooks, please contact [Sarah Northam](#), Director of Research and Instruction.

## Save the date for OER Day!

Hosted by the ETAMU OER Initiative and with the generous support of the Division of Academic Affairs, “OER Day” will be celebrated on Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup> 2025 at RSC Ambitions A-B and online. Join us for a day dedicated to exploring innovative resources, learning about A&M System Open Education projects, and participating in interactive sessions on OER large-scale adoptions, copyright and open licensing, and Adobe integration in OER design.

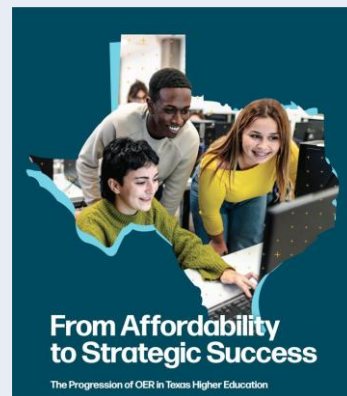
**Free registration** (limited seats): [OER Day at ETAMU](#)

## ETAMU course marking updates

Since Fall 2025, you will notice some changes in the [Course Marking](#) of courses when you access the Schedule of Classes. Course Marking, the “process of assigning specific, searchable attributes to courses”, is

## Resource highlight

Jimes, C., Karagani, A., Hatcher, C., Singh, M., Torre, K., Gits, C. & Tolman, E. (2024). [From Affordability to Strategic Success: The Progression of OER in Texas Higher Education](#). Austin, TX: THECB; Half Moon Bay, CA: ISKME.



Ossiannilsoon, E., Ullloa Cazarez, R., Goode, C., Mansour, C. & DE Gusmao, C. (2024). [Artificial Intelligence Use to Empower the Implementation of OER and the UNESCO OER Recommendation](#). *Open Praxis*, 16(2), p. 237–257.



mandated by state law. [SB 810](#) (2017) requires that higher education institutions indicate if courses are utilizing open educational resources for course materials. Many institutions, as ETAMU, have taken that a step further and are also indicated if courses low-cost materials or no cost materials.

When visiting the Schedule of Classes, you will see four options under *Affordable Materials Courses*, as shown here:

The screenshot shows the ETAMU Schedule of Classes website. At the top, there are navigation links: 'How to Read a Section Number', 'Important Dates', 'Final Exam Schedule', and 'Campus and Building Locations'. The main heading is 'Schedule Of Classes'. Below it, there is a dropdown menu to 'Select Term to view Schedule' with 'Fall 2025' selected. On the left side, there is a list of campus locations and a section for 'Affordable Materials Courses' which is highlighted with a green box. This section includes: 'Open Educational Resources', 'No Material Costs', 'Low Material Costs (< \$40)', and 'Inclusive Access'. On the right side, there is a table with three columns: 'Department Code', 'Department Name', and 'Course Prefixes'. The table lists various departments and their corresponding course prefixes for Fall 2025.

| Department Code | Department Name                | Course Prefixes                                     |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| AFEB            | Acct, Fin, Eco, and Bus Law    | ACCT ECO FIN                                        |
| ASNR            | Ag Science & Natural Resources | AEC AG AGED ALC ALEC AMC ANS EQSC FCS FDSC PLS VETT |
| ART             | Art                            | ART ARTS PHO                                        |
| BESC            | Biological & Environmental Sci | BIOL BSC ENVS GEOL                                  |
| GRDP            | Business Graduate Programs     | ACCT BUSA ECO FIN MGT MKT SCM                       |
| CHEM            | Chemistry                      | CHEM                                                |
| COH             | Coll of Humanities/Soc Sci/Art | AFAM GDRS                                           |

These are the official descriptions of each marking:

- **Open Educational Resources (OER)** - There is no textbooks/course materials cost for this course since it utilizes openly licensed educational materials.
- **No Materials Cost** - There is no textbook/course materials cost for this course since it utilizes library or other freely available resources. (Zero Cost materials differ primarily from OER in terms of copyright. While OER includes permissions to revise, remix, reuse, retain and redistribute, Zero Cost materials are licensed under traditional copyright. A good indicator that something is OER is the presence of a [Creative Commons License](#).)
- **Low-Cost (<\$40.00)** - Textbook/course materials for this course are below \$40.00 total.
- **Inclusive Access** - Primary required textbook/course materials for this course are available to student on first class day for a flat fee that is added to the student's tuition bill. Student may opt-out of inclusive access but will need to secure materials from another source. Course may require purchase of a secondary text not covered by Inclusive Access.

This change provides more transparency about course materials cost as students get ready to register for classes.

## OER Reality Check

**Myth:** "Copyright for OER is complicated."

**Fact:** Open licensing makes OER easy to freely and legally use.

- Materials licensed under CC licenses are easy to identify, clearly explain the permissions and conditions of reuse, and don't require any additional permission to use or adapt.
- Simple ways to find support include:  
*Seeking out the OER or copyright specialist at your library.*  
*Use this simple [license selection tool](#) to select the best option for your work.*  
*Use this [digital attribution builder](#) to provide correct attribution to the OER content you selected.*

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

## Upcoming Events

- **Open Education Conference**  
October 28-30. Denver, CO and online.  
[Registration is now Open](#)
- **ISKME Series: OER Instructors Building a Path for Accessibility**  
October 14, 21 & 28. November 4, 18 & 25. Online.  
[Registration is open](#)
- **OER Day at ETAMU**  
Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am- 3:00 pm at the East Texas A&M RSC and online.  
Free registration (limited seats) [OER Day at ETAMU](#)
- **OER Online Global Camp**  
Tuesday and Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>.  
Free registration: [OERcamp.global 2025](#)



## Contact Us

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