ZTC Degree & CTE Certificate Grants

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Some Definitions

OER: Open Educational Resources

- Example:
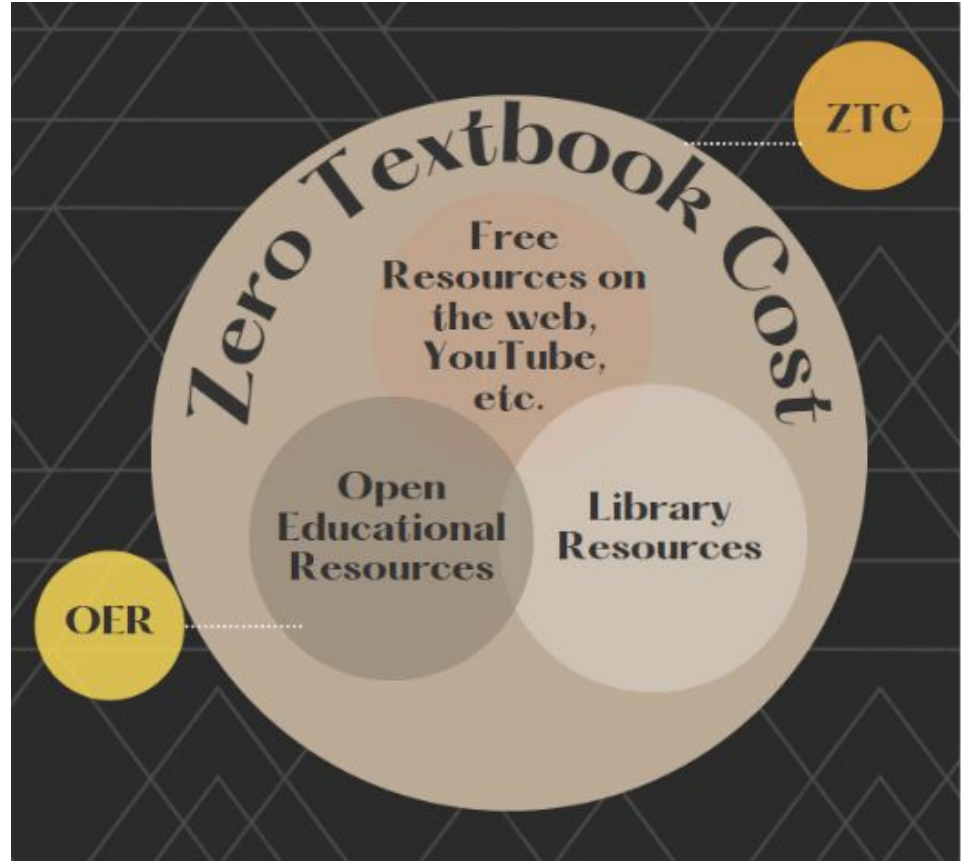 - OpenStax: Mathematics

ZTC: Zero Textbook Cost

LTC: Low Textbook Cost

See in ARC Class Schedule

Why are ZTC and OER important?

Reducing textbook costs is one important way we can work towards eliminating equity gaps for disproportionately impacted students at ARC.

How can OER and ZTC help close equity gaps?

1. Students have their textbooks on day 1

This may be particularly important for students of color.

A Fall 2022 ARC student survey asked…

"How did not having all your textbooks on the first day of class affect your experience in the class?"

The results showed racial disproportionate impact

"I fell behind on my coursework"

Average of all students: 31%

African American students: 57%

LatinX students: 50%

Native American students: 50%

"I had trouble understanding the material as well as I could have if I'd had the textbook on the first day."

Average of all students: 34%

African American students: 47%

LatinX students: 42%

Native American students: 50%

How can OER and ZTC help close equity gaps?

2. Reduces college costs

In the 2020 DI Project Team Reports, many of the African American, Latinx, and Native American students surveyed identified high costs as a barrier to their success. Providing those students with free textbooks was suggested as a strategy to promote student success.

How can OER and ZTC help close equity gaps?

3. Culturally relevant course materials

OERs can be edited, updated, improved, and remixed. Faculty have the opportunity to select and adapt culturally relevant course materials that reflect many voices/perspectives and are tailored to their students and their SLOs.

Seeking more input

We'd love your input on how these ZTC pathway projects can be designed to have the greatest impact on closing ARC's equity gaps.

(We'd also love your input on how best to gather that input)

A note about OER & academic freedom

- OER can be really great!
- However, it's not always the best choice for a given course (or may not exist at all)
- Faculty are, and should feel, absolutely empowered to select whichever course materials they feel best meet the needs of their students

ZTC "Acceleration Grants"

- We can apply for up to $200,000 for each degree or CTE certificate pathway the College commits to making ZTC
- Funding can be used for anything that supports the creation of a ZTC pathway and is allowed by the College's purchasing rules
- Must be offered as ZTC by Fall 2026

What is a ZTC Degree/Certificate?

- A student can complete the degree/certificate without incurring course material costs
- At least one section of every required course must be ZTC
- This includes courses that fall outside the department
- This includes GE courses
- There is already a ZTC path through the Los Rios, CSU, and IGETC GE, though there are few areas that could use shoring up
- 41% of ARC's courses are already ZTC (this includes classes like WAC/RAD, weight lifting, work experience, and other courses that wouldn't normally require a textbook)

We already have three ZTC degrees!

Spanish

Early Childhood Education

General Science

Do all sections of a required course need to be ZTC?

No.

The Chancellor's Office says that at least one section of every required course needs to be ZTC. (But ideally, several sections would be ZTC).

Do all ZTC courses have to use OER?

No.

However, the legislation requires that colleges prioritize OER in creating ZTC pathways, but other methods can be used to get to ZTC.

What might some of those "other methods" be?

- The class might not require a book to begin with
- Instructors can use free resources that aren't technically OER
- Could purchase class sets of books managed by the library
- Subscriptions paid by the College
- **That said, we need to keep in mind sustainability and workload when considering purchasing subscriptions or sets of commercial texts.**
  - 1568 non ZTC sections in Fall 2023
  - x 27 students/section
  - x $100 per course

    =$4,233,600

How will this work?

- Department and faculty-led
- Recommendation: faculty project leaders with reassigned time
- Ideally, each department's dean will manage the budgets for projects in their areas
- We're asking that all budgets include line items for:
  - Paid hours for equity training and practitioner development
  - Classified staff support with payment paperwork
  - Project management support - PM TBD

Questions for Curriculum

1. What curriculum-related aspects might we be overlooking?

2. Any suggestions for departments who want to create a ZTC degree, but whose degrees require courses outside their department?

3. How can we support departments who have questions about adding OER materials as a representative textbook?

4. Labeling ZTC degrees: Does it make sense to put this information in SOCRATES?

My department is interested! What now?

1. Read the information document
2. Department chair or designee should fill out an interest form - linked in the email

Optional:

- Attend an info session
- Email Sarah with any questions. :)