

# IMPACT: Textbook Affordability Project

UTRGV's Textbook Affordability Project (TAP) has been instrumental in providing an innovative and accessible educational environment to students and faculty since its inception in 2019. The impact of these initiatives weaves teaching excellence and student success throughout UTRGV by providing accessible course materials to all. This project is but one of the initiatives that has positioned UTRGV as one of the most affordable institutions of higher education in the country.

## FACULTY ENGAGEMENT

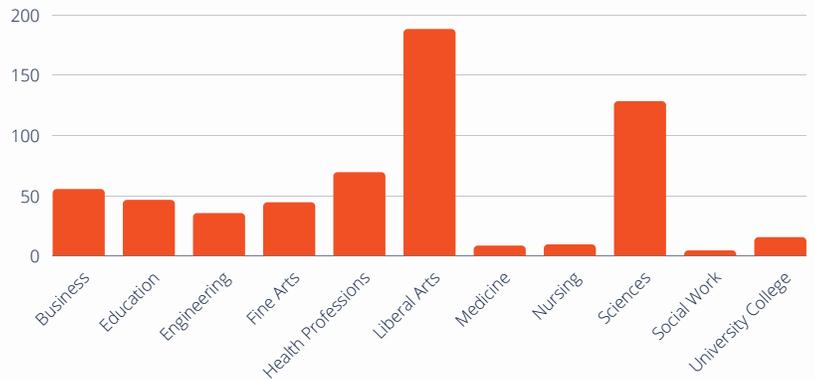
### Increased Participation

The TAP has seen a steady increase in faculty engagement. Since Spring 2019, a total of 606 faculty have engaged in affordability initiatives.



### Faculty Engagement by College

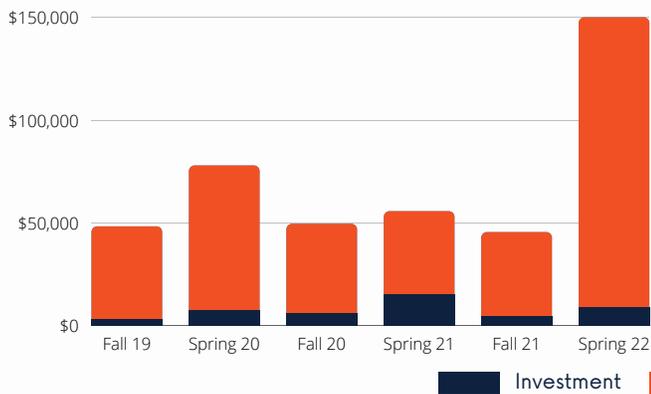
Every college and school has shown interest in at least one aspect of textbook affordability at UTRGV.



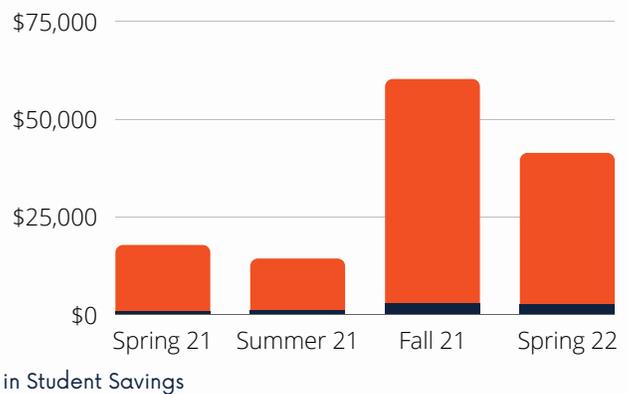
## RETURN ON INVESTMENT

The Textbook Affordability Project has benefited from internal funding which has been instrumental in increasing faculty engagement and awareness of affordable textbook alternatives. The Affordable Textbook Adoption (ATA) Grants were partially supported in the 2020-21 academic year by the Frontier Set grant funding. All TAP initiatives have received direct support from the Office of Academic Affairs and HEERF funding. The library funded newly created positions to increase the working capacity on these projects and dedicated collection development funds to purchase digital textbook replacements.

### ATA GRANT ROI\*



### LIBRARY LICENSED TEXTBOOK PURCHASE ROI\*



\*ROI savings is calculated by multiplying the total course enrollment by the lowest cost of the replaced textbook purchased new. This data is calculated once and does not reflect the ongoing savings for each course.

## TOTAL SAVINGS

To date the ATA grant has saved students \$483,799 and the Library Licensed Textbook Replacement Purchases have saved students \$137,456 which total well over half a million dollars in initial student savings.

**\$621,255 SAVED**

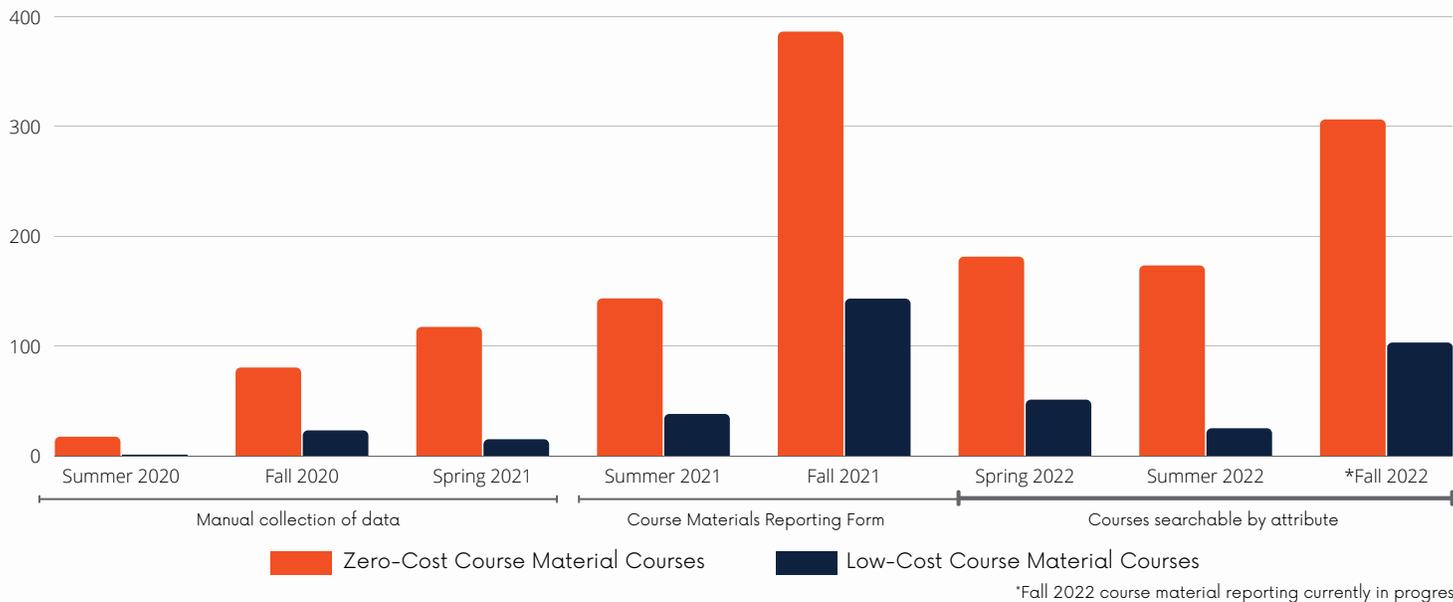
## STUDENTS IMPACTED

The ATA grant has impacted 2,835 student seats and the Library Licensed Textbook Purchases impacted 3,437 student seats. Combined these efforts have provided over 6,000 opportunities to gain free and immediate access to required course materials.

**6,272 STUDENTS**

## COURSE MARKING

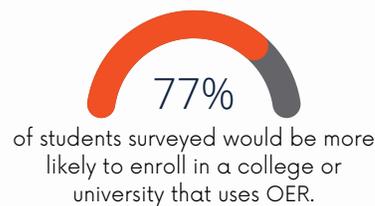
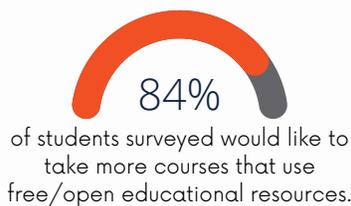
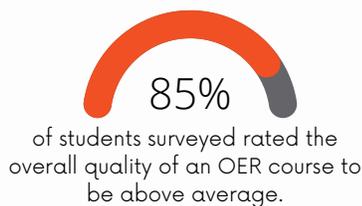
Texas legislation has established protocols for OER course designation to be present in course catalogs and registration systems. In Summer 2020 UTRGV's Zero and Low-Cost Course Material Course definitions were created and the course information was manually collected. In Summer 2021 the Course Materials Reporting Form was created to collect and report this information to various stakeholders. In Spring 2022 these designations were made searchable through Banner to allow students to filter their course searches by these attributes during registration. This process allows students to have transparency on the price of their required course materials.



## UTRGV STUDENT FEEDBACK

Many UTRGV students, including Frank G., have been impacted by the ATA Grant implementation and have shared their experiences.

"I cannot put into words how much OER has helped me this semester. I come from a time when doing research meant spending a week in the library with the hopes of finding a couple of resources I could use for my paper. Students now-a-days might not be aware of how much work that was. When my English Professor, Dr. Newman, introduced me to [the OER] catalog, my jaw dropped. I had the done the research I needed to do in less than a day! The problem was that there was so much information to choose from that I could not pick just one. The phrase "a kid in the candy store" comes to mind when I try to describe to you how the situation looked like. I want to thank anyone, and everyone, involved in this program profusely! On top of everything, ITS FREE!! To think I saved money by not buying expensive books for the class, especially now, with everything that's going on. I really hope that O.E.R. continues to be a reliable source for students in our university. Once again, Thank You for having this amazing catalog available for all students." - Frank G.



## AFFORDABILITY ADVOCATES

Affordability Advocates are UTRGV faculty, students, and staff who have dedicated their time and effort to ensure students at UTRGV have equitable access to high-quality course materials at a minimal cost to students. To date there are 10 named advocates promoting Textbook Affordability within the UTRGV community.

"Several students reached out to thank me for making this choice. This has motivated me to make similar changes to my other courses." - Dr. Jason Popan

"The accessibility and variety of OER materials also motivate students to move far past what I ask them to do in class, discovering materials that they can use not just in my classes but in their other classes as well." - Dr. Beatrice Newman

## FACULTY PARTICIPATION



As of Spring 2022 the available funding allowed 33 faculty members to receive the Affordable Textbook Adoption grant from a field of 142 applications.



Since March 2020, the Library hosted 10 internal professional development sessions. A total of 145 faculty registered and 60% of those interested faculty attended the session.