

Building Momentum on OER Across the University of Texas System

Open Texas Conference 2021

Thursday, March 11, 2021

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Session Outcomes

- Discuss the strategic directions and initiatives by which the UT System is building momentum on OER
- Provide an overview of the UT System Affordable Learning Accelerator Task Force Report and Recommendations
- Share key issues in building engagement with OER across a large university system with attention to roles for faculty, libraries, administrative leadership, and students; proprietary options; disciplinary differences; and management of local priorities.

First, who is with us?



The University of Texas System



Eight academic institutions, including 5 HSIs

Six health institutions

239,312 students enrolled—224,555 enrolled at academic institutions, including 181,817 undergraduates

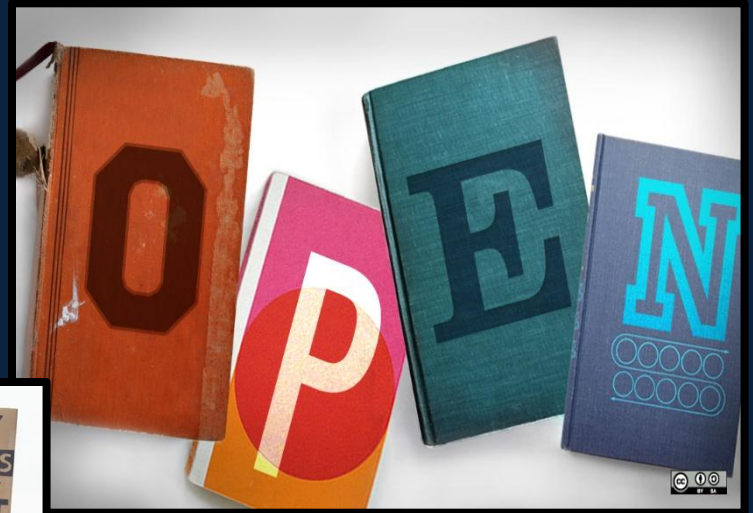
For Fall 2019:

- 55% of undergrads counted as underrepresented minority, mostly Hispanic
 - Hispanics account for roughly 92% and 87% of students at UTRGV and UTEP, respectively
- 53% receive need-based grant aid, on average
- Undergrads receiving Pell range from 23-62%

ALA Task Force Description and Charge

- Elevate awareness of, and deepen engagement with, existing high-quality Open Educational Resources (OER) across University of Texas institutions;
- Identify strategies and collaborative opportunities to expand the adoption and development of affordable and next-generation learning resources
- Evaluate and identify metrics to assess the impact of OER
- Identify funding opportunities to amplify the work on behalf of student affordability

The Time Is Now...



Our Findings: Student Affordability Crisis



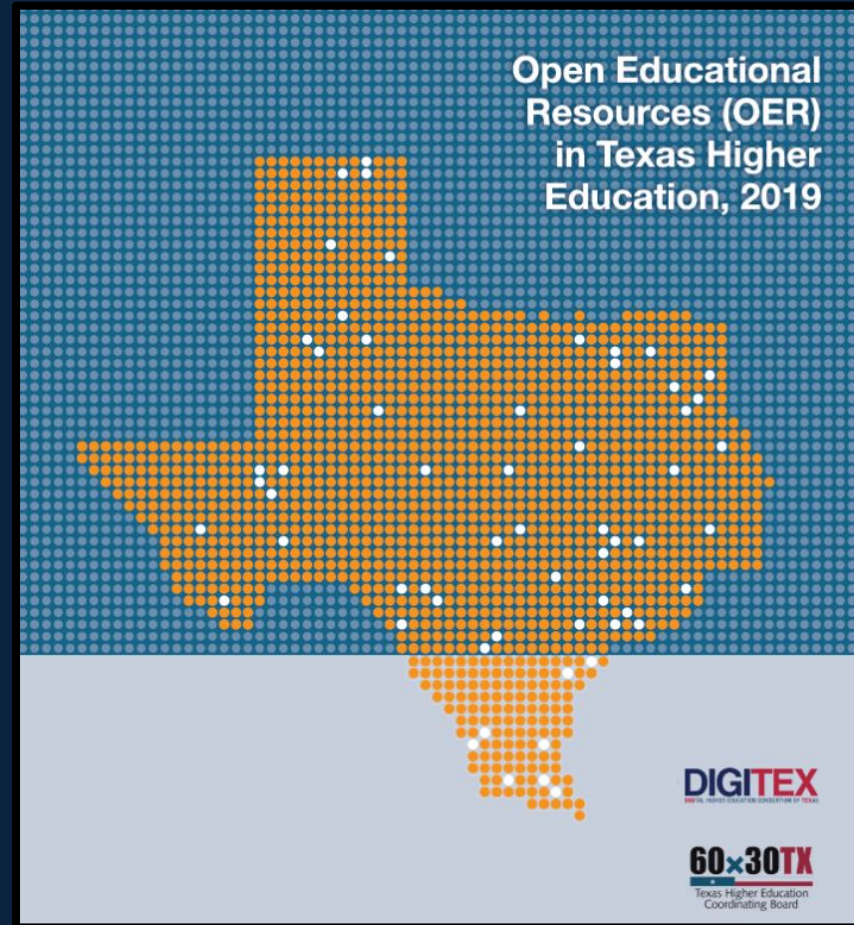
Without the resources to complete their coursework, student success outcomes — retention rates, graduation rates and workforce preparedness — suffer.

Our Findings: OER in the UT System



Current OER initiatives in the UT System have been driven by the individual institutions independent from one another.

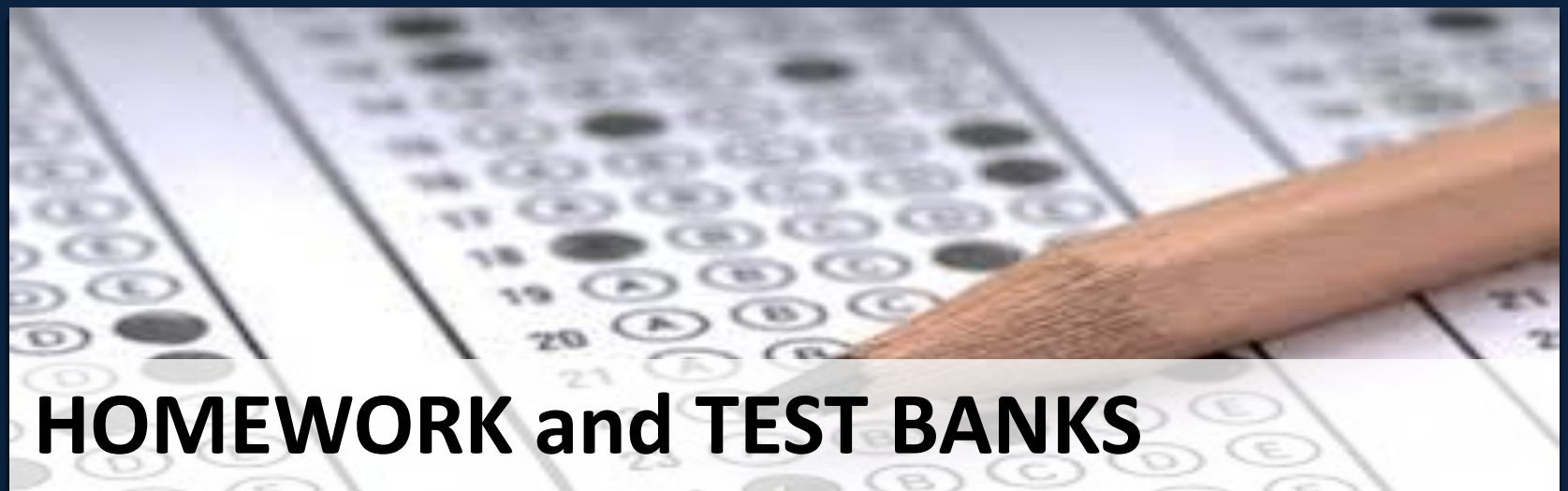
Our Findings: Momentum is Growing in Texas



The timing for ramped-up engagement with OER UT System-wide is right :
Texas Legislature, UTS Student Advisory, THECB, Governor Abbott, TLCUA

Our Findings:

Rapidly evolving course materials landscape of commercial publishers



Recommendations

Overarching Recommendation:

The UT System should invest in OER through a commitment to a 3-year OER Momentum Strategy.

Recommendation 1: The UT System and institutions should make a financial investment in OER through:

- Institutional allocations of funding to OER capacity-building with a focus on faculty and libraries — building on work already underway; and/or
- Funding from the UT System Board of Regents for OER at institutions to include in-kind contributions from institutions; and/or
- Pursuit of Texas GEER funding being made available to the THECB in support of OER and other new-generation, online learning resources, as well as other governmental and philanthropic funding opportunities.

Recommendations

Recommendation 2: The UT System and institutions should adopt an Affordability Mindset across the UT System.

Recommendation 3: The UT System and institutions should assess OER impact on return on investment (ROI) to students and institutions, learning outcomes, student success outcomes, and student and faculty satisfaction based on common assessment standards.

Recommendation 4: The UT System and institutions should adopt a coordinated approach to increasing the use and development of OER homework sets and test bank questions, platforms and infrastructure across the UT System.

Recommendations

Recommendation 5: The UT System and institutions should adopt a coordinated approach to educating UT students, faculty, staff and administrators about proprietary course materials published and sold by commercial publishers and vendors.

Recommendation 6: UT institutions and the UT System should recognize faculty OER engagement in tenure and promotion policy and/or guidelines.

Recommendation 7: UT institutions should commit to integrating OER into courses in the Texas Core Curriculum, supported by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's OER grant program and OER Commons microsite, and inspired by *Z-Degrees* (*zero-textbook-cost* associate degrees) at the community colleges.

Recommendations

Recommendation 8: The UT System and institutions should adopt best practices for complying with state and federal legislation regarding OER and course material disclosure.

Recommendation 9: The UT System and institutions should develop an ongoing OER legislative strategy, including one that might involve collaboration with other Texas university systems and educational partners.

Recommendation 10: The UT System Chancellor, in consultation with institutional leadership, should appoint a follow-up UT System group or council to support, enhance and oversee the 3-year UT System OER Momentum Strategy.

Report Vetting and Next Steps

- Vetting and report endorsement with UT System and Institutional Leadership
- 4 priority areas selected for moving forward on recommendations:
 - Best practices on OER and course materials disclosure
 - Incentivizing faculty engagement
 - Coordinated approach to working with commercial publishers
 - Shared metrics to measure OER ROI and impact on student learning and success
- Pursue funding opportunities to support OER momentum
- Build-up of UT System Momentum on OER (MOER) Website/Information Hub

Discussion and Questions

- How is your institution or system building more systematic engagement with OER?
- What works well?
 - In terms of case-making and capacity-building?
- What does not?
 - I.e., what are the challenges?

Accelerating Momentum

The Report of the UT System Affordable Learning Accelerator Task Force can be found at:

<https://www.utsystem.edu/offices/academic-affairs/student-success/our-undergraduate-student-success-work/university-of-texas-system-affordable-learning-accelerator-task-force>



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