Learning Outcomes

- Select appropriate strategies for assessing the impact of OER adoptions

- Use assessment data to inform and improve upon institutional OER efforts

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What brings you here today?

Are there certain questions you hope to have answered in this session?

University of Houston OER Program

- Alternative Textbook Incentive Program (ATIP)
- Began in 2018
- Replace required commercial textbook with OER, library resources, or other freely-available resources
- Program rooted in textbook affordability
- 58 ATIP courses

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Our assessment strategies

- Track # of courses, enrollment, estimated cost savings
- Summary of students' reception to alternative text and teaching experience
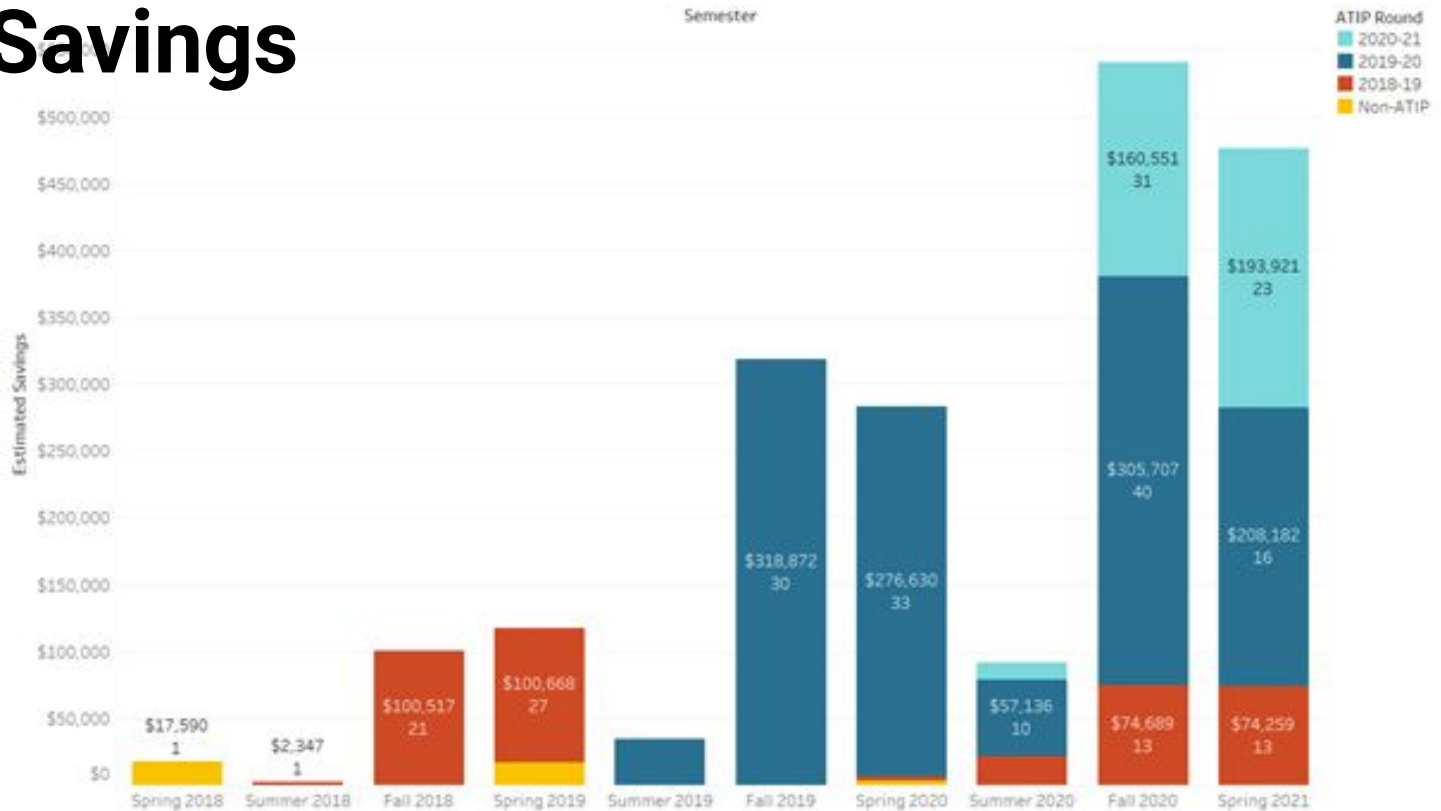- Student survey, quality and ease of access

Iterative process, improvements over time

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The COUP Framework

- Cost
- Outcomes
- Usage
- Perceptions

http://openedgroup.org/coup

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Cost Savings

Cost Savings

sites.google.com/view/opentexas-oerassessment/

- What do these charts tell you? What do they miss?
- Do you use a similar method to assess your OER program? What are the pros and cons?
- Who is this information useful for? Why are they interested?

Cost Savings

- Various ways to calculate savings from textbook costs
- Our method:
  - **New Textbook Cost x Enrollment** = **Estimated Student Savings**
- Know the limitations of your method and that it will always be an estimate

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Project Type and Material Type

sites.google.com/view/opentexas-oerassessment/project-type
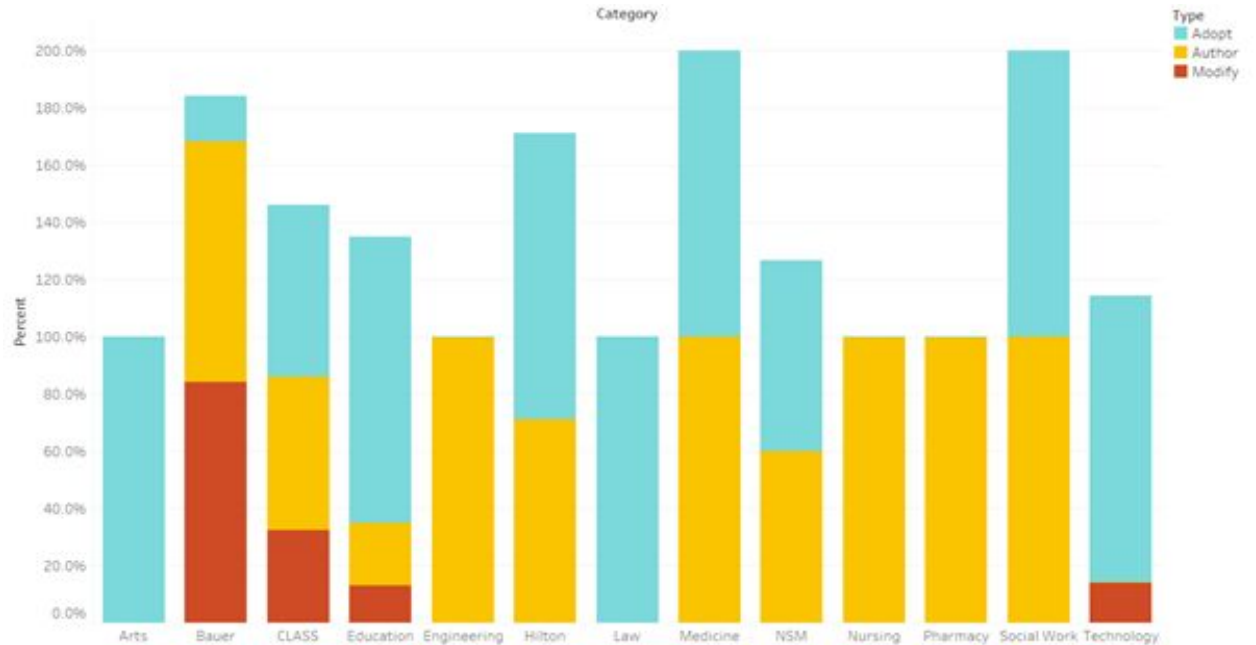
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ATIP Faculty Report

- "Provide an analysis of your students' reception of the alternative text(s)"
- "Provide an evaluation of approximately 300 words describing the experience of teaching with an alternative textbook."

Key Findings

- Improved access to course materials
  - Free availability, student preparation and engagement

- Greater control over course content
  - Select appropriate resources, multiple/diverse perspectives

- Challenges in implementation
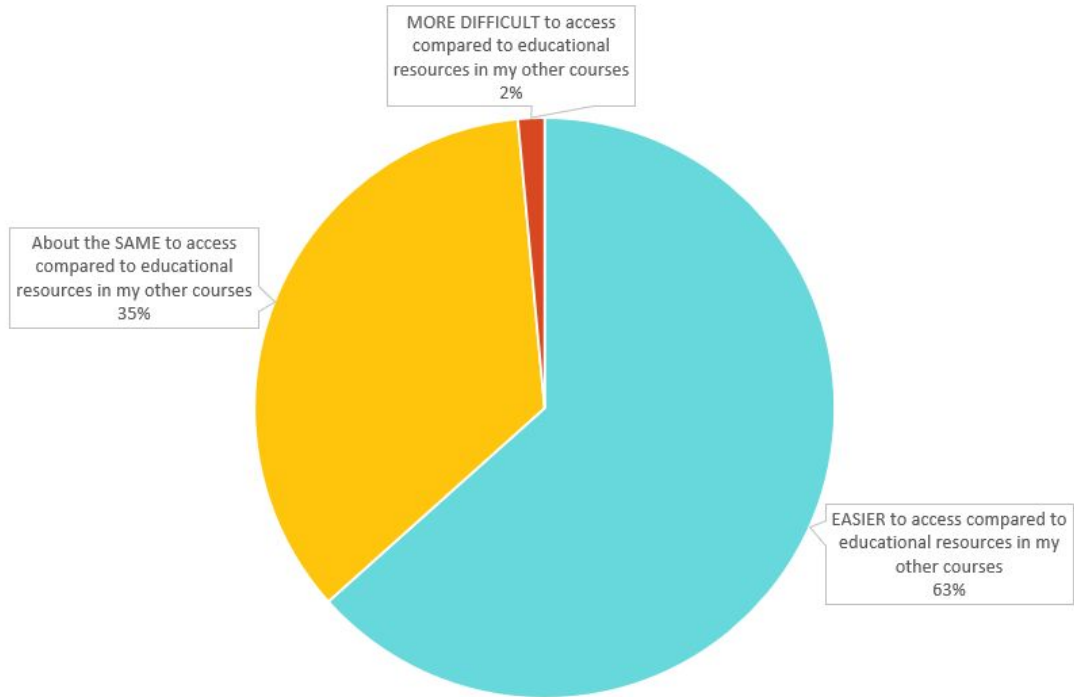 - Lack of existing OER, distributing to students, time and effort

"I have struggled for years to find a textbook that covered all of the areas I wished to cover during the semester. With the OER program, I was able to pick and choose chapters from different books."

"I believe I have been able to assess higher level thinking and not as much memorization."

"My approach to teaching my course was more purposeful, more positive, and more self-assured."

Student Survey

How would you rate the **ease of access** of the educational resources used in this course?

MORE DIFFICULT to access compared to educational resources in my other courses
2%

About the SAME to access compared to educational resources in my other courses
35%

EASIER to access compared to educational resources in my other courses
63%

Student Survey

How would you rate the **quality** of the educational resources used in this course?

WORSE than the quality of educational resources in my other courses
2%

About the SAME AS the quality of educational resources in my other courses
45%

BETTER than the quality of the educational resources in my other courses
53%

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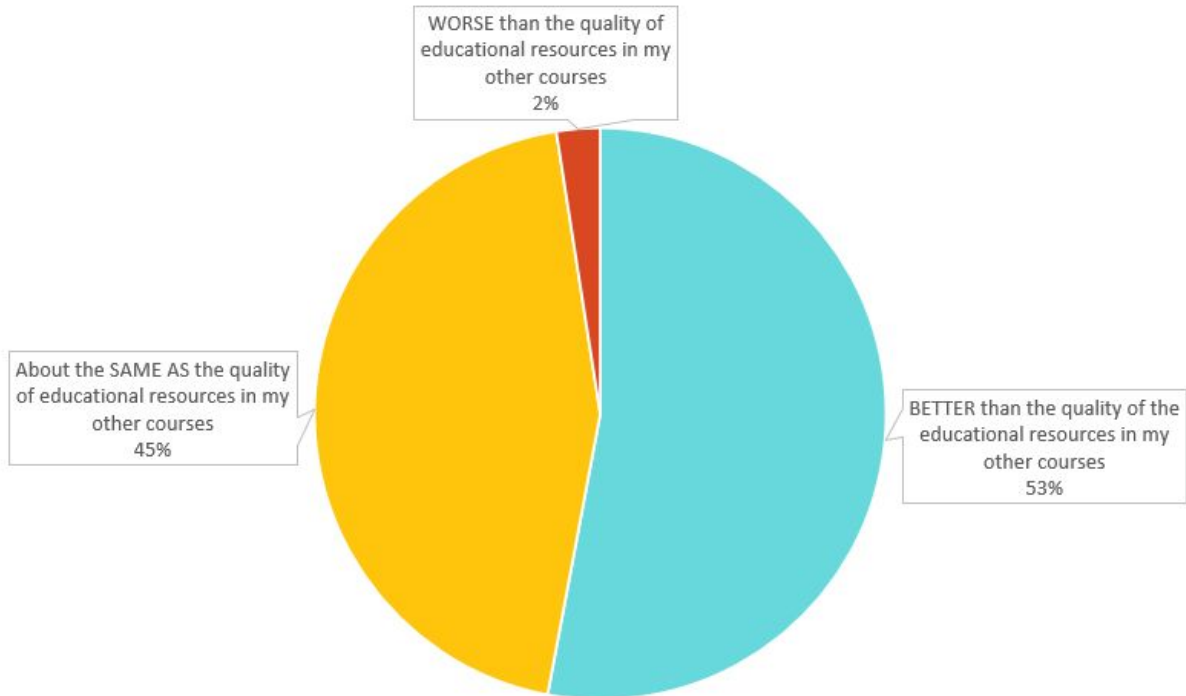
Based on your motivations or reasons for assessing OER, what strategies might you use?

Final Thoughts

- Cost is not the only or most valuable measure
- Future directions
  - Adding depth to cost-related data
  - Focus on communicating impact
- What is meaningful for your audience(s)? What fits your context?

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Thank you!

Strategies for Assessing an OER Incentive Program

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References

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