

What exactly are *Open Educational Resources (OER)*?

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You have probably already heard that San Jacinto College and three partner colleges (Alamo, El Paso, Austin) were awarded a grant from Achieving the Dream to develop complete AA and AS degrees in General Studies and an AA transfer degree in business in which use only open education resources (OER).

Many people ask, "What exactly are OER?" The short answer is that OER are free, online educational materials licensed to share with students. As you may know, fulltime students spend an average of \$700 per semester on textbooks. When San Jacinto offers its OER degree, students will be able to complete an entire associate's degree with no textbook costs, which can save students about \$2800 during their first two years at San Jacinto. The goal of OER is to increase access and completion rates for students by removing the prohibitive textbook costs. When students enroll in an OER course, all the course texts are online and have the same rigor as traditional texts from publishers. OER course content is organized based on the course learning objectives, which helps students hone their knowledge and skills more effectively.

But OER do more than just remove textbook costs. OER can also inspire faculty to collaborate and create more relevant, customized course materials for students. Faculty can collaborate across disciplines, campuses, and even across the country with other college faculty to revise, remix, reuse, and redistribute course materials. OER material is freely licensed, which is why OER materials are called open. One of our grant partners, Lumen Learning, defines OER this way: "Open educational resources (OER) are teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under a copyright license that permits anyone to freely use and repurpose [these] textbooks, streaming videos, tests, journal articles, and any other tools or materials used to support learning."

When students can focus on their courses and won't have to choose between paying their electric bill and buying their Chemistry textbook, they are more likely to succeed in their classes. When faculty can play an active role in choosing, creating, sequencing, and revising their own course content, they are likely to be even more effective teachers. When you use OER in your classroom and help remove prohibitive textbook costs for your students, you can create equity in education in a way that's never been done on such a large scale.

GRAND OPENING MEDIA CENTER



Friday, October 14, 2016
9:30 am - 11:30 am

North Campus Media Center - N14.114
COME BY AND VISIT THE NEW STUDIOS
{and for snacks and giveaways, too!}

Distance Learning Certification

ACAdemic Learning is the required professional development program that is open to all faculty who would like to be eligible to teach a distance learning course at San Jacinto College.

ETID 1302: EdTech - ACAdemic Learning

Section 2: 09/12/2016 - 10/21/2016
Section 3: 09/26/2016 - 11/04/2016
Section 4: 10/17/2016 - 12/02/2016

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