

Open SUNY Affordable Learning Solutions (ALS)



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What is Open SUNY ALS?



<http://opensunyals.org>

- A State University of New York (SUNY) initiative to provide **affordable educational alternatives to traditional textbooks**
- A service to assist SUNY faculty, librarians, and staff to identify lower-cost, electronic, free, and **Open Educational Resources (OERs)**
- A **California State University-MERLOT** partner benefit service



What are the benefits of Open SUNY Affordable Learning Solutions?



- Open SUNY ALS enables faculty to find quality free course content that can substitute for more costly textbooks;
- helps students by cutting or eliminating the cost of textbooks and other learning materials
- helps faculty be recognized for quality teaching and efforts to reduce students' costs



What are traditional textbook issues?

There is a direct relationship between
textbook costs and student success

60%+ do not purchase textbooks
at some point due to cost



35% take fewer courses due to
textbook cost



31% choose not to register for a
course due to textbook cost



23% regularly go without
textbooks due to cost



14% have dropped a course
due to textbook cost



10% have withdrawn from a
course due to textbook cost



Source: 2012 student survey
by Florida Virtual Campus



OER Successes from SUNY

Open SUNY Textbooks, <http://opensuny.org/omp/index.php/SUNYOpenTextbooks>, is an open access textbook publishing initiative established by the libraries of SUNY Geneseo, SUNY Brockport, the College of Environmental Science & Forestry, SUNY Fredonia, Upstate Medical University, and the University at Buffalo and is supported by SUNY Innovative Instruction Technology Grants.

Currently there are 7 Open SUNY Textbooks in publication and 15 more in process. In the Spring 2014 semester, 185 students saved \$15,464 using 2 Open SUNY textbooks.



OER Successes from SUNY

At Tompkins Cortland Community College, from 2011-2013, 698 students saved an estimated \$698,000 on textbooks costs and there was an 26.7% increase in passing grades accompanied by a 15% decrease in withdrawal rates in the Psychology courses developed by the Lumen Learning Kaleidoscope collaborative open course project. TC3 instructor Sophia Georgiakaki adopted an open textbook and states: “We went from \$120 to \$0 [in textbook costs] and we offer the same content.”



Starting in 2011...

2011 – **Tompkins Cortland Community College** began OER adoption and course development in partnership with other community colleges (non-SUNY) in the Kaleidoscope Project conducted by Lumen Learning; **Empire State College** launched the first SUNY MOOC: Creativity and Multicultural Communication

2012 – **Open SUNY Textbooks** was launched with an Innovative Instructional Technology Grant (IITG); **Empire State College faculty member, Rhianna Rogers**, makes the first of many presentations on Open Learning at the ESC Fall Academic Conference

2013 - **Open SUNY Textbooks** receives another IITG grant to continue its work; **the University at Stony Brook** launched its first MOOC, Introduction to Computational Arts

2014 – **Empire State College** received an IITG grant for the project: **Ecology and Earth Science Virtual Field Experiences OERs: Expanding Access to Field-Based Research Techniques for Students at a Distance**; **a Binghamton University professor released an Open Calculus course**
http://www2.math.binghamton.edu/p/people/jbrennan/calculus_videos/chapter1



Using Open SUNY ALS

For example: A general education core course, General Biology, uses a \$187 textbook with ISBN 978-0077350024 (*Biology*, published by McGraw Hill)

The instructor links to opensunyals.org and goes to the Free Textbooks page; he/she searches by the ISBN and the results are 10 rated and reviewed open textbooks that can be evaluated to replace the \$187 option.

(screen-shot next slide)



Alternatives to High-Priced Textbooks

Enter ISBN:

Biology

Author: Raven, Peter H.

Publisher: McGraw-Hill, 2011

Related FREE/Open Textbooks

(And there's more to explore once you go to the materials.)

- [Molecular Biology Laboratory Manual](#)
This is a free 41-page manual designed to be used for a Molecular Biology course. The information can be read online, in pdf format, and is also available for some other types of readers such as Kindle. The author says that it is a work-in-progress, but should answer questions from the simple to the complex.
- [Online Biology Book](#)
Amounts to an introductory biology text. The text items are modified lecture outlines the author developed over the many years of teaching college-level introductory biology.
- [Modern Biology](#)
This is a free online course that offers the textbook along with it. It is designed for the independent student as it is self-guided. "Modern Biology covers topics found in the fields of cellular biology, molecular biology, biochemistry, and genetics. This intro-level course provides the background biology students will need for advanced biology classes." It could also be used as a review for those going back to school.
- [Rediscovering Biology](#)
Covers Genomics, Proteins and Proteomics, Evolution and Phylogenetics, Microbial Diversity, Emerging Infectious Diseases, HIV and AIDS, Genetics of Development, Cell Biology and Cancer, Human Evolution, Neurobiology, Biology of Sex and Gender, Biodiversity, and Genetically Modified Organisms.



Going Forward

- Benefiting from the successful examples of CSU/MERLOT initiatives, ATIS will pursue centrally contracted affordability services (digital textbooks, virtual labs, etc.) and campus bookstore partnerships.
- There is already a SUNY OER Community in the Learning Commons; this will be actively expanded and cultivated to provide peer-education and support and to help identify how ATIS can help campuses to incentivize OER adoption and creation.
- Research on a centralized SUNY OER repository is underway; the contents of a SUNY repository can become part of MERLOT and be made globally available.



Who do I contact for more information?

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