

# Strategic Plan for Open Educational Resources at Taft College

Fall 2024-Spring 2027

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# Executive Summary

Fall 2024-Spring 2027

## What are Open Educational Resources?

Open Educational Resources (OER) are educational materials freely available for use, sharing, and sometimes modification under an open license that permits their free use and repurposing by others. OER can include textbooks, slides, lecture notes, assignments, tests and quiz banks, videos, and any other materials used in education.

## OER Goals

OER goals in order of priority:

1. Create processes across campus for long-term OER use.
2. Evaluate and review 100% of Taft College OER for quality, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility.
3. Increase the equitable access of OER for students by 5%.
4. Increase the number of course sections using OER by 5%.

## Timeline

As the upcoming Educational Master Plan is developed, the Strategic OER Plan's goals will be modified to align with the new Educational Master Plan's goals.

A review of the status of each long-term goal and activities should occur every academic year. At the beginning, this evaluation will be primarily qualitative as the data integrity of ZTC sections is continuing to improve. This plan provides guidance through spring 2027. Fall 2026, OER leaders should develop a new plan that supports students through the implementation of OER and ZTC sections.

## Conclusion

OER is important for student equity and success by providing educational resources that are easy for students to access that helps them reach the institution's goals related to student educational achievement. By designing the OER initiative with scalability in mind, the OER planning team hopes to accommodate future growth and offer faculty training in OER use, editing, and creation.

# Strategic Plan for Open Educational Resources

With input from a variety of stakeholders, the CCCC Phase 1 ZTC grant positions include:

- Michelle Oja, ASCCC OER Liaison and Professor of Psychology
- Kelly Kulzer-Reyes, Professor of English
- Jennifer L. Altenhofel, Professor of History

The stakeholders included the Taft College Bookstore, Taft College Academic Senate, Governance Council, and Strategic Planning Committee.

## What are Open Educational Resources?

Open Educational Resources (OER) are educational materials freely available for use, sharing, and sometimes modification under an open license that permits their free use and repurposing by others. OER can include textbooks, slides, lecture notes, assignments, tests and quiz banks, videos, and any other materials used in education.

Considering practices in selecting textbooks that will result in lower costs to students is encouraged by the California Education Code 66406: “it is the intent of the Legislature to encourage private colleges and universities to work with their respective academic senates and to encourage faculty to consider practices in selecting textbooks that will result in the lowest cost to students.”.

## Taft College Vision and Mission

OER aligns with Taft College’s vision and mission.

### Vision

*Taft College instills a passion for learning.*

To achieve this goal, OER provides access to learning materials in real-time. OER allows for students to continue pursuing their passions by freeing up funds traditionally used elsewhere; by providing immediate access to learning materials and continued learning through links within the OER that lead elsewhere; and, by providing accessible material for all students.

### Mission

*Taft College is committed to creating a community of learners by enriching the lives of all students we serve through career technical education, transfer programs, foundational programs, baccalaureate programs, and student support services. Taft College provides an equitable learning environment defined by applied knowledge leading to students’ achievement of their educational goals.*

OER enriches the lives of students by providing immediate access to accessible course materials, at no cost, so students can complete their goals at Taft College.

Research shows that courses with OER increase student success. This may be because it creates an environment conducive to learning, fairness, dialogue, and continuous improvement. OER forms a partnership between students, faculty, support services, and staff.

## Support for OER

Locally, Taft College Academic Senate supported OER with a resolution supporting planning a ZTC degree in December 2016 supported by outside grants.

In January 2017, the local Academic Senate approved planning to make Administration of Justice a ZTC (Zero-Textbook Cost) degree. (ZTC). At around that same time, Taft College's Academic Senate appointed an OER Liaison to share information between the state-wide Academic Senate's OER Initiative and Taft College.

In 2021, Taft College degree awarded a sabbatical to Dr. Michelle Oja to develop on OER for behavioral statistics. In

In 2023, Taft College received a planning grant from the California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO). Later that year, the college also received an OER Pathways Grant to accelerate the development of ZTC pathways in the following three degrees: Studio Arts, Management, and Law, Public Policy, and Society. That same year, Taft College also received a grant to implement ZTC degree pathways in Psychology and Sociology.

## OER Goals

OER goals in order of priority:

1. Create processes across campus for long-term OER use.
2. Evaluate and review 100% of Taft College OER for quality, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility.
3. Increase the equitable access of OER for students by 5%.
4. Increase the number of course sections using OER by 5%.

### **Goal 1: Create processes in at least four areas across campus for long-term OER use.**

This will reduce the financial burden on students by offering students the option of freely accessible OER materials.

Recommended Activities:

1. Use data to make decisions, implement changes, and increase the effectiveness of OER.
  - a. Provide accurate data provided on ZTC sections offered.
  - b. Provide regular reports on student achievement outcomes and student learning outcomes by comparing ZTC sections to those that use commercial textbooks.
  - c. Create of an OER Data Dashboard

- d. Add OER to the Program Review process by creating a section in Program Review to assess OER.
2. Streamline OER processes across campus.
    - a) Consult with the Curriculum and General Education Committee on how best to accomplish this goal. This could include a system to track OER on CORs.
    - b) Consult with the Bookstore on how best to accomplish this goal. This could include a system to track OER on CORs.
    - c) Consult with the Office of Instruction about scheduling processes on how best to accomplish this goal. This could include a system to track OER on CORs.
    - d) Create campus-wide guidelines for copyright, licensing, and attribution to ease the creation of OER.
  3. Publicize information about OER.
    - a) Faculty:
      - i. Create and publicize OER/ZTC webpage for:
        1. Finding OER
        2. Curating OER
      - ii. Publicize and update draft OER Library Guide
    - b) Students:
      - i. Publicize and support TC Bookstore's ZTC webpage for students.
      - ii. Publicize and update draft OER Library Guide
      - iii. Work with ASO (Associated Student Organization) and other student groups, to educate students regarding Open Educational Resources (OER), Zero-textbook cost (ZTC), and Low-cost Textbooks (LCT).
  4. Secure ongoing funding sources to ensure a long-term commitment to OER initiatives.
    - a) Potential funding sources for OER development, use, and evaluation could include:
      - i. Professional Development funding
      - ii. Guided Pathways
      - iii. Equity funding (SEAP)
      - iv. Student Government
      - v. Remaining emergency funds for COVID-19 relief
      - vi. Earmarked money from the state
      - vii. Grants: CCCCCO, ASCCC, professional organizations, and teaching organizations.

## **Goal 2: Evaluate and review 100% of Taft College OER for quality, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility.**

This will facilitate improve representation of and accessibility for all Taft College students.

Recommended Activities:

1. [This activity also supports G3: Activity 3.] Work with campus areas to support easy access to ADA-compliant materials online before the first day of class. Campus areas could include: the Bookstore, Disability Support Programs and Services (DSPS), Distance Education, Instructional Technologies (IT), the Library, and registration.
  - a. Provide campus support to perform accessibility audits.
  - b. Support faculty to improve the accessibility of OER.
  - c. Work to improve campus technology and website maintenance so that it is easier for students to find courses and sections with OER.
2. Financially support the evaluation of the diversity of representation of OER.
  - a. Evaluate OER created and curated by Taft College faculty using the ASCCC's OER Initiative's IDEAA Framework.
  - b. Evaluate OER used in course and sections at Taft College using the ASCCC's OER Initiative's IDEAA Framework.
  - c. Assess how representation affects student success rates and student satisfaction.

### **Goal 3: Increase the equitable access of OER for students by 5%.**

This will improve Taft College OER materials' processes so students know about OER, improve accessibility of OER, and make OER easier to find.

Recommended Activities:

1. Identify student access rates to OER and number of ZTC sections offered.
2. [This activity also supports G2: Activity 1.] Work with campus areas to support easy access to ADA-compliant materials online before the first day of class. Campus areas could include: the Bookstore, Disability Support Programs and Services (DSPS), Distance Education, Instructional Technologies (IT), the Library, and registration.
  - a. Provide campus support to perform accessibility audits.
  - b. Support faculty to improve the accessibility of OER.
  - c. Work to improve campus technology and website maintenance so that it is easier for students to find courses and sections with OER.
3. Support printing of OER materials through the development of processes within the Bookstore as well as support of printing by other campus constituencies.
4. Work with ASO (Associated Student Organization) to support ASO through this funding loss.

### **Goal 4: Increase the number of course sections using OER by 5%.**

This will give students more options of courses with low cost and no cost materials, reducing financial barriers to success.

Recommended Activities:

1. Support faculty development of OER:
  - a. Through compensation or assignments, support faculty to modify, curate/adapt, and/or create OER to meet the needs of a target course.
  - b. Compensate Taft College employees to create certificates, badges, or courses for OER knowledge,
  - c. Compensate faculty for earning certificates, badges, or completing courses for OER in current professional development processes and compensation.
  - d. Support the creation of quiz banks, assignments, and teaching tools for OER through compensation or assignments.
  
2. Support the creation of an OER Coordinator to oversee training and OER creation.
  - a. Attempt to hire a Digital Librarian again.
  - b. Part-time re-assigned time for a faculty member for the duration of the CCCCO grants to support the OER processes at Taft College.
  - c. Foster faculty engagement in OER initiatives through professional development, workshops, and resources to support faculty in adopting, adapting, and creating OER materials.

## Timeline

As the upcoming Educational Master Plan is developed, the Strategic OER Plan's goals will be modified to align with the new Educational Master Plan's goals.

A review of the status of each long-term goal and short-term goal should occur every academic year. At the beginning, this evaluation will be primarily qualitative as the data integrity of ZTC sections is continuing to improve.

Annual Review of Goals, Activities and Measurements	
August	Request data from Institutional Research
October	Receive data from Institutional Research
January	Review quantitative data from Institutional Research
April	Update report, goals, activities, and measurements
May	Share updated report with stakeholders, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taft College Bookstore,</li> <li>• Taft College Academic Senate,</li> <li>• Governance Council, and</li> <li>• Strategic Planning Committee</li> </ul>
Every 3 years starting in Fall 2027	Comprehensive Review

This plan provides guidance through spring 2027. Fall 2026, OER leaders should develop a new plan that supports students through the implementation of OER and ZTC sections.

## Conclusion

By designing the OER initiative with scalability in mind, the OER planning team hopes to accommodate future growth and offer faculty training in OER use, editing, and creation. This plan attempts to prioritize the goals and provide suggested activities for faculty hired to support OER/ZTC at Taft College.

OER can help enhance student success by the reducing cost of academic participation. OER provides easy-to-access educational resources and helps students reach the institution's educational achievement goals.

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