

# Textbook Affordability

0.5 bonus points available

## Rationale

This credit recognizes institutions that support higher education affordability and open digital scholarship by encouraging the use of free and low-cost textbooks.

## Criteria

Institution supports textbook affordability by:

- Hosting a peer-to-peer textbook exchange program, *textbook lending library*, or an *alternate textbook project* covering multiple divisions or departments; AND/OR
- Providing incentives for academic staff that explicitly encourage the authorship, peer review, and/or adoption of *open access textbooks* (or alternate textbooks composed of *open educational resources*). The incentives may include honors, fellowships, titles, monetary rewards, and/or release time.

## Scoring

An institution earns 0.5 bonus points for meeting both of the criteria listed. Partial points are available. An institution that meets one, but not both, criteria earns 0.25 bonus points.

## Reporting Fields

### Required

- ☐ Does the institution host a peer-to-peer textbook exchange program, textbook lending library, or alternate textbook project?  
If yes, provide:
  - A brief description of the textbook exchange program, textbook lending library, or alternate textbook project
- ☐ Does the institution provide incentives for academic staff that explicitly encourage the authorship, peer review, and/or adoption of open access textbooks?  
If yes, provide:
  - A brief description of the incentives to encourage the authorship, peer review, and/or adoption of open access textbooks
- ☐ Website URL where information about the textbook affordability incentives is available

### Optional

- ☐ Additional documentation to support the submission (upload)
- ☐ Data source(s) and notes about the submission
- ☐ Contact information for a responsible party (an employee who can respond to questions regarding the data once it is submitted and available to the public)

## **Standards and Terms**

### **Alternate textbook project**

Consistent with Temple University's guide to [Discovering Open Educational Resources](#) (OER), alternate textbook projects "encourage faculty to replace their commercial textbooks with alternate resources such as OER and licensed library content (which is openly available to all the members of that institution)".

### **Open access textbooks**

Consistent with the Florida Distance Learning Consortium's [Open Access Textbooks project](#) and Student Public Interest Research Groups (PIRGs), open access textbooks, also known as open textbooks, are "complete digital textbooks that are accessible online at no cost, and affordable to purchase printed as a book."

### **Open educational resources**

Consistent with Temple University's guide to [Discovering Open Educational Resources](#) (OER), OERs are defined as "educational materials and resources that are publicly accessible meaning that they are openly available for anyone to use and under some licenses to re-mix, improve and redistribute."

### **Textbook lending library**

A textbook lending library program is explicitly designed to provide low-income students and/or students with unmet financial need with access to required textbooks. Such programs go beyond traditional library collections that may include copies of textbooks on reserve, but do not explicitly aim to address the needs of low-income students.