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The Universities of Wisconsin (UW) Office of Academic Affairs, in collaboration with members of the UW Open Educational Resource (OER) Community of Practice (COP), are pleased to offer Spring 2025 OER stipends. The spring 2025 OER stipends are in alignment with the UWS 2023-2028 Strategic initiatives to increase access to higher education to improve rates of success for historically underserved students and improve affordability. Faculty and instructors across the Universities of Wisconsin are encouraged to apply to **adopt** an existing open textbook (without changes) or to **adapt** (with minor changes) an open textbook to better fit their course needs.

Incorporating an open textbook provides many benefits to instructors and students including:

- reduces the cost of textbooks directly to students or through reduction in segregated fees at universities that have textbook rental programs

- provides instructors with the opportunity to improve the quality of their course by providing support materials that directly address the course content

- supports collaborative teaching and cross-discipline curricula

To increase the use of Open Educational Resources (OER) across the Universities of Wisconsin, the Spring 2025 OER Initiative includes 13 - $500 stipends for instructors to **adopt** an open textbook in upcoming semesters and 13 - $1000 stipends for instructors to **adapt** an open textbook for upcoming semesters. Instructors interested in an adaptation stipend will be provided with training and access to Pressbooks, one of the leading open textbook publishing platforms. Adapted open textbooks will be hosted on the Universities of Wisconsin Open Education Network Pressbooks website, which allows for seamless integration of the published text with Canvas.

Expectations:

Adoption Stipends

- Identify an appropriate open textbook to review [note: assistance is available if needed].
- Based on your experience with OER, you may be asked to complete 1-2 hours of online professional development.
- Complete a review of an existing open textbook within the OEN library[1]. This expectation must be completed by June 30th, 2025.
- Complete a post-project survey that reflects on the outcomes and experience of your project. Submission of the survey following the completion of your open textbook review indicates completion of your project.
- Commit to using an open textbook in at least two semesters in the next three academic years (2025-2028).
- Participate in data collection and reporting efforts related to calculations of student savings following incorporation of the open textbook in your course.
- Agree to participate in OER course marking[2] if applicable on your campus.

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[1] Open textbooks located in repositories other than the OEN library may be reviewed with prior approval.
[2] Course markings are a way of indicating in the course schedule that your course utilizes no cost or low-cost course materials, that could include OER materials.

Adaptation Stipends

- Attend required Pressbooks webinar (~1 hour) prior to receiving Pressbooks access.
- Based on your experience with OER, you may be asked to complete an additional 1-2 hours of online professional development.
- Provide an outline of expected revisions and timeline for publication of the textbook you are adapting. The expectation is that the revisions will be completed, and the book will be published in Pressbooks by December 31, 2025.
- Utilize the Creative Commons License CC BY or CC BY SA, without a No-Derivatives (ND) term[3].
- Complete a post-project survey that reflects on the outcomes and experience of your project. Submission of the survey following publication of your adapted open textbook indicates completion of your project.
- Commit to using the open textbook at least two times in the next three academic years (2025-2028)
- Participate in data collection and reporting efforts related to calculations of student savings following incorporation of the open textbook in your course.
- Agree to participate in OER course marking[2] if applicable on your campus.

One **adoption** stipend and one **adaptation** stipend will be awarded to each UW campus. If there are no proposals submitted by a campus, those awards will be redistributed. Stipend payments will be distributed as follows:

- 50% upon acceptance of stipend and
- 50% upon completion, receipt, and review of deliverable (e.g. adoption review or published open textbook) and post-grant survey.

Question and Answer Forum:

The OER Community of Practice Executive Committee and Grants Working Group will be hosting a question-and-answer forum on **Wednesday January 29th from 12 – 12:45 pm** to address any questions or concerns you may have regarding the Stipend Application. The session will be recorded and made available if you are unable to attend.

Zoom link: https://wisconsin-edu.zoom.us/j/97369625618?pwd=7Ug9kJbtJpa6CkitEKD9cosNVz3foE.1

Passcode: 474818

To apply complete application form by 5 pm on Friday Feb. 7, 2025

For more information & resources see OAA website or email Shanna Nifoussi at shanna.nifoussi@wisconsin.edu

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[3] Creative commons licenses are a standardized way for an author to grant permission for public use of their materials. CC BY enables license enables public usage with attribution to the creator. CC BY SA license enables public usage with attribution to the creator and any adaptations must be shared with the same license.