

The CU Denver OER Committee wants to share a brief overview of **Open Educational Resources (OER)** and why many instructors and institutions are embracing them for removing financial barriers to learning and persistence, as well as enhancing teaching, learning, and research.

What are OER?

[Open Educational Resources \(OER\)](#) are *teaching, learning, and research materials* that are *freely accessible* and released under an *open license* permitting free use, revision, reuse, remixing, and redistribution.

Why use OER?

[Nearly half of faculty now report using OER](#), and one-third require them as course materials.

- Reduce Student Costs and Increase Access
 - Students often face significant financial barriers and many delay buying textbooks or skip them altogether due to cost. **OER removes textbook cost entirely**, since materials are free at the point of use. OER are also available to students on day one of class.
- Support Student Success
 - [Students using OER perform equally well or better](#) compared to traditional textbooks.
 - [Research found lower D/F/Withdrawal rates](#) when OER were used.
- Materials are Customizable, Flexible, and Timely
 - Unlike traditional textbooks you can **adapt OER to your course**, adding, removing, or remixing sections to match your curriculum. Updates can be made quickly, without waiting for new publisher editions. This flexibility lets you incorporate content specific to your students' learning needs and contexts.
- Support Equity and Inclusion
 - Because OER can be remixed and reused, it can encourage underserved, marginalized, and other students to add their images, stories, and voices into their learning materials and contribute to future learning materials for other students ([Lambert 2018](#)).

How Do I Get Involved?

- If you'd like to know more about Open Educational Resources, the [TIPS OER page](#) and the [Auraria Library's OER pages](#) are great places to start. You can also take a self-paced [Intro to OER and Open Pedagogy](#) course on Canvas.

- Auraria Librarians can help you identify Open Educational Resources you can integrate into your courses. They can also advise on what materials are available to you and students through the library. [Sign up for a consultation here.](#)
- Keep an eye out for [funding opportunities](#) from TIPS and elsewhere to support your work in adopting, adapting, or creating OER and low/no cost materials for students.