

OER Librarians  
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Within our capacity as OER librarians at COM, we can advise, train and provide outreach on the use of OER. We can also assist in efforts to help broaden ZTC pathways at the college by helping faculty to identify resources to adopt and identify potential courses to bridge gaps. The following are recommendations to help broaden the use of ZTC at the college, but also to ensure transparency for faculty and students on which courses are no cost or low-cost courses.

1. Institution should work on a process to ensure accuracy and alignment with XB12 in course schedule. It's not clear right now how departments identify and report which courses and sections of courses are no-cost to students. This recommendation is based on inaccuracies in the schedule. These types of errors can be confusing and frustrating to students that enroll in a class because it is listed as a ZTC or low-cost course. In some cases, the course is not listed as ZTC in the class schedule, but bookstore note indicates that the course uses OER. In some cases, a course is listed as ZTC, but lists a textbook for purchase in bookstore – so not ZTC
  - a. Standardize Textbook adoption
    - i. Ideally, instructors would let the bookstore know that they are using ZTC or OER and provide section notes indicating where/how students can access materials in Canvas. PHYS 108A (80694) is listed as a ZTC course, but bookstore states “Course Materials have not been determined. Check back soon for updates”. There are many other classes listed as so.
  - b. Provide Training for faculty and staff on what is OER, ZTC, low cost. This can also include ensuring that all instructional materials are being used ethically or legally (e.g. copyright restrictions).
  - c. Standardize section level listings in course schedule to align with XB12
    - i. Example: POLS 101 (80730) is not listed as ZTC, but bookstore note indicates that “Free "Open Educational Resources" are required for this course”.
    - ii. Example: CHEM 110 (80467) is listed as ZTC, but bookstore lists a textbook ranging in price from \$44 to \$363.
    - iii. Some courses are listed as ZTC and LTP but they are not equal

2. Work with COM bookstore to identify and correctly “price” OER materials or indicate where the student can access the freely available version online
  - a. MATH 115 CRN:10307 listed as ZTC in Spring 2024 schedule. Bookstore lists an OER textbook for \$24-48. Book is listed as hardcover. Yes, this technically could be considered ZTC since students can all access the freely available textbook online. However, there needs to be better messaging indicating that students don’t need to buy this required textbook from the bookstore. The same class is not listed as ZTC in the fall. [BUS 107](#) includes a section note with link to free OER text.
  - b. ASTR 101 Fall 2024 CRN: 80591 lists an OpenStax textbook for \$38-\$77 and another required textbook (Pearson) at a list price of \$22-\$98.
3. Institution should work on a process to compensate faculty to widen existing GE and discipline pathways
  - a. Compensation in form of stipends or reassigned time
  - b. Call for cohort of faculty in areas where pathway can be opened or widened
  - c. Reach out to administration and find out where we are with faculty calls to widen pathways