Overview
The Maryland Open Source Textbook (M.O.S.T.) initiative1 is seeking proposals for its Faculty OER Mini-Grant Program, which supports faculty efforts to increase access, affordability, and achievement for students at Maryland’s 2-year and 4-year public higher education institutions through the incorporation of open educational resources (OER) into teaching practice.

The goals of the Faculty OER Mini-Grant Program are to impact student success through:
● OER adoption in high enrollment courses (Adopt/Adapt grants);
● OER creation in high-need areas (Create grants); and
● OER evaluation to understand the impact of the use of OER on student success (Evaluate grants).

The 2020 M.O.S.T. faculty mini-grants will provide recipients with unique opportunities to engage in communities of practice related to teaching with OER, creation of OER in high-need areas, and evaluation of OER use in relation to student success.


Mini-grant Categories

Adopt/Adapt OER $1,000 grant + Participation in the M.O.S.T. Teaching Fellows Program: Adopt/Adapt OER grants support OER adoption and adaptation in high enrollment courses for which high-quality OER content already exists. Grantees will receive a $1,000 grant and support for their OER adoptions as a M.O.S.T. Teaching Fellow.

Across the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters, M.O.S.T. Teaching Fellows will have the opportunity to participate in a virtual teaching circle built around reflective teaching practice.2 Fellows will engage in weekly activities with individualized support from a facilitator and opportunities to collaborate with other members of the teaching circle who are also adopting OER in similar disciplines. During these two semesters, faculty will engage for 1-2 hours per week with peers and a facilitator to reflect on the relationship between OER and pedagogy, connect their OER use to evidence-based instructional practices, and draw on the personalized support of a facilitator to improve teaching practice.

Create OER $2,000 grant + Participation in the M.O.S.T. Textbook Success Fellowship Program: Create OER grants support institutional teams in the development of new openly licensed, fully accessible learning materials in high-need disciplines to fill gaps in existing OER content. Grantee teams will receive a $2,000 and support for their work through the M.O.S.T. Textbook Success Program.

The M.O.S.T. Textbook Success Program is designed to equip institutional teams of faculty, librarians, instructional designers, and other interested stakeholders with the tools they need to make high-quality open textbooks. Participating teams will have the opportunity to collaborate with teams from other colleges and universities across Maryland while they move from ideation to publishing. Grantees will initially participate in twelve online sessions of approximately 1.5 hours each to learn the basics of OER creation and dissemination, followed by monthly check-ins with the support team as they finish their open textbook projects.

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1 For more information about the M.O.S.T. initiative, visit http://www.oer-maryland.org/
2 Grantees do not need to teach the same course in fall 2020 and spring 2021 to participate.
Evaluate OER $3,000 grant + Dedicated Coaching: Evaluate OER grants support projects with a vision, plan, and commitment to evaluate student learning outcomes in courses using OER. Awardees will receive a $3,000 grant and dedicated coaching from experts to support their efforts to engage in course- and program-level classroom-based research on the use of OERs to improve student learning outcomes.

Grantees will commit to participating in regular coaching and mentorship provided by experts in learning science and assessment, connecting with mentors at minimum every month during planning (May – August) and bi-weekly during the AY 20-21 year. Grantees will learn how to design and implement a classroom-based study as well as how to translate their projects into scholarly presentations and publications. Faculty awarded a grant for this area must also be willing to implement OERs delivered on a platform –such as Lumen Learning’s Waymaker or Carnegie Mellon University’s Open Learning Initiative (OLI) courseware– that supports the analytics needed for insight into student learning.3

Participation Requirements

Awardees commit to the following if selected:

- Attend a face-to-face, hands-on workshop in May 2020.
- Submit a project planning template at the end of the planning period (due June 30, 2020) and complete a brief final grant report (due June 30, 2021).
- Share outcomes and lessons learned at the 2020 M.O.S.T. Summit (December 2, 2020).
- Openly license and share adapted or new OER content through the M.O.S.T. OER Commons.4
- Complete a faculty survey and assist in administering a student survey and collection of de-identified student impact data from your institution.5

Eligibility Criteria

The OER Faculty Mini-Grant Program is open to faculty at Maryland 2- and 4-year public higher education institutions only. To be eligible for an OER Faculty Mini-Grant, all proposed projects must:

- Replace traditionally copyrighted materials with learning resources that:
  - Are openly licensed with a Creative Commons CC-BY Attribution 4.0 International License.
  - Are fully accessible according to WCAG 2.0 and WCAG 2.1 Standards.
  - Are openly and freely available outside their delivery platforms.
  - Provide students with day-one access to their learning materials.
  - Allow students to retain access to the OER content after the course is completed.
  - Are regularly updated and maintained.
  - Are easily discoverable.
  - Cost below $40/student, with lower costs preferred.
- Explore how OER can support learning-centered pedagogies and continuous quality improvement.
- Include a letter of support from the department chair(s) or dean(s) for the project.

See below for additional eligibility criteria specific to each grant category.

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3 Visit https://oli.cmu.edu/courses/ for a catalog of courses available on the OLI platform, and https://catalog.oer-maryland.org/ for a catalog of courses available on the Waymaker platform. If you would like to propose using a different platform, please note that in your proposal and be sure to indicate how student learning will be measured and tracked over time.

4 The Maryland Open Source Textbook (M.O.S.T.) Commons is a collaborative, online space designed to support the sharing and creation of Open Educational Resources (OER). Through M.O.S.T. Commons, you will have the opportunity to access openly licensed content and collaborate with faculty within your institution and across Maryland. The site also provides faculty with authoring tools to create their own OER. (https://most.oercommons.org/)

5 Data collection instruments and protocols will be reviewed and approved by your institution’s IRB in advance of implementation.
Adopt/Adapt OER proposals must:

- Target OER adoption in a high enrollment course for which high-quality OER content already exists.\(^6\) Such courses include but are not limited to:
  
  - Freshman Seminar/College Success
  - English Composition I and II
  - Basic Reading & Writing
  - Introduction to College Composition
  - American Literature I and II
  - U.S. History I and II
  - Music Appreciation
  - Introduction to Business
  - Macro/Microeconomics
  - Principles of Marketing
  - Introduction to Psychology
  - Introduction to Sociology
  - College Algebra
  - Beginning and Intermediate Algebra
  - Mathematics for Liberal Arts
  - Introduction to Statistics
  - Biology I and II
  - Chemistry
  - Geology
  - Public Speaking/Communication

- Commit to teaching at least one section of the proposed course using OER during the Fall 2020 semester. Adoption in more than one section is encouraged.

Create OER proposals must:

- Target OER creation in high-need disciplines to fill gaps in existing OER content.
- Include a detailed plan on how OER will be created, scaled, maintained, and sustained over time.
- Secure the commitment of additional institutional resources (e.g. instructional designer, media specialist, librarian, etc.) for OER content production and maintenance over time.

Evaluate OER proposals must:

- Include a plan to conduct course- and/or program-level research on the impact of OERs on student learning outcomes.
- Commit to using one or more OERs delivered on platforms embedded with analytics and dashboards—such as Lumen Learning’s Waymaker or Carnegie Mellon University’s Open Learning Initiative (OLI) courseware (see catalog links above)—to achieve insights into student learning and use those insights to make both formative and summative adjustments to course design and pedagogical approaches.

2020 OER Faculty Mini-Grant Program Timeline

- **December 16, 2019:** Call for proposals opens
- **January 23, 2020 (12:00-1:00 p.m. ET):** 2020 OER Grant Program Information Session [REGISTER](#)
- **February 28, 2020 (11:59 p.m. Eastern Time):** Deadline for all proposals
- **March 28, 2020:** Grantees notified
- **May 2020:** Grantee Kickoff Workshops (Dates tbd)
- **May 2020 - May 2021:** Fellowships (Adopt/Adapt and Create) and Coaching (Evaluate)
- **Fall 2020 Semester:** Course Implementation (Adopt/Adapt and Evaluate grantees)
- **December 2, 2020:** Poster Session at M.O.S.T. State Summit
- **June 30, 2021:** Final Reports due

\(^6\) Please email most@usmd.edu if you have questions regarding eligibility of specific courses.
Proposal Review and How to Submit

The following criteria will be used to evaluate and select proposals for funding:

- Degree to which the proposal meets or exceeds eligibility requirements.
- Potential to increase affordability, accessibility, and achievement for students.
- Extent to which the proposal considers how the use of OER can contribute to improvements in course design and/or teaching practice.
- Extent of institutional or departmental support.
- Feasibility of meeting project goals as proposed.

To submit your proposal:

Using this document as a guide, complete the OER Faculty Mini-Grant Program Application at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2020MOSTMinigrant by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, February 28, 2020. A copy of the application questions is provided on the following pages.
2020 M.O.S.T. Faculty OER Mini-Grant Program
Application

OVERVIEW
To submit a proposal for the M.O.S.T. OER Faculty Mini-Grant Program, complete the mini-grant application at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2020MOSTMinigrant.

All proposals must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, February 28, 2020.
If you have any questions about the mini-grant program or the application, please contact us at most@usmd.edu.

CONTACT INFORMATION
1. Grant Lead
   • First Name
   • Last Name
   • Title
   • Email Address
   • Institution
   • Department

2. If your project team includes other members, please include the following information for each member:
   • First Name, Last Name, Title, Email Address, Institution, Department

PROJECT DETAILS
3. Which type of mini-grant are you applying for?
   a. Adopt/Adapt OER
   b. Create OER
   c. Evaluate OER

4. Course Information:
   Course title
   Brief description of the course
   Estimated number of sections Fall 2020
   Estimated total student enrollments in the course in Fall 2020
   Estimated number of sections Spring 2021 (if applicable)
   Estimated total student enrollments in the course in Spring 2021 (if applicable)
   Title of the textbook(s) currently used
   Cost of the textbook(s) currently used

5. Submit a project narrative that describes your plans for implementing your project during AY 2020-2021. Please be sure to address the Eligibility Criteria and Participation Requirements noted in the Request for Proposals. [Maximum 1500 words; upload document - files must be in PDF, DOC, DOCX format]
6. Submit a budget and budget narrative for your project. Funds can be used in a variety of ways including faculty stipends, release time, travel, and the like. [Must be uploaded as a single file; files must be in PDF, DOC, DOCX format]

7. Submit letters of support for the project from your department chair(s) and/or dean(s). [Must be uploaded as a single file; files must be in PDF, DOC, DOCX format]