

## **2021 M.O.S.T. Faculty OER Mini-Grant Program Request for Proposals**

### **Overview**

The Maryland Open Source Textbook (M.O.S.T.) initiative<sup>1</sup> 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 postsecondary 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 use in teaching high enrollment courses (Adopt/Adapt OER grants);
- OER creation/revision and publication in high-need areas (Create/Revise and Publish OER grants); and
- OER evaluation to understand the impact of the use of OER on student success (Evaluate OER grants).

The 2021 M.O.S.T. faculty mini-grants are for those faculty interested in unique opportunities to engage in communities of practice related to teaching with OER, creation and publication of OER in high-need areas, and evaluation of OER use in relation to student success.

**Proposals must be submitted at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021MOSTMinigrant> by 11:59 p.m. ET on Monday, March 8, 2021. [Deadline Extended]**

### **Mini-grant Categories**

#### **Adopt/Adapt OER**

##### **\$1,000 grant + Participation in Lumen Circles Community of Practice**

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 by participating in [Lumen Circles](#) community of practice with faculty peers, built around reflective teaching practice and focused on the topic of teaching with OER.<sup>2</sup> For 9 weeks each semester, adopt/adapt grantees will receive individualized support from a facilitator and opportunities to collaborate with other members of the community of practice who are also adopting OER in similar disciplines. During these two semesters, faculty will engage asynchronously 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 enhance teaching practice.

#### **Create/Revise and Publish OER**

##### **\$2,000 grant + Participation in the Rebus Textbook Success Program**

Create/Revise and Publish OER grants support institutional teams in the development and publication of new openly licensed, fully accessible learning materials in high-need disciplines to fill gaps across existing OER content. Grants can also be used to convert homegrown content into a textbook or reader or to compile a set of ancillary materials (classroom teaching materials, assessments, etc.) for a whole course. Grantee teams will receive \$2,000 and support for their work through the Rebus Textbook Success Program.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information about the M.O.S.T. initiative, visit <http://www.oer-maryland.org/>

<sup>2</sup> Grantees do not need to teach the same course in fall 2021 and spring 2022 to participate, but they should be teaching at least one course with OER within the AY 2021-22.

The Rebus [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 compilations of OER that could include a book created from scratch, an adaptation, ancillary materials, or a combination of these. 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 12 online sessions of approximately 1.5 hours each to learn the basics of OER creation and dissemination, followed by monthly check-in with the support team as grantee teams finish their projects.

## **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 regularly during the AY 21-22 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.<sup>3</sup>

### **Participation Requirements**

Awardees commit to the following if selected:

- Participating in regular meetings, work sessions, and/or coaching as applicable for the specific grants throughout the entire grant period.
- Attend a virtual introductory workshop in May 2021.
- Submit a project planning template at the end of the planning period (due August 31, 2021) and complete a brief final grant report (due June 30, 2022).
- Share outcomes and lessons learned at the 2022 M.O.S.T. Summit (Date TBA).
- Openly license and share adapted or new OER content through the M.O.S.T. OER Commons.<sup>4</sup>
- Complete a faculty survey and assist in administering a student survey and collection of de-identified student impact data from your institution.<sup>5</sup>

### **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 4.0 International License.

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<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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. Visit <http://most.oercommons.org> to learn more about the M.O.S.T. Commons.

<sup>5</sup> Data collection instruments and protocols will be reviewed and approved by your institution’s IRB in advance of implementation.

- 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.

**Adopt/Adapt OER proposals must:**

- Target OER adoption in a high enrollment course for which high-quality OER content already exists.<sup>6</sup> Such courses include but are not limited to:

Freshman Seminar/College Success	Introduction to Psychology
English Composition I and II	Introduction to Sociology
Basic Reading & Writing	College Algebra
Introduction to College Composition	Beginning and Intermediate Algebra
American Literature I and II	Mathematics for Liberal Arts
U.S. History I and II	Introduction to Statistics
Music Appreciation	Biology I and II
Introduction to Business	Chemistry
Macro/Microeconomics	Geology
Principles of Marketing	Public Speaking/Communication

- Commit to teaching at least one section of the proposed course using OER during the 2021-2022 academic year. Adoption in more than one section is encouraged.

**Create/Revise and Publish 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 preliminary plan for conducting 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 in footnote 3)—to achieve insights into student learning, use those insights to make both formative and summative adjustments to course design and pedagogical approaches, and document the results.

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<sup>6</sup> Please email [most@usmd.edu](mailto:most@usmd.edu) if you have questions regarding eligibility of specific courses.

## 2021 OER Faculty Mini-Grant Program Timeline

- **January 6, 2021:** Call for proposals opens
- **January 20, 2021 (10:00-11:00 a.m. ET):** 2021 OER Grant Program Information Session [REGISTER](#)
- **March 8, 2021 (11:59 p.m. Eastern Time):** Deadline for all proposals [**Deadline Extended**]
- **April 19, 2021:** Grantees notified
- **May 2021:** Grantee Kickoff Webinar (Date tbd)
- **May 2021 - May 2022:** Program Participation (Adopt/Adapt and Create/Revise and Publish) and Coaching (Evaluate)
- **August 31, 2021:** Project plans due
- **Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 Semesters:** Course/Project Implementation (Adopt/Adapt and Evaluate grantees)
- **June 30, 2022:** Final Reports due

## 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/2021MOSTMinigrant> by **11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Monday, March 8, 2021** [**Deadline Extended**]. A copy of the application questions is provided on the following pages.

**2021 M.O.S.T. Faculty OER Mini-Grant Program**  
**Application Information**

**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/2021MOSTMinigrant>

All proposals must be submitted **by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Monday, March 8, 2021** **[Deadline Extended]**.

If you have any questions about the mini-grant program or the application, please contact us at [most@usmd.edu](mailto: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/Revise and Publish OER
  - c. Evaluate OER
  
4. Course Information:
  - Course title
  - Brief description of the course
  - Estimated total student enrollments in the course in Fall 2021
  - Estimated total student enrollments in the course in Spring 2022 (if applicable)
  - Title of the textbook(s) currently used
  - Cost of the textbook(s) currently used
  - Implementation semester (the first semester in which you plan to use OER for your course materials)
  
5. Submit a project narrative that describes your plans for implementing your project during AY 2021-2022. Please be sure to address the Eligibility Criteria and Participation Requirements noted in the Request for Proposals. [Maximum 2000 words; upload document - files must be in PDF format; File size limit is 16MB]

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 format; File size limit is 16MB]
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 format; File size limit is 16MB]