2024 M.O.S.T. Faculty OER Grant Program
Request for Proposals

Overview

The Maryland Open Source Textbook (M.O.S.T.) initiative is seeking proposals for its Faculty OER 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.[1]

The goals of the Faculty OER 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)
- Adoption of evidence-based open, adaptive courseware in 2-year colleges (OLI STEM Courseware grants)

Proposals must be submitted at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024MOSTFacultyGrants by 11:59 p.m. ET on Friday, March 8, 2024.

OER 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 Teaching with OER & OER-enabled Pedagogy Lumen Circles community of practice with faculty peers, built around reflective teaching practice and focused on the topic of teaching with OER.[2] For 9 weeks in either the fall or spring 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 the 9 weeks, 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. Significant revision to existing OER might also be proposed based on a need or desire to improve materials (e.g., increase relevance for learners). Grantee teams will receive $2,000 and support for their work through the Rebus Textbook Success Program.

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

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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 2024 and spring 2025 to participate, but they should be teaching at least one course with OER within the AY 2024-25.

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 synchronous online sessions of approximately 1.5 hours each week during the summer of 2024 to learn the basics of OER creation and dissemination, followed by synchronous monthly check-in with the support team as grantee teams finish their projects.[3]

OLI STEM Courseware Grants *NOTE: Limited to faculty members at 2-year institutions**
$1,500 or $5,000 Grant + Participation in the NSF-Funded Carnegie Mellon Open Learning Initiative (OLI) STEM Courseware Project

These [NSF-funded Open Learning Initiative (OLI) STEM Courseware Project](#) grants invite faculty members at 2-year institutions to implement evidence-based STEM open adaptive courseware. The grants are in two tracks:

1. **Use & Evaluate ($1,500)**: Individual faculty members from 2-year institutions can apply for this track. Faculty members will adopt OLI STEM courseware in one or more of their courses for at least one semester. They will contribute to courseware evaluation by providing feedback to and supporting data access for the OLI Team. No prior experience using adaptive courseware is necessary.

   Participants will attend a minimum of three workshops spread over Summer 2024 and Fall 2024 (workshops will be offered multiple times, with input from participants to inform scheduling and modality) and participate in consultations and meetings as needed with Carnegie Mellon University OLI staff.

2. **Use & Improve ($5,000)**: Individual faculty or teams of 2-3 faculty can apply for this track. In the case of an individual faculty member, the faculty member will adopt and customize OLI STEM courseware using data-driven tools and analytics in one or more of their courses for at least two semesters.

   In the case of a team application, team members will collaborate to adopt and customize a single OLI STEM courseware across a multi-section course[4] **OR** adopt OLI courseware across 2-3 different STEM courses for at least two semesters. For example, several faculty teaching General Chemistry might adopt and customize the OLI General Chemistry courseware during the grant period, or Faculty Member A might adopt and customize OLI Introduction to Biology, Faculty Member B might adopt and customize OLI Biochemistry, and Faculty Member C might adopt and customize OLI Anatomy and Physiology.

   Again, faculty members will use the courseware for at least two semesters. They will implement the courseware with low or no customizations for one semester, use data-driven improvement tools and analytics to analyze course data in collaboration with OLI, and make improvements to the courseware for the second semester. Teams may also include instructional designers in their applications if available on their campus. No prior experience using adaptive courseware is necessary.

   Participants will attend a minimum of four workshops spread over Summer 2024, Fall 2024, and Spring 2025 (workshops will be offered multiple times, with input from participants to inform

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[3] Program dates will be negotiated with participants before the program starts. Attendance is mandatory for grant recipients.
[4] Minimally 2-3 sections of a multi-section course, with a preference for all sections.

scheduling and modality), and participants in consultations and meetings as needed with Carnegie Mellon University OLI staff (likely 1-2 meetings per semester).

Flexibility between the two tracks: After one semester of implementation, participants in the "Use and Evaluate" category can choose to move to the "Use and Improve" category. This option is made available so participants can analyze the data from the one semester of implementation and decide whether they would like to make improvements.

Optional: As a benefit of participation, grantee teams will be invited to attend Carnegie Mellon's 2024 LearnLab Summer School, a week-long, on-site professional development program focused on creating technology-enhanced learning experiments and analyzing the data from those experiments. Information will be posted in early spring about the 2024 LearnLab. Registration fees will be waived for grantees and most meals will be included; grant funds may be used to support reasonable travel and accommodation costs.

Participation Requirements

All awardees across the three grant categories will commit to the following if selected:
- Participating in regular meetings, workshops, and learning sessions as applicable for the specific grants throughout the entire grant period.
- Attend a virtual introductory workshop in May 2024 (Date TBD).
- Submit a project plan at the end of the planning period (due August 31, 2024) and complete a brief final grant report (due June 30, 2024).
- Share outcomes and lessons learned either on campus or through a M.O.S.T. event or webinar.
- Openly license and share adapted or new OER content through the M.O.S.T. OER Commons.[5]
- Complete a faculty survey and assist in administering a student survey and collection of de-identified student impact data from your institution.[6]

Eligibility Criteria

The Faculty OER Grant Program is open to faculty at any accredited postsecondary institution in Maryland, with OLI STEM Courseware grants limited to faculty from 2-year institutions. To be eligible for a Faculty OER Grant, all proposed projects must:
- Replace traditionally copyrighted materials with learning resources that:
  - Are openly licensed with a Creative Commons 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.

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[5] 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.

[6] Data collection instruments and protocols will be reviewed and approved by your institution's IRB in advance of implementation.

- o Are easily discoverable.
- o 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.[7] 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 2024-2025 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 institutional resources/staff (e.g., project manager, instructional designer, media specialist, librarian, etc.) for OER content production and maintenance over time.
- Faculty are encouraged to explore projects that meaningfully include students as co-creators of content.

OLI STEM Courseware proposals must:
Engage one faculty member or a team of 2-3 faculty from a 2-year institution to utilize OLI STEM Courseware in one or more of the available courses, such as:
- General Chemistry I
- General Chemistry II
- College Physics I
- College Physics II
- Logics & Proofs
- Introduction to Biology
- Modern Biology
- Concepts of Statistics
- Statistical Reasoning
- Probability and Statistics
- Causal and Statistical Reasoning
- Biochemistry
- Anatomy and Physiology I and II
- Principles of Computation (Python)

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[7] Please email most@usmd.edu if you have questions regarding eligibility of specific courses.

- [Introduction to Programming in Java](#)
- [Responsible Computing](#)
- [Engineering Statics](#)
- [PC Hardware](#)
- [PC Software](#)

- [STEM Readiness](#)
- [STEM Foundations](#)

For a full list of courses, see the [OLI course catalog](#).

- For the **Use and Evaluate** category, faculty must commit to teaching at least one section of the course(s) in **one semester** during the 2024-2025 academic year using the OLI STEM Courseware and suggest improvements that might be needed in the course in collaboration with the OLI team.
- For the **Use and Improve** category, commit to teaching at least one section of the course in **two semesters** during the 2024-2025 academic year using the OLI STEM Courseware and customize the courseware with support from the OLI team in between Fall and Spring semester deliveries of the course. This includes customizations such as making changes to the course based on identifying learning objectives where students are struggling, content that might need revision, and revisions based on instructors' classroom observations.

2024 Faculty OER Grant Program Timeline

- **January 10, 2024:** Call for proposals opens.
- **January 22, 2024 (2:00-3:00 p.m. ET):** 2024 OER Grants Information Session – **REGISTER HERE**
- **March 8, 2024 (11:59 p.m. ET):** Deadline for all proposals
- **April 19, 2024:** Grantees notified
- **May 2024:** Grantee Kickoff Webinar (Date TBD)
- **May 2024 - May 2025:** Grantee participation in Lumen Circles (adopt/adapt grants), Rebus Textbook Success Program (create/revise grants) or OLI workshops and consultations (STEM courseware grants)
- **August 31, 2024:** Project plans due
- **Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 Semesters:** Course/Project Implementation (Adopt/Adapt, OLI STEM Courseware grantees)
- **June 30, 2025:** 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 Faculty OER Grant Program Application at **https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024MOSTFacultyGrants** by 11:59 p.m. ET on Friday, March 8, 2024. A copy of the application questions is provided on the following pages.

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2024 M.O.S.T. Faculty OER Grant Program
Application Sample

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OVERVIEW

To submit a proposal for the M.O.S.T. Faculty OER Grant Program, complete the grant application at
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024MOSTFacultyGrants
All proposals must be submitted **by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, March 8, 2024.**
If you have any questions about the Faculty OER 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. Project Team Member 1
   - First Name
   - Last Name
   - Title
   - Email Address
   - Institution
   - Department
3. Project Team Member 2
   - First Name
   - Last Name
   - Title
   - Email Address
   - Institution
   - Department
4. Project Team Member 3
   - First Name
   - Last Name
   - Title
   - Email Address
   - Institution
   - Department
5. Project Team Member 4
   - First Name
   - Last Name
   - Title
   - Email Address
   - Institution
   - Department

6. 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

7. Which type of grant are you applying for?
   a. Adopt/Adapt OER
   b. Create/Revise and Publish OER
   c. OLI STEM Courseware – Use & Evaluate Track
   d. OLI STEM Courseware – Use & Improve Track

8. Course Information:
   Course title(s)
   Brief description of the course(s)
   Estimated total student enrollments in the course(s) in Fall 2024
   Estimated total student enrollments in the course(s) in Spring 2025 (if applicable)
   Title(s) of the instructional materials/textbook(s) currently used
   Cost(s) of the instructional materials/textbook(s) currently used
   Implementation semester (the first semester in which you plan to use OER for your course materials)

9. If your project involves additional courses, please provide the following information here:
   Course title(s)
   Brief description of the course(s)
   Estimated total student enrollments in the course(s) in Fall 2024
   Estimated total student enrollments in the course(s) in Spring 2025 (if applicable)
   Title(s) of the instructional materials/textbook(s) currently used
   Cost(s) of the instructional materials/textbook(s) currently used
   Implementation semester (the first semester in which you plan to use OER for your course materials)

10. Submit a project narrative that describes your plans for implementing your project during AY 2024-2025. *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]

11. 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]

12. 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]