



INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

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PROJECT BACKGROUND

- This research project focused on five full time faculty members incorporating Open Educational Resources (OERs) into six online sections of Introduction to Sociology at CCBC for the fall 2017 term. The total number of students using OERs across the six online sections was 137 (n=137.)

IMPLEMENTATION

- The faculty began implementing the adoption of OERs by completing a review of the literature on the success of OERs in traditional and online courses. Hilton (2016) synthesized sixteen studies relating to effectiveness and perceptions of OER, and found that in general, students and faculty find them to be of equal or better quality than traditional textbooks and that students perform just as well in their classes when using OER as traditional textbooks.
- Based on statistics published by CCBC's Planning, Research and Evaluation Office, Introduction to Sociology had enrollments of over 1,000 students in face-to-face and online formats at the end of the third week during the fall terms of 2014-2016. This course ranks in the top 15 most highly enrolled courses at CCBC.

IMPACT

- The traditional textbook was replaced Sociology: The Real World, 5th edition from Norton Publishers, which is sold in the College's Bookstores for \$70. The 137 students who used the OER textbook saved a total of \$9590 in the cost of textbooks.
- As the project continues to scale over the coming year, there is a predicted cost savings of over \$70,000.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Develop a comprehensive list of support resources to use in conjunction with the primary OER. This will include test banks, power point slides, supplemental reading lists, and videos.
- Use qualitative and quantitative research methodologies to assess the overall effectiveness of the OER with faculty and students. This will provide essential data on student grades and success in the course using OERs.
- Meet regularly with faculty using OERs to develop best practices in the application of all resources.

FUTURE PLANS

- The next stage will include bringing all full-time faculty on board with using OERs by the fall 2018 term. The third stage will focus on adjunct faculty members and having them use OERs by the fall 2019 term. Full-time faculty in sociology who are early adopters of OERs will develop training sessions for other full-time and adjunct faculty as the implementation of OERs proceeds. The training sessions will provide complete demonstrations on the application of OERs into course modules that align with specific learning objectives from the Common Course Outline. In addition, we will pair each adjunct with a full-time faculty member to serve as a mentor throughout this process.

FOR SCALING/SUPPORTING PROJECTS ONLY

- In addition, the College's Technology Trends FY 2015 report stated that, "The College's online education market will continue to expand. Current and potential students will continue to shop for online and web-based educational products that meet their needs and are positioned within their time and financial constraints." The use of OERs will assist students in reducing the cost of attending college.

RESOURCES

- The CCBC Library has created a Library 101 Research Guide for Faculty: <http://libraryguides.ccbcmd.edu/Faculty101>. This guide provides useful information to CCBC Faculty on how to effectively and efficiently use library resources for their teaching and professional development. One of the sections of this resource guide is specific to OERs <http://libraryguides.ccbcmd.edu/Faculty101/oer> and helps to connect content faculty to OER Resources.
- With the formation of the college-wide OER Committee, the Library will be creating an entire Research Guide devoted to OERs and "Free to Students" textbook alternatives. This new OER/Textbook Alternative Research Guide will be published in April 2017.

