



# OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (OER)

## What is OER?

As the cost of textbooks increase rapidly, many educators turn to openly available educational resources instead of traditionally published course materials. There are different ways to describe OER, but the University of Iowa uses the following definition, which includes two main components: OER must be free of cost and openly licensed.

*"Open Educational Resources (OER) are teaching, learning, and research resources that are free of cost and access barriers, and which also carry legal permission for open use. Generally, this permission is granted by use of an open license (for example, Creative Commons licenses)."*

At the UI, OER is supported and promoted The Office of the Provost, UI Libraries, UI Student Government, Office of Teaching, Learning, & Technology, The Hawk Shop, and the academic colleges.



## OER Offers:

- Free electronic materials for students, with low-cost print options available
- Free access to course materials both before and after a course
- Instructor freedom to modify or add content to course materials
- Increased student retention and lower drop rates due to course material costs
- Improved student performance and student satisfaction
- A wide variety of materials types: syllabi, lesson plans, videos, and full textbooks

## How Does OER Work?

### For Faculty:

- Faculty can find existing OER by searching online or by contacting their liaison librarian for help.
- You can edit, combine with other OER or use as-is.
- Apply for OER funding through the OpenHawks grant program (<https://www.lib.uiowa.edu/openhawks/>)
- Report your OER use through the MAUI course adoption system.
- Students can access resources via ICON

### For Students:

- When your professor chooses OER, you will be notified through MyUI.
- Students can access free electronic copies in a variety of formats.
- If the OER have been integrated into Canvas, you will have access on the first day of class.
- You can purchase low-cost print versions at The Hawk Shop.
- Encourage your professors to take a look at OER!



**Find out more about OER and OpenHawks funding!**

Visit the OpenHawks website:  
[lib.uiowa.edu/openhawks/](https://lib.uiowa.edu/openhawks/)