

Open Educational Resources (OER)

reducing textbook costs

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What is OER?

- OERs are teaching, learning, and research resources that are **free of cost and access barriers**, and which also carry legal permission for open use.
- Granted by an open license (such as [Creative Commons](#))
- “5R’s”: Users are free to **Retain, Reuse, Revise, Remix, and Redistribute** openly-licensed materials



BY = Attribution

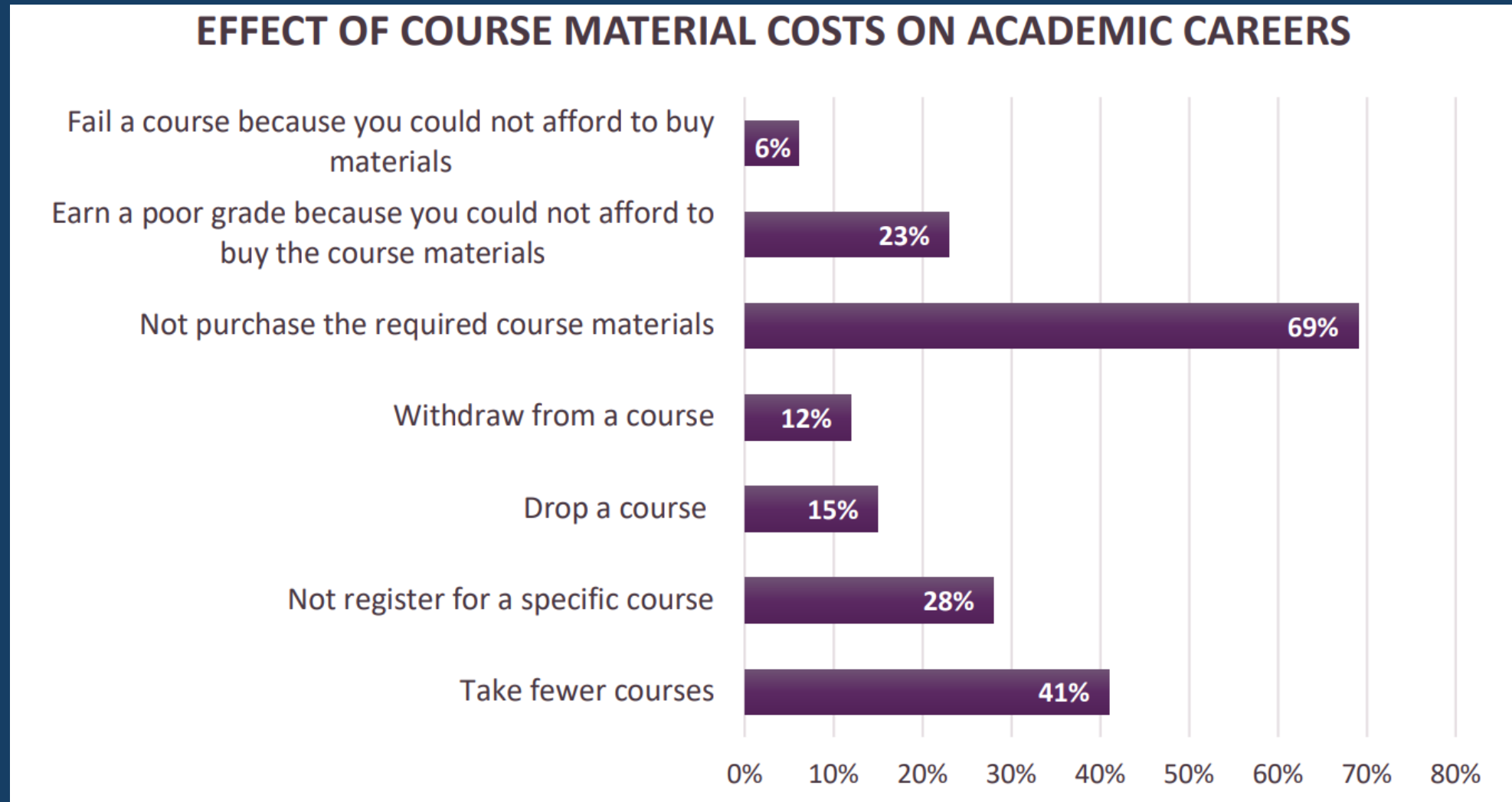
SA = Share-alike

NC = Non-commercial

Survey of IL Students (1 of 4)

- Survey published by CARLI in March 2024
- 4,617 students across all types of higher-ed institutions
- 52 Illinois not-for-profit institutions, including 22 community colleges, 21 private colleges and universities, and 9 public universities.

Survey of IL Students (2 of 4)



Survey of IL Students (3 of 4)

Finding 2. Course material costs are lowering students' abilities to meet basic needs, increasing their debt, increasing their work hours/jobs, and increasing their emotional stress.

"I am stressed and can barely afford school."

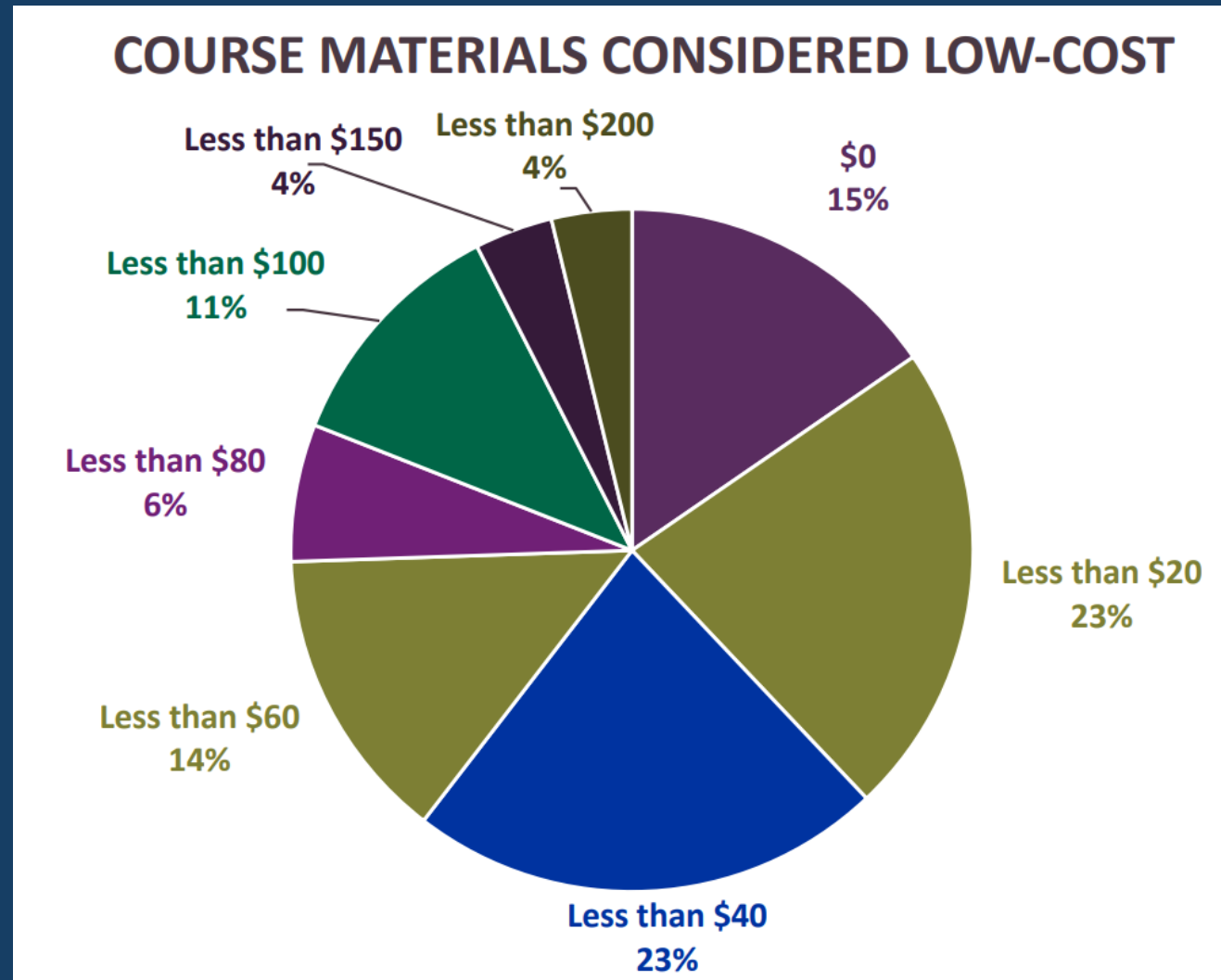
"I find myself in credit card debt to pay."

"BRO SO MUCH LIKE WHEN I TELL YOU BOOKS ON TOP OF A PARKING PASS AND MATERIALS LIKE I HAVE NO MONEY LEFT AND I WANT MY DEGREE SO BAD BUT THERES SO MANY COSTS I HAVENT ACCOUNTED FOR AND I THOUGHT I WAS DECENTLY PREPARED :("

"I entirely support myself at college, which sometimes means buying an expensive textbook instead of food, clothes, insulin (I'm diabetic), etc."

"I have to put in extra hours at both of my jobs (35+ hrs per week) in order to cover both tuition and textbooks. This causes me to fall behind in my schoolwork and miss important educational opportunities."

Survey of IL Students (4 of 4)



Faculty Challenges

- Time
 - Converting to OER requires creation/customization, use of technology, student support, etc.
- Quality/availability
 - Online homework systems/supplemental materials need servers, staff, upkeep
- Revisions
 - Updates require ongoing research and editing

OER Grant program

Adopt

- Switch to existing OER
- \$500 per person

Adapt

- Adapt/remix from multiple sources
- \$1500 per person

Revise

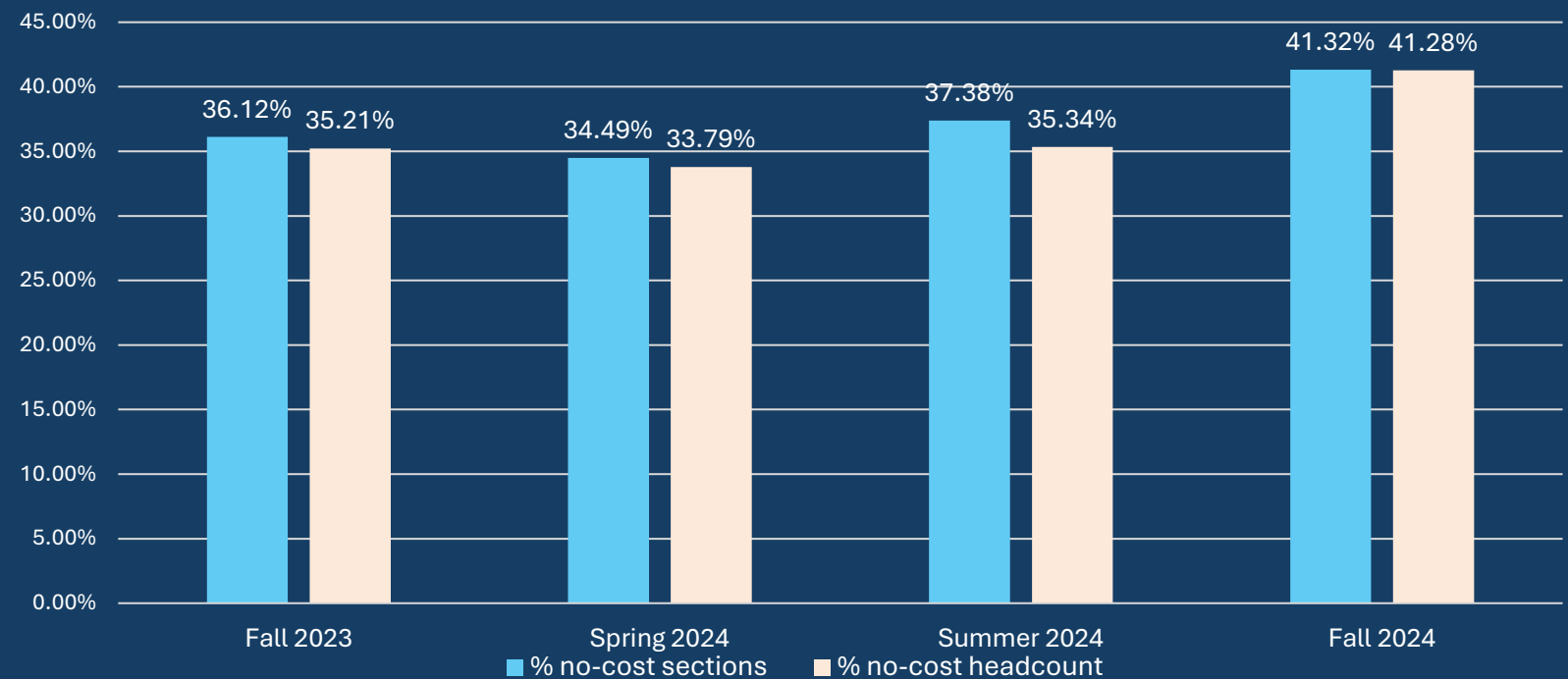
- Revise previously-created OER
- Move to Pressbooks
- \$1500 per person

Build

- Build new OER
- \$2500 per person

Student cost savings at Harper

No-cost sections and headcount



Semester	no-cost sections	total sections	no-cost headcount	total headcount
Fall 2023	717	1,985	11,433	32,468
Spring 2024	657	1,905	10,084	29,843
Summer 2024	262	701	3,439	9,732
Fall 2024	826	1,999	13,791	33,405

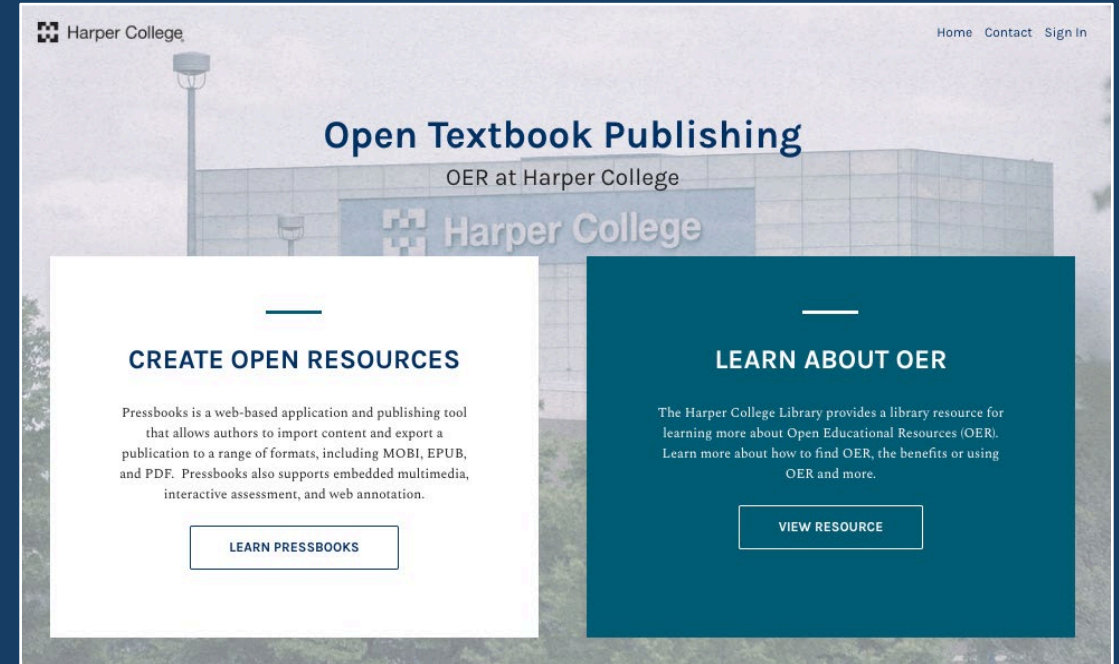
- Nationally, 29% of faculty use Open Educational Resources¹
- For **FYS 101** course transformation, 770 students saved **\$54,000** in 2024.

¹Seaman, J. E., & Seaman, J. (2023). *Open Educational Resources in U.S. Higher Education: 2023 Edition*. Bay View Analytics

Pressbooks at Harper

Harper College Pressbooks

- Institutionally licensed open authoring and content management system (CRM), Pressbooks, supports authoring, cloning options, and customization with interactivity with H5P.
- Harper's Pressbooks Catalog
Examples of Harper authored Open Educational resources



First Year Seminar (FYS) OER

- Anne Sylvester - Job Placement Resource Center
- Bobby Summers - Senate, Political Science Faculty
- Chris Candelas - Apprenticeship Specialist
- Elizabeth Ward - Fast Track/New Student Advising
- Jenyl Keeton - New Student Advising
- Jen Lau-Bond - Library Faculty
- Katie Speer - Lead Academic Advisor
- Megan Dallianis - Interdisciplinary Programs Office
- Robert Allare - Adjunct Faculty, History
- Stephanie Whalen - Academy Director, English and Interdisciplinary Studies Faculty
- Dawn McKinley - Integrative Learning Coordinator, Accounting Faculty





OER Team Success: Collaborative planning meetings and work groups by chapter

HARPER FIRST YEAR SEMINAR: A GUIDE TO COLLEGE SUCCESS



FYS students playing chess in the Harper library



FYS student wearing a shirt made at a tie-dye event

As a group of college educators who care deeply about your success, we hope to provide you with all the information and support you need as you consider each move you make during your first year. We hope that in taking this course, you will feel like part of a community, whether you connect on campus, online, or through a combination of both; this course is meant to make Harper feel like a home where you can get all the support you need to meet your goals.



Harper FYS students feeling at home in the library



Excerpts from Harper College First Year Seminar OER textbook online

Advantages of OER Accessible Content

- Assists in Harper's ADA Compliance
- Augment and customize content that can be freely shared and retained
- Expanded access to learning
- Reduced cost and duplicative work to make OER content accessible:
 - Accessibility work may have already been completed by another institution
 - Many students with disabilities already face additional financial pressures
- Responsive to assistive technology and a variety of devices:
 - Desktop, phones, tablets, mobile devices

[ADA.gov: Title II Update: Fact Sheet:](#)

On April 24, 2024, the Federal Register published the Department of Justice's (Department) final rule updating its regulations for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

[Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\):](#) Guidelines and standards for accessible web content and media

- [Accessible Educational Materials](#)
- [Introduction to Understanding WCAG 2.1](#)
- [Universal Design for Learning \(UDL\) Guidelines](#)
 - The UDL Guidelines inform the design of learning environments to support all abilities, inclusion, and learner agency

OER Support at Harper

Academy for Teaching Excellence

- [Anthology Ally & Ally Advocate Badge](#)
- [Digital Accessibility & remediation](#)
- [OER Support](#): Authoring, search, & development for OER, Pressbooks, & H5P
- [Faculty Liason](#): Joe Wachter: Open Educational Resource (OER) Coordinator

Harper College Library

- [Open Education Resources \(OER\) Library guide](#)
- [Research Databases & E-books \(Low or No-cost solutions\)](#)
- [Research Overview](#) - improved access to research materials through the library's expertise in information retrieval

