

OER at FCC: Using Open Education Resources at Frederick Community College

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Participants

Participants were 174 undergraduate students enrolled in PSYC 101 at Frederick Community College. The project was implemented in the 2018-2019 academic year. Students were required to use Blackboard Learning Management System (LMS) regularly. Introduction to Psychology by Lumen Learning was utilized. Text was available free of cost to students. Text was embedded into students' Blackboard site. A low-cost printed version was available to students. Lumen's text provides comprehensive coverage of core concepts in psychology. Interactive activities and discussions are included in the text. Additional resources, including PowerPoint slides and (in some cases) quizzes were embedded into students' Blackboard site.

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- Introduction to Psychology by Lumen Learning was utilized.
 - Text was available free of cost to students
 - Text was embedded into students' Blackboard site
 - A low-cost printed version was available to students.
- Lumen's text provides comprehensive coverage of core concepts in psychology. Interactive activities and discussions are included in the text
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- Students liked having the options to access the text online and on the go.
- Few students requested a printed, low-cost option.
- Students reported liking the resources (e.g., practice quiz questions) embedded in the text.
- Students reported few technological issues.
- Professors reported finding the instructor resources easy to use.
- Professors reported the text was easy to integrate into the structure of the course.

Cons

- Both professors and students reported finding several content areas that needed to be supplemented.
- Professors reported wanting more in-depth discussions of core concepts and theories.
- Many FCC students report preferring a physical textbook, despite the cost burden.
- Few students explored the low-cost print option, despite the possible preference for physical texts.
- Professors reported concerns regarding the ongoing review process of this (and other) OER resource.
- Professors reported preferring more updated discussions of research.

Background

- Frederick Community College (FCC) is a two-year college located in Frederick, MD. FCC offers several psychology courses including PSYC 101.
- In the 2018-2019 academic year, 907 undergraduate students took PSYC 101 at FCC. 44 sections were offered.
- PSYC 101 emphasizes the major factors that influence human behavior, including behavioral neuroscience, perceptual processes, consciousness, intelligence, personality and psychological disorders.
- FCC offers PSYC 101 in traditional face-to-face, online and hybrid formats.
- The previous traditional textbook for PS 101 costs \$119, a relatively high cost for students.
- In 2018, the project team applied for and received a M.O.S.T grant. A plan to implement OER was formed.
- The grant was executed during the 2018-2019 academic year.
- Seven sections implemented OER, impacting 171 students. The impacted sections were face-to-face courses.
- The impact of the chosen OER was observed each semester in regards to affordability, accessibility and learning