

What is the University System of Georgia (USG)?



All 26 GA Public State Colleges and Universities, all with their own administrations, visions, and missions (We're not the University of Georgia System, we're the University System of Georgia)



Supported by the University System of Georgia's Board of Regents, which is then supported by the USG System Office (this is where we are, Academic Affairs / Library Services and GALILEO)

What is Affordable Learning Georgia?



A **USG program** to reduce the costs of textbooks to students, therefore contributing to student success, retention, and graduation



A **set of programs** to support the implementation of more affordable learning materials in the classroom including OER, library resources, and low-cost commercial resources



A **one-stop service** to help USG faculty and staff understand and identify these resources:
affordablelearninggeorgia.org

Five Years of Impact

Since ALG's funded inception in Fiscal Year 2014-2015, all USG-sponsored textbook affordability programs have saved students a total projected **82.5 million dollars** in textbook costs, affecting **over 536,000 students**.

- Textbook Transformation Grants: \$69.2 million saved, 417,169 students affected
- eCore: \$13.3 million saved, 119,816 students affected

Affordability Takes Time

From our surveys and interactions with faculty, we know that all educational resource adoption requires extra time. OER adoption requires even more time to be successful.

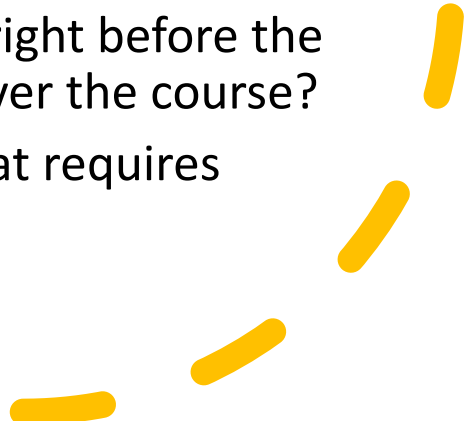
Through more team members and extra time, **Textbook Transformation Grants** support:

- Creation of new OER, revision of existing OER
- Curriculum / Outcomes revision and alignment with new no-cost and low-cost resources
- Support for training and development

Partnering Up

- The **University of North Georgia Press**: Open Textbook Publishing Partner (since 2011!)
- **eCore**: All OER textbooks by 2016 – mission accomplished!
- **eMajor** Organizational Leadership Z-Degree: Creating 9 open textbooks with subject matter experts by Fall 2020
- Georgia Tech's **Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation** (CIDI): Accessibility checks on all grant-created textbooks, new accessible versions
- **Strategic Initiatives** office: Gateways to Completion (G2C) as a grant priority
- **GeorgiaVIEW** LMS Administrators: EBSCO Curriculum Builder
- **OneUSG** Registration Administrators: No-Cost / Low-Cost Designators

Affordability in the Course Schedule

- No-Cost and Low-Cost Designators (ZNCM and ZLCM)
 - Faculty are able to designate to students that a course has zero textbook costs or low (under \$40) textbook costs
 - If you're interested, please remix our administrative document on these!
https://www.affordablelearninggeorgia.org/about/course_catalog_designators
 - Only possible due to office collaboration
 - Plenty of questions will happen if you do this!
 - What about when a professor leaves right before the semester starts and someone takes over the course?
 - How will this work with a schedule that requires reporting two semesters in advance?
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Presenting the Numbers

Always consider **to whom** and **for what purpose?**

- **Legislators and Media:** Steady annual numbers, transparent methods available if needed
- **Administration and Faculty:** Numbers by semester, transparent methods up-front
- **Advocates, Champions:** Up-to-date and detailed numbers available at all times
 - Are they ready for sudden emails from administrators?
 - They probably know and participate in the methods

Affordability is Now a Priority

ALG is directly in the USG's Strategic Plan 2024:

https://www.usg.edu/assets/strategic_plan/documents/SP2024.pdf

Strategic Initiative: Affordable Learning Georgia

Reducing textbook costs represents a significant opportunity to ensure affordability for students. Our Affordable Learning Georgia initiative will continue with the following objectives:

- Awarding USG grants to provide free and open textbooks, commonly called Open Education Resources (OER), and often referred to as “eTextbooks.”
- Working with faculty to redesign courses to take advantage of free and low-cost materials in place of costly textbooks.
- Use OER in all USG eCore online courses and continue to expand the use of free eTextbooks in the classroom.

Defining Quality: ALG's New Quality Standards

https://www.affordablelearninggeorgia.org/find_textbooks/selecting_textbooks

- Based on Quality Matters and BCcampus standards
- Differentiated for textbooks and ancillary materials

Aimed at Quality: Manifold Pilot (OpenALG)

- New platform to transform old USG open textbooks into web-readable texts
 - Responsive (mobile, tablet)
 - Highlightable
 - Annotatable
 - Accessible (but we still need to do better with alt-text)
 - Can embed HTML5 resources (like H5P)
 - Ancillary Materials up-front
- Authors don't have to learn a new platform to make this happen.
- <https://alg.manifoldapp.org/>

Thank You!

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For more details, visit affordablelearninggeorgia.org/.