

Elon University SGA-ATC Open Educational Resources Grant Application

About the Grant

The cost of course materials has become a significant barrier to student success and learning. The goal of the Elon University SGA-ATC Open Educational Resources Grant is to support the adoption, adaption, and creation of open educational resources (OER) by Elon faculty to lower course costs for Elon's undergraduate students. General information about open educational resources is available via the [OER LibGuide](#). If you are new to OER or have questions about how you can use them in your classroom, you are encouraged to reach out to [Jesse Akman](#), [Kate Moss](#), or [Betty Garrison](#) for assistance before submitting this grant.

"Open" in this context means no monetary costs for users, plus the allowance of some or all reuse rights; this is typically made possible with a Creative Commons license. There are generally three (3) models through which an OER may be implemented: adopting an existing open resource, adapting an existing open resource to local needs, or creating a new open resource to fill a gap in suitable materials. Each model requires an investment of time and effort to identify materials and adjust the course to the new material. The SGA-ATC OER Grant seeks to support and incentivize OER adoption, adaptation, and creation through small grants to participating faculty.

Any instructor of record for a credit-bearing course open to Elon undergraduates may submit proposals describing a project to:

Adopt an existing open educational resource; up to \$2,500

This tier of the grant is intended for those who want to revise part of their current course content by offering an open education resource to students as an alternative to purchasing traditional course materials.

Example: Eliminate the costs of lab manuals, course codes, newspapers, or other subscriptions. Search for appropriate textbooks/OER for your course. Review and evaluate the textbooks based on content and whether it suits your course objectives. Create the course content and distribute to your students.

Adapt existing open educational resources to instructional needs; up to \$5,000

This tier of the grant is intended for those who seek to eliminate course cost and replace course materials by adapting and remixing an existing OER to fit your class.

- Example: Taking programs out of GitHub, rewriting parts of the code to fit your needs. Search through MERLOT, Open Stax or other free sources to identify material(s) to use in a course or add a new chapter to an existing textbook that you plan to use.

Create an open educational resource to meet instructional needs; up to \$7,500

This grant is intended for those who will create a completely new OER without reusing any existing content. Create new content where there is currently no sufficient OER available to meet the learning objectives of a course.

- Example: Creation of a new open textbook supplemented with primary source readings and newly created content.

- Example: Creation of new audio/visual materials supplemented with primary source readings and newly created content.

This initiative is funded by a generous donation of \$50,000 from the Elon Student Government Association (SGA) and is managed by the Academic Technology Committee (ATC). The SGA-ATC OER Grant will award funds depending on factors including, but not limited to, the potential course-costs savings, the needs of the proposed project, the complexity and volume of work required for successful completion of the initiative, and the reach/impact of the project outcomes for Elon students and the broader academic community.

Please contact ATC if you have questions about this initiative via our [ATC Website](#).

Eligibility of Applicants and Projects

Eligible applicants include any (I) instructor of record for a (II) credit-bearing course (III) taught at Elon and (IV) open to undergraduates. Award totals will range up to \$7,500; exact funding level will be determined by ATC's assessment of the needs of the project. Funds may be used to complete the project outlined in the proposal pursuant to the adoption, adaptation, or creation, and implementation of an open resource in a course they are teaching or will soon teach. Projects already in process may request an award to complete or maintain an OER. Funds may be used to complete the project (e.g., hire student researcher, purchase software, acquire rights to images, etc.) or as compensation for the recipient's work and foregoing of certain creator rights.

Material eligibility: the fund cannot be used to cover purchase of commercial electronic versions of textbooks, rentals of textbooks, or for the use of "library texts" (i.e., a non-open text freely available to students through Belk Library).

How to Apply

Proposals (either a Word doc or PDF) should be submitted via email to the ATC chairperson and address the following:

1. Course information:

- Course name
- Number and section(s)
- Expected or exact enrollment (please indicate either total enrollment or per section)
- Semester(s) offered

2. Information on the current resource(s), e.g.:

- Title
- Cost
- Estimated savings by switching to an open resource

3. A detailed narrative addressing:

- How you plan to go about creating or replacing the resource(s) in this course? Explicitly state whether you plan to adopt, adapt, or create an OER. Is the proposed OER central or peripheral to the course? Some considerations include: what platform will you use, what format(s) will be used (e.g., PDF, print, video, etc.)?

- Are there relevant copyright considerations and if so, do you have a plan to address them? Have you identified an appropriate Creative Commons or other appropriate open license for this project? Faculty looking for Creative Commons assistance can contact Belk Library's Research and Scholarly Services Department.
- How will students access the OER? Will the OER be accessible via a student's mobile device or smartphone? Follow universally accessible design principles? Can it be printed? Accessibility is a major consideration for the SGA-ATC OER Grant and applicants should contact Belk Library or TLT with any questions or concerns about accessibility.
- What challenges do you anticipate (e.g., will accessing the resource be an obstacle in any way for students, are there time constraints or technology barriers, etc.)?
- What are your anticipated outcomes? How will you know they were achieved/how will success be measured?
- How do you plan to use the resources of TLT and Belk Library to ensure the feasibility of the project and to ensure the open access of your content?
- Level/amount of grant funds requested and a detailed budget for how you plan to use the funds (if germane to proposal).
- Any pertinent information about your proposal not previously covered.

Submission of Application

Applications, consisting of the information outlined above, should be submitted in accordance with ATC's **grant submission guidelines**. Completed applications will be accepted on a rolling basis and reviewed when standing committees are in session.

Selection and Additional Criteria

Complete submissions will be evaluated by the members of the Academic Technology Committee. Awardees will be selected based on the narrative responses to the proposal questions, as well as factors such as:

- Statement of objectives – Are they well defined and articulated? Is reflection on what is needed to successfully implement OER evident?
- Impact: consideration will be given to those projects that offer the highest potential savings to Elon students (based on enrollment numbers and current course costs)
- Sustainability of the resource beyond initial use; will you continue to use the OER? Will the OER need maintenance and if so, are you willing to provide it?
- Accessibility and usability of the resource for all students

After Grant Approval

Grant Disbursement

This \$50,000 fund will be awarded to as many excellent proposals as feasible prior to the grant's May 2024 expiration. Generally, half of an award will be distributed at the beginning of the project and the remainder upon completion or implementation of the OER in the classroom, unless circumstances of the project dictate otherwise. Grants seeking alternative disbursement arrangements must specify so in the application. Awardees will be informed via email.

Conditions of the Award

Awardees are expected to comply with several provisions designed to ensure the openness and availability of the funded project, as well as provide feedback to inform assessment of the grant initiative. Awardees agree to the following conditions:

- Application of an OER-compatible **Creative Commons** license to the final product (if adapting or creating).
- Submit a copy of the final material(s) to ATC to be retained by Elon University.
- Submission of a short project evaluation reflecting on your experiences implementing the OER and the outcomes upon use. Items to include in evaluation depend on the exact nature of the project, but may include:
 - Student perspectives (e.g., any direct feedback received, test scores/learning outcomes relative to previous semesters, cost savings, etc.)
 - Project-related use of funds (i.e., use beyond applicant compensation)
 - Outlook/future (e.g., will you continue using this/other OER and why or why not, subsequent updates/edits to OER, OER in other courses, impact on research, etc.)
- Evaluations will be due approximately three (3) months after the close of the semester of OER use, or an otherwise agreed upon time.