



Data Update: February 13, 2017

Overview

ALG programs are saving students a projected \$16.7 million dollars on textbook costs in Fiscal Year 2017, affecting 104,550 students. This number will increase further once the addition of eCore's full year of Fiscal 2017 savings data is released.

Since the ALG initiative's funded inception in Fiscal 2015, **all ALG programs have saved a total projected \$35.1 million dollars on textbook costs, affecting 266,412 students.**

About Textbook Transformation Grants

Textbook Transformation Grants are a key program of Affordable Learning Georgia to reduce the cost of textbooks to students and provide equal access to course materials, contributing to their retention, progression, and graduation.

The grants fund the time of USG faculty (via course release or overload) and staff (such as employing the help of an instructional designer) needed to convert a course with a required expensive commercial textbook to the use of Open Educational Resources (OER), GALILEO and library-subscribed electronic resources, and other no-cost-to-students learning materials such as freely-accessible videos and web materials. Every approved grant has gone through a peer review process with three experienced USG faculty and professional staff reviewers per application.

"[OER are] high-quality teaching, learning, and research materials that are free for people everywhere to use and repurpose." – [Hewlett Foundation](#)

Textbook Transformation Grants do not just fund the creation of new textbooks; they fund the time needed to transform a course, including the creation of new open ancillary materials (lecture slides, videos, homework sets), open syllabi, and quantitative and qualitative measures on student satisfaction, success, and retention. All materials, including reports, created under a Textbook Transformation Grant, need to be made open to the public, and they are provided on the [ALG Website](#) and the [GALILEO Open Learning Materials repository](#).



A Textbook Transformation Grants team will do one of these three things primarily:

Adoption: an unchanged use of pre-existing free and open materials. Adoption projects will still result in the creation of syllabi and quantitative/qualitative measures. OpenStax Textbooks are a great example of a turnkey solution for a course that may warrant adoption.

Adaptation: a modification of pre-existing open educational resources, such as the creation of a custom textbook. For example, Dr. Peggy Brickman pioneered the use of OER in Concepts of Biology at UGA through her own [custom version of an OpenStax Textbook](#).

Creation: the creation of entirely new materials, which often requires project management, instructional design, graphic design, a knowledge of authoring platforms, and multiple contributions from subject matter experts.

Methods

Textbook Transformation Grants savings and students affected are faculty-reported metrics. In each proposal, faculty mark the average number of students per section taught, the number of sections taught per year, and the cost of the current commercial textbook being replaced. One-year savings are calculated by (# students affected per year) x (cost of current commercial textbook).

eCore savings and students affected are direct enrollment projections and counts, multiplied by a standard textbook cost estimate of \$100 per student.

These figures are estimates based on faculty reporting within the peer-reviewed proposal at the time of award. ALG materials may have been adopted by other faculty or departments in the USG of which we are unaware, or actual class adoption or enrollment may decrease or increase.

News Highlight

[USG ranked #1 in OpenStax Textbooks Adoption in 2016](#)

<http://news.rice.edu/2016/08/01/openstax-ranks-the-colleges-that-save-the-most-with-free-textbooks/>

- \$3.5 million saved in one academic year as reported by OpenStax
 - This includes both ALG grant projects and USG non-grantee adoptions.
 - Faculty report adoptions to OpenStax when registering as a faculty member and receiving ancillary materials, such as instructor's guides.
- 35,942 students affected in one academic year

“Georgia, in particular, has strong leadership support for open education. They are focused on improving student access to high-quality learning resources and ensuring that their students have the tools to succeed in class. Georgia saw an opportunity with open education resources, and OpenStax specifically, to make a big difference for students.”

– Daniel Williamson, Managing Director, OpenStax



| Student Savings and Number Affected by ALG Programs, Cumulative By Fiscal Year (July 1 – June 31) | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| FY | Category | Student Savings (one year) | # Students Affected (one year) |
| 2015 | Grants One Awarded: \$318,790 | \$2,063,805.03 | 38,381 |
| | TOTAL 2015 Awarded: \$318,790 | \$2,063,805.03 | 38,381 |
| 2016 | Grants One (Awarded in 2015) | \$2,063,805.83 | 38,381 |
| | Grants Two* Awarded: \$537,499 | \$5,025,078.54 | 19,790 |
| | Grants Three Awarded: \$281,050 | \$1,246,528.21 | 8,476 |
| | Grants Four Awarded: \$410,400 | \$3,374,178.64 | 14,487 |
| | Grants Five Awarded: \$184,900 | \$1,005,092.43 | 5,427 |
| | eCore 2015-2016** | \$3,692,000.00 | 36,920 |
| | TOTAL 2016 Awarded: \$1,413,849 | \$16,406,683.65 | 123,481 |
| | TOTAL 2015-2016 Total awarded: \$1,732,639 | \$18,470,488.68 | 161,862 |
| 2017 | Grants One (Awarded in 2015) | \$2,063,805.83 | 38,381 |
| | Grants Two (Awarded in 2016) | \$5,025,078.54 | 19,790 |
| | Grants Three (Awarded in 2016) | \$1,246,528.21 | 8,476 |
| | Grants Four (Awarded in 2016) | \$3,374,178.64 | 14,487 |
| | Grants Five (Awarded in 2016) | \$1,005,092.43 | 5,427 |
| | Grants Six Awarded: \$197,600 | \$1,464,660.52 | 6,010 |
| | Open Math Awarded: \$30,400 | \$1,430,453.50 | 5,921 |
| | Grants Seven Awarded: \$135,100 | \$1,080,938.00 | 6,058 |



| | | |
|---|------------------------|----------------|
| eCore 2017 | TBD | TBD |
| TOTAL 2017 Awarded: \$363,100 | \$16,690,735.67 | 104,550 |
| TOTAL 2015-2017 Total Awarded: \$2,095,739 | \$35,161,224.35 | 266,412 |
| Grants Eight*** Awarded: \$299,526 | \$2,460,689.00 | 16,143 |
| Grants Nine*** Not yet awarded | | |

*These rounds started later in the Fiscal Year, and are not assumed to be in implementation until the next fiscal year. Therefore, they are only counted starting one FY after the award.

**eCore data from 2015-2016 were estimates based on projected eCore enrollments given to ALG in FY 15, and these were the numbers reported in previous briefings. Actual enrollment numbers will inevitably vary from the initial projections. eCore is not funded by Textbook Transformation Grants, but rather through a partnership with ALG, eCore, and the UNG Press to create new open materials for the core curriculum, which are then adopted by eCore.

***Grants Eight and Nine started later in FY17; implementations start in FY18.