Textbook Transformation Grants: Departmental Scaling Invitations

(Spring 2020 – Spring 2021)

Proposal Form and Narrative

# Applicant, Team, and Sponsor Information

*The* ***applicant*** *is the proposed Project Lead for the grant project. The* ***submitter*** *is the person submitting the application (which may be a Grants Officer or Administrator). The submitter will often be the applicant – if so, leave the submitter fields blank.*

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| --- | --- |
| Institution(s) | Georgia State University |
| Applicant Name | Jung Ha Kim |
| Applicant Email | jhkim@gsu.edu |
| Applicant Phone # | 404-413-6518 |
| Applicant Position/Title | Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Sociology |
| Submitter Name |  |
| Submitter Email |  |
| Submitter Phone # |  |
| Submitter Position |  |

Please provide the first/last names and email addresses of all team members within the proposed project. Include the applicant (Project Lead) in this list. Do not include prefixes or suffixes such as Ms., Dr., Ph.D., etc.

|  | Name | Email Address |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Team Member 1 | Sarah Miranda Hepler | shepler2@gsu.edu |
| Team Member 2 |  |  |
| Team Member 3 |  |  |
| Team Member 4 |  |  |
| Team Member 5 |  |  |
| Team Member 6 |  |  |
| Team Member 7 |  |  |
| Team Member 8 |  |  |

If you have any more team members to add, please enter their names and email addresses in the text box below.

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Please provide the sponsor’s name, title, department, and institution. The sponsor is the provider of your Letter of Support.

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| Eric Wright, Chair in the Department of Sociology at Georgia State University. |

# Project Information and Impact Data

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| **Requested Amount of Funding** | *$30,000 maximum for a Departmental Scaling project.* |
| **Course Names and Course Numbers** | *Introduction to Sociology, SOCI 1101* |
| **Final Semester of Project** | *Fall 2020* |
| **Summer Semester Before: Student Enrollments Currently Affected by No-Cost / Low-Cost Savings** | *0* |
| **Summer Semester After: Student Enrollments Affected if Scaled to Department-Wide / All-Sections** | *120+ students.* |
| **Fall Semester Before: Student Enrollments Currently Affected by No-Cost / Low-Cost Savings** | *250 students (I taught the large section of Soci 1101 in Fall 2019)* |
| **Fall Semester After: Student Enrollments Affected if Scaled to Department-Wide / All-Sections** | *500+ students.* |
| **Spring Semester Before: Student Enrollments Currently Affected by No-Cost / Low-Cost Savings** | *120 + 47 students (Spring 2020) That I know for sure.* |
| **Spring Semester After: Student Enrollments Affected if Scaled to Department-Wide / All-Sections** | *300+ students* |
| **Original Required Commercial Materials** | *Instructors choose one’s own textbooks. A few popular ones are: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY (CENGAGE, $ 73.85), ESSENTIALS OF Sociology (by Reitzer & Murphy, $59.23, for renting, $32), and SOCIOLOGY: EXPLORING THE ARCHITECTURE OF EVERYDAY LIFE (by Newman, $70.65). These are listed prices on Amazon. Students often pay more than the listed prices when they get the books from the (GSU) Bookstores.*  *A few instructors also assign some reading from a Reader as well to accompany the main textbook (which can add $28-35 per student textbook cost).* |
| **Average Price of Original Required Materials Per Student Section Enrollment** | *$75 per student* |
| **Average Post-Project Cost Per Student Section Enrollment** | *$0*  *(Students can purchase the printed OER Textbook if they wish.)* |
| **Average Post-Project Savings Per Student Section Enrollment** | *$75.* |
| **Projected Total New Annual Student Savings Per Academic Year** | *This is a very conservative estimation based on the downtown campus student enrollments.*  *\*\* Fall 2020: $30,000 (400 students x $75)*  *Spring 2021: $22,500 (300 students x $75)*  *Summer 2021: $13,125 (175 students x $75)*  *Fall 2021: $45,000 (600 students X $75)*  *The total new annual student savings per academic year 1: $ $65,625*  *The total new annual student savings per academic year 2: $225,000 (3000 students x $75)* |
| **Using the OpenStax Textbook?** | *Yes.* |

# Narrative Section

## 1. Project Goals

*We are submitting an application for a Departmental Scaling project to further enhance students’ affordability and accessibility to higher education.*

*The commitment to student success at Georgia State University has been recognized in the nation as one of “the most innovative” universities in the nation. While the university seeks to further various resources and services for students, the problem of student debts is ubiquitous. And students majoring (or minoring) Sociology, their financial situations are often direr; for they tend to turn to Sociology later in their college tenure.*

*To address the affordability of college education, especially for Sociology students, the team (Jung Ha Kim and Sarah Miranda Hepler) has applied for the textbook Transformation Grant in 2017 to replace the commercial textbook with a no-cost OpenStax textbook. And in 2018, the team successfully transformed the textbook for the Introduction to Sociologyever by offering a large section of an online course. Ever since the applicant used the Openstax textbook for all of her Introduction to Sociology courses and has encouraged a few other colleagues in the department to use the same no-cost Openstax textbook for Soci 1101. On average, 580 students per year who enrolled in her Soci 1101 used the no-cost OpenStax textbook and in the current academic year, approximately 760 students will be using the OpenStax textbook.*

*This Departmental Scaling Grant proposal is to a) expand pervious affordable approaches to textbook transformation by adopting the OpenStax textbook at no cost to students, b) to provide support and time to faculty and instructional designers to meet and work on the implementation of the scaling plans, and thereby c) contribute to students’ success by making the higher education more affordable and accessible.*

## 2. Statement of Transformation

*Based on the applicant’s experience of using the OpenStax textbook in the Introduction to Sociology courses in the past two years, the team proposes the following processes for the departmental scaling project.*

*In Spring 2020: Two additional Sociology instructors at two different campuses will be using the OpenStax textbook for 3 sections of Soci 1101 (120+45+45 student enrollments).*

*In Summer 20202: As a way to prepare for the scaling in Fall 2020, the Graduate Students who will be teaching the Soci 1101 course in the summer and fall semesters will be trained to use the OpenStax textbook.*

*In Fall 2020: over 550 students in the Soci 1101 course on the Downtown campus will be using the Openstax textbook. And another over 100 students at the Perimeter campus will be using the Openstax textbook.*

*While the proposed scaling project will be completed in the fall semester of 2020, we plan to work continuously work on launching the next phase of the departmental scaling throughout all 5 GSU campuses throughout the 2021-2022 academic year. Since the applicant has been working with Sociology instructors at all 5 campuses to report the student learning outcomes annually for all sections of the Soci 1101 (and Soci 1160) course, working on inter-campus collaboration to adopt Openstax textbook, especially after the successful scaling experience in fall 2020, will be a “natural” progression.*

## 3. Transformation Action Plan

*Fortunately, the team has experience of receiving and managing the Textbook Transformation Grant in 2018 for the Textbook Transformation Grant and has already designed and put in the Soci 1101 course modules to measure and assess the successful progress for scaling.*

*projects can be work-intensive and require project management in order to be successful. This section allows teams to describe how the team will fulfill the goals of the project. Include the following:*

* *The no-cost textbook to be adopted in the Soci 1101 course is The Introduction to Sociology, 2nd edition (*[*https://openstax.org/details/books/introduction-sociology-2e*](https://openstax.org/details/books/introduction-sociology-2e)*).* 
  + *The team of an instructor and the instructional designer have reviewed the textbook and designed the course modules to promote the community-building among students via small group activities and peer reviews and the assignments that are critically engaging with the textbook.*
  + *Both the strength and challenge of using OpenStax materials like the Introduction to Sociology, 2nd edition, is that various chapters have been constantly revised and changed. However, no instructors are covering the entire chapters of the book in one semester, slight changes and revisions can provide further opportunities for discussions.*
* *Along with using the no-cost OpenSyx textbook in the Soci 1101 course in more than one campus (in phase 1 of scaling, and all campuses in Phase II), we will incorporate BOTH the national sociological literacy Framework (SLF) by the American Sociological Association and the newly launched College to Career (CTC) competencies at GSU to all modules. to various campusesAny redesign work necessary for the transformation.*
  + *This incorporation will further strengthen students’ awareness of acquired and marketable sociological skills and knowledge.*
* *A few selected modules/assignments of Soci 1101 may be shared as a university-wide resource for other faculty to use or adapt to on the CTC website (*https://www.gsu.edu/collegetocareer).

4. Quantitative and Qualitative Measures

*All sections of the Soci 1101 course that will be using the OpenStax textbook will be using both quantitative and qualitative measures for student satisfaction, student performance, and course-level retention (drop/fail/withdraw rates) via iCollege. More specifically, the following steps will be implemented on iCollege., but teams and institutions will do this in varied ways. Outstanding applications will include measures beyond the minimum to gain meaningful insights into the impact of the project. Include the following:*

* *In the welcome module, students will be asked to share their opinions and expectations of using the no-cost Openstax textbook (which will generate qualitative data).*
* *Closed to the middle of the semester (and after the first exam or a major quiz), students will be asked to participate in the mid-term reflection (which will generate quantitative data).*
* *In the final module, students will be asked to participate at the end of the term evaluation. Along with this evaluation, students will be encouraged to revise their resume or CV to include newly gained (sociological) skills and knowledge that they can use to build a meaningful career path.*
* *And built into iCollege, students course-level retention (SWF rates) will be also recorded as well.*

## 5. Timeline

*As stated above, we plan to use Spring and Summer 2020 as the time to prep for launching the (first phase) of departmental scaling in Fall 2020.*

*That is, we will provide support for new faculty (one on Downtown campus and two on Perimeter campus) who will be using the OpenStax textbook in Spring 2020 for the first time. And since two sessions out of three will be online, they will be using the same course modules that already incorporated the quantitative and qualitative measures of student progresses.*

*And using summer 2020 to work inter-campus cooperation and training for Graduate Students who will be offering Soci 1101 in the fall to adopt the no-cost OpenStax textbook.*

*After completing the final semester of scaling in fall 2020, we will submit the final report.*

## 6. Budget

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| *Personnel: Team member 1* | *$ 5,000* |
| *Personnel: Team member 2* | *$ 5,000* |
| *Travel & Project expenses* | *$ 800* |
| *Project Expenses at CETL* | *$ 4,200* |
| *Project Expenses at Sociology Dept.* | *$ 15,000* |
| ***TOTAL*** | ***$ 30,000*** |

## 7. Sustainability Plan

*As stated above, the departmental scaling efforts will continue after successfully completing the proposed phase of scaling at the end of fall 2020.*

* *The evaluation of revised and updated materials of the OpenStax textbook*
* *Possible expansion of the scaling project beyond some instructions at two campuses*
* *The team will plan for sharing their experience of the textbook transformation and the scaling efforts through presentations or articles*
* *And as we continue to work on departmental scaling across campuses, CETL's instructional technologists will be able to provide training on iCollege*

## Note: Letter of Support

*A letter of support from Dr. Eric Wright, Chair of the Department of Sociology at Georgia State University, as the sponsoring and responsible for receipt and distribution of funding, is attached.*