

The Path to a 100% Zero Textbook Cost College

Progress, Success, Lessons Learned, and Future Plans



COSUMNES
RIVER COLLEGE

Key Definitions



Open Educational Resources (OER)

- Teaching and learning materials that reside in the public domain or under copyright with an open license (usually Creative Commons), which allows for no-cost access, re-use, re-purpose, adaptations, and redistribution.



Zero Textbook Costs (ZTC)

- Teaching and learning materials that are free to students and may or may not be OER. When commercial publishing resources are used, the college absorbs the cost so that it is not passed onto the student. OER are the most sustainable way to maintain ZTC.



Controlled Digital Lending (CDL)

- Commercially published materials that are not made available under a library electronic license. The library purchases physical copies, scans the material, and makes it available to checkout through the library's digital loan program. The library can only loan the exact number of copies it owns (e.g. 25 copies owned, 20 available for digital loan, 5 physical copies available for regular library checkout).

CRC Accomplishments



ZTC Sections Continue to Increase

- Fall 2021: 162 sections or 10% ZTC
- Fall 2022: 610 sections or 42%
- Fall 2023: 936 sections or 72% ZTC



Savings for Students

- \$2.5M: Fall 2023
- \$7.3M: Since tracking began in Spring 2022



Faculty Buy-In for OER/ZTC

- Fall 2023 - 69% taught at least one ZTC section

Key Steps to Success



Substantial Fiscal Investment

- Faculty stipends
- Reassign time for a full-time coordinator
- Support staff



Constant Support

- Top-level backing
- Gathering and sharing student data/feedback
- Outreach and PD for faculty

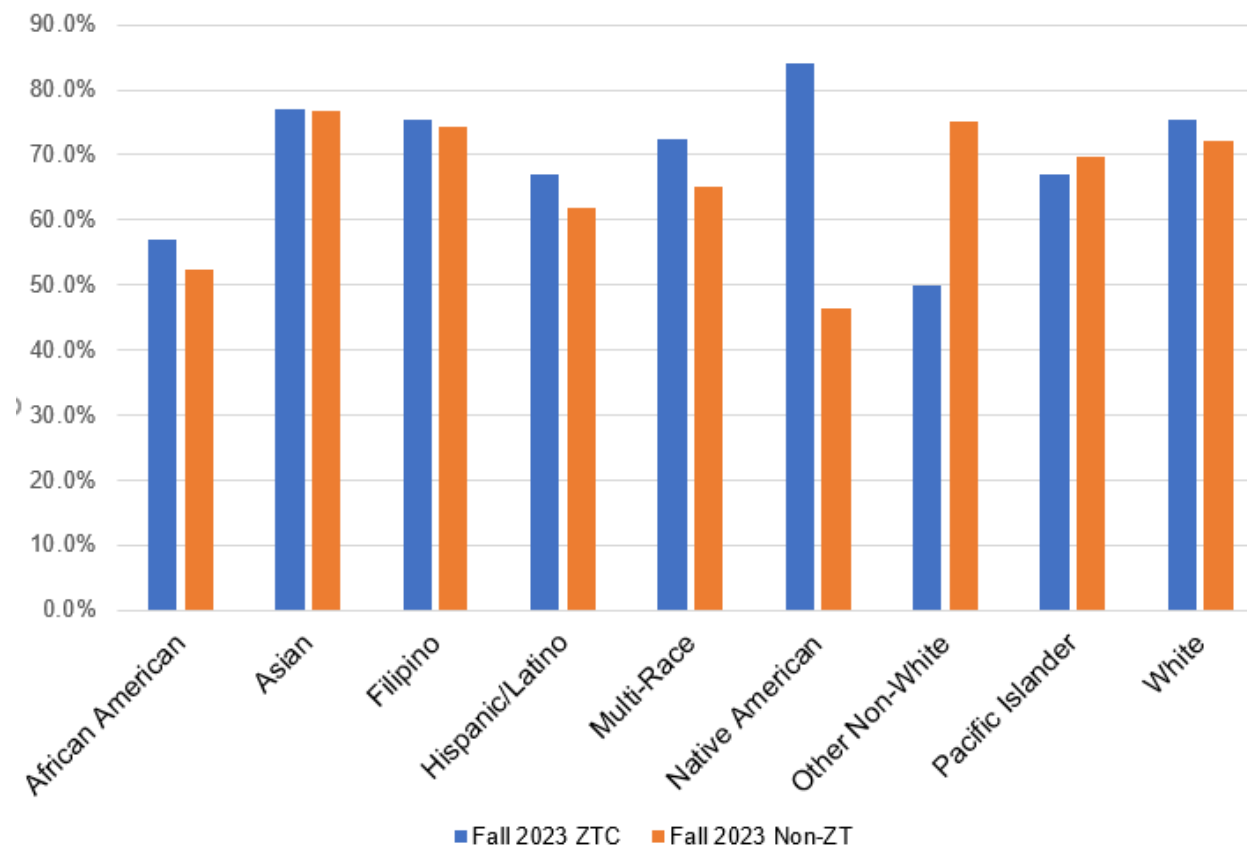


One-Stop for Resources

- Locally-created website: [Zero Textbook Costs at CRC](#)

ZTC Success Rates

Success Rates in ZTC vs. Non-ZTC



Student Feedback on OER/ZTC



More Student Feedback

“Having access to free materials makes it a lot easier for me personally to be motivated to work as I don't have to put in the extra money towards a class.”

~ Carsen, CRC Student

“It makes it easier to learn, especially since textbooks cost so much just to rent them. You won't even use them afterwards even if you buy them, they're a short term thing and we shouldn't have to pay for something temporary that will most likely not be used much throughout the semester.”

~ Michael, CRC Student

“It makes college much easier and more affordable. The nice part about these classes is that I can use the information that is given to me whenever I like compared to the online ebooks where I buy them and I have limited time to use them. With the free books I feel like I'm getting the same quality if not better learning experience.”

~ Jaden, CRC Student

Lessons Learned



OER Coordinator

Consistency is Key

- Faculty coordinator
- Short response times



Student Voices Matter

- Regular visits to student senate
- Getting the research and marketing offices involved



OER Isn't Always the Answer

- ZTC through eBook licenses and controlled digital lending (CDL)

Future Directions



Chancellor's ZTC Degree Grants

- Implementation grant complete (\$200K)
- 5 Plans fully accepted (\$593K awarded)
- 9 Plans requiring collaboration cohort work (\$225K to start)
- Chancellor's Office Demonstration Grant (\$980K)
- New incentive plan to be announced fall 2024



Fulltime OER/ZTC Librarian

- Position request submitted and ranked high by faculty
- District funding could not support growth position
- Recently passed [Academic Senate resolution](#) calls for continued push for this position

Questions/Comments

