

TABS

Textbook Affordability at Ball State

College of Architecture and Planning Textbook Affordability Toolkit & Resources

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BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY

TABS

Textbook Affordability at Ball State

Working toward a more accessible, affordable, and equitable student experience.

At Ball State we define textbook affordability as \$40 or less per course. Affordability can be achieved through use of Open Educational Resources, low-cost textbook alternatives, or use of library services and resources.

TABS is part of the affordable education movement across the country, an important effort to reduce costs and remove barriers for student access to course learning materials.

Why Pursue Textbook Affordability?

While college expenses are rising, course materials are one cost that **faculty can directly affect** with a **significant impact on student success**.

- Ensure students are prepared to learn on day one with equitable access to materials.
- Incorporate up-to-date materials from diverse voices within your discipline.
- Integrate materials with Ball State systems, including Poll Everywhere and Canvas.
- Make your course more sustainable by not relying on single-use physical resources.

Support for TABS

Contact the TABS Working Group and TABS Faculty Fellows at tabs@bsu.edu for support with implementing textbook affordability measures. They can help by:

- Connecting units with library specialists who can help research OERs and Open Textbooks
- Presenting an overview of the TABS initiative at faculty meetings
- Hosting small-group workshops introducing faculty to available resources in their area
- Meeting with instructors for individual support and area-specific consultation

Making Your Course More Affordable

1

Find free or low cost copies of your current course resources

Work with college and discipline-specific librarians who can recommend resources and offer guidance on applicable copyright laws and restrictions.

2

Research alternative resources and substitutions

Where free or low cost versions are not available, research Open Educational Resources (OER) to use instead. With some searching you can find high-quality materials that suit your classes. Some resources, including OER databases, online textbooks, and pre-built course modules are compiled in this guide.

3

Develop your own personalized resources for your classes

Once you know exactly what you are looking for or you have identified gaps in the available low cost and open educational resources, you can develop your own written or visual resources for your classes to use on Canvas or OneDrive.

Getting Started

[An Introduction to Open Educational Resources \(OER\)](#)

[Advice for Faculty Getting Started with OER](#)

[The OER Starter Kit for Program Managers](#)

[OER Training Guide](#)

[OER Training Modules](#)

[MI ExpIOER - Self-Paced Course on OER](#)

General Resources

[Ball State LibGuides](#)

- [Open Educational Resources \(OER\) Overview](#)
- [Finding Public Domain and Openly Licensed Media](#)
- [Reading Lists and Course Reserves](#)
- [Copyright in Course Reserves](#)
- [Copyright in the Classroom](#)

[Edutopia - Open Educational Resources Roundup](#)

[OER Search Engine - Mason OER Metafinder](#)

[Toolkit for Developing Open Access Content](#)

[OER Creation Toolkit](#)

[Diverse Multimedia OER \(stock photos, sounds, slides, videos\)](#)

Expanding OER Use

[OER Promotional Kit](#)

[Teaching in Higher Ed Podcast - Open Education Category](#)

[How one professor made her own OER textbook \(Podcast\)](#)

[More Professors Aware of, and Using, OER \(Article\)](#)

[Open Faculty Patchbook - OER Projects and Discussion](#)

Material Costs

Textbooks in CAP are not always expensive but supplies and materials for projects can be pricey. The suggested maximum cost for an affordable studio course should be \$50-100 and a lecture course should be \$25-50. In order to achieve this, instructors can employ creative strategies including:

- Recommending recycled and/or free materials (newspaper, cardboard boxes, aluminum cans, etc.)
- Digital presentations for studio except where printing or modeling is required and when presentation screens are unavailable
- Sponsored studios with funding provided by outside firms
- Applying for [immersive learning funds](#) for large studio projects

Students are required to have a laptop, which can be built into their loan structure, but is an additional expense, nonetheless. Therefore, utilizing their laptops to access Open Educational Resources and digital textbooks can reduce the overall cost of education.

Architecture

GENERAL RESOURCES

[Architecture, Drafting, and Design: Open Educational Resources](#)

[Archnet](#)

[OER Commons - Architecture and Design](#)

[OASIS - Architecture \(courses, textbooks, videos, objectives, etc.\)](#)

[Merlot - Architecture Textbooks](#)

APPLICATIONS

Autodesk Formit 360 (iOS, free)

Autodesk Educational License (PC, free)

CAD Assistant (iOS, free)

Paper (iOS, free)

Rhino (Student Version, PC, free)

Midjourney (\$96/year)

SketchUp (free)

MIRO (free)

Microsoft 365 (free for students)

STRUCTURAL DESIGN

[Basic Concepts of Structural Design for Architecture Students \(Textbook\)](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS

[Sustainability in Architecture: An Interdisciplinary Introduction \(Course\)](#)

BUILD TECH

[Building Science Fundamentals \(Course\)](#)

COMMUNICATION & REPRESENTATION

[Building Information Modeling using Revit for Architects and Engineers \(Textbook\)](#)

HISTORY

[A Global History of Architecture \(Course\)](#)

[Smarthistory](#)

[Sandborn Maps 1867-1970](#)

Construction Management Resources

[Washtenaw Community College LibGuide - Construction](#)

[Evaluation of OER in Construction Management Technology Courses](#)

[Project Management OER List](#)

Interior Design Resources

[Digital Library for the Decorative Arts and Material Culture](#)

[Merlot - Interior Design Textbooks](#)

[Library of Congress Gottscho-Schleisner Collection](#)

[Digital Public Library of America](#)

[Artstor Collections](#)

[New York Public Library Digital Collections](#)

[The Metropolitan Museum of Art Collection](#)

[Project Muse](#)

Landscape Architecture Resources

[American Society of Landscape Architects - Education & Practice Resources](#)

[OER Commons - Landscape](#)

[Library of Congress - Olmsted Papers](#)

[Dalhousie University LibGuide - Landscape Architecture](#)

Urban Planning Resources

[Dialogues in Urban Planning \(Textbook\)](#)

[OER Commons - City Planning](#)

[Kean University LibGuide - Urban Planning & Design](#)