

Virginia Institutions of Higher Education Guidelines to Move OER forward

Virginia Code § 23.1-1308 states: *The governing board of each public institution of higher education shall implement guidelines for the adoption and use of low-cost and no-cost open educational resources in courses offered at such institution. Such guidelines may include provisions for low-cost commercially published materials.*

This guidance document was developed by the SCHEV Open Virginia Advisory Committee and

efficiencies through cross-institutional and/or cross-disciplinary collaboration. Positive feedback from faculty who have adopted and created open course materials demonstrates that OER initiatives can also support faculty excellence and scholarship. Effective implementation of open educational resources will depend upon the engagement of well-informed institutional staff and faculty and will be enhanced by consideration of appropriate policies.

II. Purpose

The purpose of these guidelines is to help institutions fulfill their new obligations under § 23.1-1308 within a framework that promotes quality and sustainability. The intent is to create a unitary the individuality of the institutions and differences in their missions, strengths, and priorities. The guidelines promote the creation and utilization of open educational resources and efforts to scale to OER full programs. The italicized sample guideline language within each section can be adopted or adapted by individual institutions and the Appendix supplies supplemental information and references to aid in planning for implementation. To realize the full potential of OER, college and university governance officials must publicly demonstrate their support by making OER policy that is aligned with the college or university vision and mission and which encourages and rewards sharing and cross institutional collaboration. Implementing an institution-level OER policy signifies support from leadership and creates a supportive environment for faculty, staff, and students to explore the potential of OER and the benefits for students. SCHEV recommends that each institution appoint an ongoing stakeholder committee to review and update provisions as appropriate given the rapidly changing environment surrounding educational resources.

III. Proposed Guideline Framework. The framework recommended here covers elements A. through H. and provides sample language for each element. The language can be customized to align with an individual

A. Purpose

Sample language: *This policy provides guidance to faculty in achieving the following outcomes through the utilization of Open Educational Resources (OER) at [institution name]: improve student success through increased access and affordability, and improve teaching efficiency and effectiveness through the ability to focus, analyze, augment, and evolve course materials directly aligned to course learning outcomes. Faculty will be supported in their participation with OER to achieve both of the stated outcomes.*

Additional considerations:

- ◁ Institutions with a research, publication, or service orientation may wish to add language regarding desired outcomes for research, publication, and/or service.

Faculty or staff who create original content that is incorporated into an OER course or create OER of other types or formats shall place a Creative Commons Attribution License (CC-BY) on such content before or at the time it is introduced into the course. Faculty adapting OER must use the least that such content is eligible for and meets the standards for a CC-BY license. Best practices for incorporation of third party works (permission, fair use, etc.) must be followed as is required by U.S. Copyright law.

Additional considerations:

- ◁ For perspectives regarding the inclusion of third party works within OER, see Appendix A.
- ◁ OER may be addressed in an existing IP policy or addressed separately in an OER policy. In either case, the use and creation of OER does not supplant an
The recommended practice is to set as

As subject matter experts, faculty are responsible for creating, adapting, and selecting OER materials

Sample language: *OER and OER courses shall be published in electronic format(s) that permit free, public and editable access to the content, course content, course materials, and any supplemental materials. OER and OER courses shall be publicly shared in a stable publicly accessible location and utilize naming and/or metadata conventions to enable discovery within and beyond Virginia. Cross institutional collaboration is encouraged in defining, establishing, and achieving best practices regarding technical formats, institutional data ownership, migration of content, enabling public access and*

Selection, adoption, use, and evaluation of commercially published materials are typically