



TO: Executive Vice Chancellors of Academic and Health Affairs, U. T. System;
Provosts/Chief Academic Officers, U. T. Institutions

FROM: The U. T. System Student Advisory Council

DATE: May 18, 2021

RE: Recommendation for the Evaluation of Open Educational Resources

Many U. T. institutions have ramped up Open Educational Resources (OER) and Open Education engagement in recent years in response to student affordability concerns and equity issues. However, the U. T. System Student Advisory Council Affordability and Academic Success Committee has identified the need for enhanced data collection and analysis related to the utilization of and satisfaction with OER. For all courses using OERs, we recommend that an end-of-course survey is administered to assess student utilization and satisfaction. This survey could be integrated with the student evaluation of teaching conducted at the end of each course.

Survey questions about the utilization and effectiveness of OERs should seek to answer the following questions:

1. Did students use the OER, and if so, how often?
2. How effective/high-quality did students find the OER?
3. Did the OER result in meaningful cost savings to students?

Survey results should help faculty determine which OERs are underutilized and/or not effective in helping their students learn and adapt course materials, accordingly. Additionally, positive results could be used to help promote the expansion and continued adoption of OERs across the institution.

Thank you for your consideration.