

**Affordable Learning Georgia Textbook Transformation Grants
Proposal Form**

Please complete per inline instructions; completed form not to exceed four pages.

Institution Name	Gordon State College		
Team Members (Name, Title, Department and email address for each)	Dr. Wesley Venus, Composition Consortium Chair and Co-sponsor Assistant Professor of English wvenus@gordonstate.edu Dr. Mark King, Consortium Member and Co-sponsor Associate Professor of English mking@gordonstate.edu		
Sponsor, Title, Department	Dr. Edward Whitelock Professor of English Department Head of Humanities and Fine & Performing Arts		
Course Name, Course Number and Semester Offered (Spring 2015 Required)	English Composition I ENGL 1101 Spring 2015		
Average Number of Students in the Course	25	Number Course sessions per Academic year	65
Award Category (pick one)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No-Cost-to-Students Learning Materials <input type="checkbox"/> OpenStax Textbooks <input type="checkbox"/> Course Pack Pilots		
List the original course materials for students (including title, whether optional or required, & cost for each item)	<i>The Prentice Hall Reference Guide</i> Required Cost: \$87.59	<p align="right">Total Cost</p>	
Projected Per Student Cost	\$0.00	Projected Per Student Savings (%)	100%

1. PROJECT GOALS

Gordon State College's Composition Consortium was formed in 2011 with the following goals:

- Produce low-/no-cost Composition handbook to replace costly publisher versions
- Improve on current publisher models by generating handbook specific to writing across the whole of the USG core curriculum:
 - Define academic writing and clarify best practices
 - Address standard Composition I and II expectations
 - Address specific strategies for writing in the humanities and fine arts
 - Address specific strategies for writing in the physical sciences
 - Address specific strategies for writing in the social sciences
 - Look forward to writing in a professional context following degree

The Consortium has been at work for three years on this project. We have drafted a comprehensive outline for the handbook and generated a significant percentage of its text. ALG grant will allow for completion and implementation of project.

1.1 STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Problem:

- 1) Publisher handbooks are expensive and overly general in their focus
- 2) Students tend to compartmentalize academic skills and fail to transfer those skills into other areas of their work

Stakeholders:

- 1) Gordon State College students: All GSC students are required to take ENGL 1101 and 1102 in Area A of core
- 2) Gordon State College faculty: Many faculty are concerned regarding students' lack of transfer of skills from Composition to their writing duties in other classes and core curriculum areas

Impact:

- 1) Expensive handbooks contribute to high overall textbook costs; current required version is \$87.59
- 2) Of course, many students do not purchase handbook because of cost. Many more, despite advice otherwise, sell text back after completion of ENGL 1102
- 3) ENGL 1101 ABC rate averages approximately 60% per semester
- 4) Faculty continue to report sub-standard writing skills in written assignments ranging from history term papers, to performance observations in the humanities, and to lab reports in the physical sciences

Solution: No-cost, GSC specific handbook developed by Composition Consortium

1. Approximately 1,625 students per academic year enroll in ENGL 1101; cumulative handbook cost savings: \$142,333.75
2. Anticipate higher ABC rates for ENGL 1101; a 5% improvement would represent an additional 81 students passing 1101 on first attempt
3. Anticipate better retention/progression in core curriculum courses with handbook designed to introduce students to exact writing contexts and strategies they will be facing

4. Faculty in all academic areas, not just Composition instructors, will be able to access text to assist students in writing for their courses
5. Continued maintenance of the Handbook will facilitate ongoing faculty discussion and collaboration regarding important aspects of writing across the curriculum

1.2 TRANSFORMATION ACTION PLAN

A table of contents has been drafted and most of the chapters and subchapters within it have been written. Upon completion of the draft, there will be an editing phase, conducted primarily by the Consortium chair, then an editing and proofreading phase, when the textbook will be reviewed by a panel of composition specialists who are unaffiliated with Gordon.

Spring semester 2015 will see partial implementation of the Handbook while work is completed. Completed chapters will be available as electronic text via password protected webpage on GSC server. Fall 2014 English 1101 students have already purchased current handbook; that book will be declared "Optional" for spring 2015 ENGL 1101 students. Fall 2015 will see full implementation of Composition Consortium Handbook. All syllabi will include link to electronic text available to all students and faculty logged into the GSC server.

We will immediately begin assessing effectiveness of new Handbook via the following methods:

- Comparing ABC rates of ENGL 1101 and 1102 to previous semesters
- Comparing DFW rates of ENGL 1101 and 1102 to previous semesters
- Assess successful demonstration of modal composition skills relative to previous semesters of ENGL 1101
- Assess successful demonstration of research citation skills relative to previous semesters of ENGL 1102
- Survey current students to gauge number who have purchased current required handbook and their patterns of use
- Survey future students regarding patterns of use of electronic Composition Consortium Handbook
- Assess students' written performance in required Area E History courses, comparing to previous semester assessments
- Assess students' written performance in required Area D Science courses, comparing to previous semester assessments

1.3 TIMELINE

October – November 2014: Editing and revision of currently completed Handbook material for spring partial implementation

January 2015: Establishment of website and publication of partial Handbook

May 2015: Completion of all Handbook text materials

Summer 2015: External editing and revision of Handbook

August 2015: Full implementation: Complete Handbook published online, established as required text for all sections of English Composition I and II and optimal resource for all core-curriculum courses

1.4 BUDGET

Wesley Venus: \$4,800.00

- 2 course releases at \$2,400.00 each

Mark King: \$4,800.00

- 2 course releases at \$2,400.00 each

External Editing Assistance: \$500.00

Travel: \$300.00

Total: \$10,400.00

1.5 SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

The Handbook created by the Composition Consortium is highly sustainable. All English Composition courses will utilize the electronic handbook as a required text. All Gordon State College faculty and students will have access to the handbook website for use as they need.

Continued revision and refinement of the Handbook will occur over time as the Composition Consortium will continue to monitor its use and effectiveness.

Maintaining the Composition Consortium Handbook will remain a no-cost faculty service project on behalf of our students.

1.6 REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS

Attachments:

- *Letters of Support from:*
 - *Dr. Margaret Venable, Provost*
 - *Dr. Jeff Knighton, Interim Dean, School of Arts & Sciences*
- *Handbook Outline Summary*
- *Handbook Detailed Chapter Outline Example*

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION: ALL PROPOSAL DOCUMENTS, REFERENCES, AND ATTACHMENTS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN A SINGLE EMAIL TO ALG@GATECH.EDU BY 5:00 PM, EST, SEPTEMBER 8, 2014.