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Application Summary

Competition Details

Competition Title:	Textbook Transformation Grants, Round Twelve (Fall 2018-2019)
Category:	University System of Georgia
Award Cycle:	Round 12
Submission Deadline:	09/13/2018 at 11:59 PM

Application Information

Submitted By:	Brett Larson
Application ID:	2577
Application Title:	381
Date Submitted:	09/11/2018 at 8:26 AM

Personal Details

Institution Name(s):	East Georgia State College
Applicant First Name:	Brett
Applicant Last Name:	Larson
Applicant Email Address:	blarson@ega.edu
Applicant Phone Number:	478-289-2058
Primary Appointment Title:	Assistant Professor of Political Science
Submitter First Name:	Brett
Submitter Last Name:	Larson
Submitter Email Address:	blarson@ega.edu
Submitter Phone Number:	478-289-2058
Submitter Title:	Assistant Professor of Political Science

Application Details

Proposal Title

381

Final Semester of Project

Fall 2019

Requested Amount of Funding

10,800

Type of Grant

No-or-Low-Cost-to-Students Learning Materials

Course Title(s)

American Government

Course Number(s)

POLS 1101

Team Member 1 Name

Brett Larson

Team Member 1 Email

blarson@ega.edu

Team Member 2 Name

H. Lee Cheek

Team Member 2 Email

lcheek@ega.edu

Team Member 3 Name

Team Member 3 Email

Team Member 4 Name

Team Member 4 Email

Additional Team Members (Name and email address for each)

Sponsor Name

Dr. Deborah Vess

Sponsor Title

Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs

Sponsor Department

None

Original Required Commercial Materials (title, author, price)

American Government: Institutions and Policies, James Q. Wilson, John J. Dilulio, Jr., Meena Bose, Matthew S. Levendusky, 16th edition, Cengage, 2019, ISBN 978-1-33780-6855.

<https://www.cengage.com/c/american-government-institutions-and-policies-16e-wilson>

This book is required. A new bundle package (Printed Text + MindTap Political Science) version of American Government costs \$262.95.

Average Number of Students per Course Section Affected by Project in One Academic Year

30

Average Number of Sections Affected by Project in One Academic Year

Total Number of Students Affected by Project in One Academic Year

660

Average Number of Students Affected per Summer Semester

60

Average Number of Students Affected per Fall Semester

300

Average Number of Students Affected per Spring Semester

300

Original Total Cost per Student

\$262.95

Post-Project Cost per Student

\$0

Post-Project Savings per Student

\$262.95

Projected Total Annual Student Savings per Academic Year

\$173,547.00

Using OpenStax Textbook?

Yes

Project Goals

1. Reduce students' costs of taking POLS 1101 by using no-cost, high quality open educational resources instead of cost prohibitive, traditional textbooks.
2. Revise and update existing open educational resources such as American Government by Glen Krutz.
3. Adopt and create open educational resources that supplement American Government by Glen Krutz.
4. Increase student success rates in POLS 1101 by using no-cost, high quality, dynamic resources on American politics.

Statement of Transformation

The costs to students of taking POLS 1101 are very high (\$262.95 per student). East Georgia State College is an access institution that serves many low income students. In East Georgia State College's service region, the median household income is \$40,216, the percent of the population living below the poverty line is 22.6, and the percent of people twenty-five or older with at least a bachelor's degree is only 16.4. These numbers compare unfavorably with statewide averages. The median household income in Georgia is \$51,037, the percent of the population living below the poverty line is 16.0, and the percent of the population with at least a bachelor's degree is 29.4 (President of East Georgia State College's 8-1-2018 Presentation Economic and Education Statistics). To remove economic barriers to education, East Georgia State College offers low tuition rates (\$92.67 per credit hour). However, the high costs of textbooks remain a serious obstacle to students. Since many students cannot afford to spend \$262.95 on textbooks for one class, they either delay purchasing the textbooks until after receiving their financial aid (up to a month after classes start) or do not purchase the textbooks at all. Students who delay purchasing or do not purchase the course materials cannot complete assignments and are at high risk of failing the class.

This project will redesign POLS 1101 to use no-cost materials instead of cost prohibitive, traditional textbooks. The primary textbook for the redesigned course will be American Government by Glen Krutz, which is a no-cost, open educational resource. Also, this project will revise and update the Krutz text. Further, this project will adopt and create open educational resources to supplement the Krutz text such as journal articles, book chapters, videos, and PowerPoints. The revisions and supplements to the Krutz text will ensure that students have high quality American government resources. Since all resources will be available in electronic formats, instructors can use them in face to face, hybrid, and online classes.

This project will benefit students in several ways. First, it will reduce each student's cost of taking POLS 1101 from \$262.95 to \$0. Over one academic year, this project will save students taking the course approximately \$173,547. Since all students will be able to access the required materials on the first day of the semester, they will be more likely to succeed in the course, and thereby will have better odds of completing a degree. Second, this project will ensure that students have access to high quality, up to date resources on American politics. Consequently, students will receive superior education in American government.

This project will benefit East Georgia State College's political science program. Since all course materials will be open access, all professors teaching POLS 1101 at East Georgia State College could use them in their classes. Department wide use of these resources would reduce costs to students and improve student success in POLS 1101 courses.

This project will really benefit East Georgia State College. Like many access institutions, East Georgia State College has low student retention and degree completion rates. Low student success rates in required courses are one of the key causes of low retention and degree completion rates. Since all students must take POLS 1101, student success in this course affects substantially the college's retention and degree completion rates. If students fail this course, they must take it again in a subsequent semester, and this can delay degree completion. Failing a course can contribute to the college placing students on academic probation or exclusion, both of which can lower retention and degree completion. By removing financial barriers to student success in POLS 1101, this project could improve East Georgia State College's retention and degree completion rates.

Transformation Action Plan

Both Larson and Cheek will serve as subject matter experts, instructional designers, and instructors of record.

As subject matter experts, Larson and Cheek will identify and review existing open educational resources to determine their suitability for POLS 1101. Examples of open educational resources include textbooks, primary sources, journal articles, book chapters, book excerpts, newspaper articles, videos, and PowerPoints. Open educational resources Larson and Cheek have evaluated include American Government by Glen Krutz, The Federalist Papers, and Craig Benzine's "Crash Course US Government and Politics" videos. Larson and Cheek will use the following criteria to evaluate these resources: content accuracy, readability, clarity, and comprehensiveness.

Larson and Cheek will review and, if necessary, revise the course objectives for POLS 1101. Current course objectives include: by the end of the semester, students should be able to (1) explain the nature of government, order, democracy, and constitutionalism, (2) articulate the main arguments of the Federalists and Anti-Federalists, and (3) explain the structure and powers of the Congress, presidency, and courts. Larson and Cheek will select materials that cover the topics the course objectives mention. For example, to help students meet objective one, Larson and Cheek may assign excerpts from John C. Calhoun's A Disquisition on Government, which is a free, online primary source that discusses the nature of government and constitutionalism. To help students meet the second objective, Larson and Cheek may assign excerpts from the Federalist Papers, which is a free, online primary source written by the Federalists. To help students meet objective three, Larson and Cheek may have students read the US Constitution, which outlines the structure and powers of the three branches of the US Government.

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This project will preserve each professor's academic freedom to experiment and innovate. Each professor will have broad discretion over which materials to include in his course, provided they are appropriate to the course objectives.

All newly created materials will meet the 508 compliance requirements.

The instructors of record will make all newly created open educational resources available to students through D2L and GALILEO Open Learning Materials.

Quantitative & Qualitative Measures

Quantitative Measures

As instructors of record, Larson and Cheek will administer pre-tests at the beginning of each semester and post-tests at the end of each semester to determine how much student knowledge of the course materials has increase over the semester. They will compare the results of the pre and post-tests in the courses using the open educational resources (summer 2019, fall 2019) with courses they taught previously that used a traditional textbook (spring 2019 and earlier).

Larson and Cheek will compare the 5-week early grade warning averages in classes using open educational resources (summer 2019, fall 2019) with the 5-week early grade warning averages in courses they taught previously that used traditional textbooks (spring 2019 and earlier).

Larson and Cheek will compare student performance on assignments in classes using open educational resources (summer 2019, fall 2019) with student performance on assignments in courses they taught previously that used traditional textbooks (spring 2019 and earlier). Examples of assignments include multiple choice question quizzes over daily reading assignments, multiple choice question exams over course readings, lectures, and discussions, and 3-4 page research papers on a current debate in American politics (i.e. abortion, same-sex marriage, immigration).

Larson and Cheek will compare student drop, withdraw, and success rates in courses using open educational resources (summer 2019, fall 2019) with student drop, withdraw, and success rates in courses they taught previously that used traditional textbooks (spring 2019 and earlier).

Qualitative Measures

At the end of the spring and fall semesters, students at East Georgia State College complete course reviews using the IOTA System. Larson and Cheek will compare the student feedback on courses using open educational resources (fall 2019) with student feedback on courses they taught previously that used traditional textbooks (spring 2019 and earlier). They will look for student feedback about the costs of materials, the quality of materials, etc.

Larson and Cheek will design a short questionnaire that asks students about how likely they are to buy traditional textbooks, how likely they are to use open educational resources, how the quality of open educational resources compares to the quality of traditional textbooks, etc. Students in each class will complete this questionnaire at the end of semester either in class during the final exam or online via the survey tool in the online learning management system, D2L Daylight.

Timeline

Fall 2018: Larson and Cheek will review open educational resources such as American Government by Glen Krutz and identify parts of these resources that need revision or supplementation.

Spring 2019: Larson and Cheek will continue to review existing open educational resources. They will also begin revising existing open educational resources, creating new open educational resources, and developing quantitative and qualitative measures for assessing student satisfaction, performance, and retention.

Summer 2019: Larson and Cheek will each teach one section of POLS 1101 using the newly adopted/created open educational resources. In each course, they will administer the quantitative and qualitative assessments mentioned in section four. Depending on the results of the assessments, Larson and Cheek may revise the materials and/or the course.

Fall 2019: Larson and Cheek will each teach five sections of POLS 1101 using the open source materials. In each course, they will administer the quantitative and qualitative assessments mentioned in section four. Depending on the results of the assessments, Larson and Cheek may further revise the materials and/or the course.

Budget

\$5000 salary support for Dr. Brett Larson

\$400 travel support for Dr. Brett Larson

\$5000 salary support for Dr. Lee Cheek

\$400 travel support for Dr. Lee Cheek

Total: \$10,800

Sustainability Plan

Since POLS 1101 is a required course for all students at East Georgia State College, Larson and Cheek will continue to teach five sections of it in future spring and fall semesters and one section of it in future summer semesters. Since politics is constantly changing, Larson and Cheek will continually revise existing open educational materials, search for additional open educational materials, and create new open educational materials to keep the course up to date with key developments in American politics. Also, Larson and Cheek will continue to use quantitative and qualitative assessments and revise the materials and/or the course based on student performance and feedback.

In addition to Larson and Cheek, three other full time East Georgia State College professors teach four to five sections of POLS 1101 in spring and fall and one section of POLS 1101 in summer. Larson and Cheek will share the results of switching to open educational resources with their colleagues, share the course materials with them, and encourage them to make use of these resources.

Further, Larson and Cheek will pursue opportunities to present the results of transforming POLS 1101 at academic conferences such as the Georgia Political Science Association's annual meeting.

Acknowledgment

Grant Acceptance

[Acknowledged] I understand and acknowledge that acceptance of Affordable Learning Georgia grant funding constitutes a commitment to comply with the required activities listed in the RFP and that my submitted proposal will serve as the statement of work that must be completed by my project team. I further understand and acknowledge that failure to complete the deliverables in the statement of work may result in termination of the agreement and funding.

**Office of the Vice President for
Academic
and Student Affairs**



27 August 2018

Dear ALG Textbook Transformation Grant Committee:

I am writing in support of the ALG Textbook Transformation Grant, Round Twelve, being proposed by Dr. Brett Larson, Assistant Professor of Political Science, and Dr. H. Lee Cheek, Jr., Professor of Political Science at East Georgia State College.

Their proposal involves redesigning POLS 1101 (American Government), which is in the Top 100 Undergraduate Courses category, to use no-cost, open access materials instead of cost prohibitive, traditional textbooks. The course will use an open source textbook, open source videos, a LibGuide, and written modules by Dr. Larson and Dr. Cheek for content. POLS 1101 is a required course throughout the University System of Georgia and a "Legislative Requirement" (Area E). They will redesign the course in Spring 2019 and teach it in Summer 2019 and Fall 2019.

The current cost for materials in POLS 1101 is \$262.95. By transitioning to open educational resources in this course, East Georgia State College can provide substantial savings to students. The redesigned course, taught annually to approximately 660 students, would result in student savings of approximately \$173,547 per year. East Georgia State College takes great pride in its access mission, but many of our students struggle to pay for textbooks. In East Georgia State College's service region, the median household income is \$40,216, the percent of the population living below the poverty line is 22.6, and the percent of people twenty-five or older with at least a bachelor's degree is 16.4. These

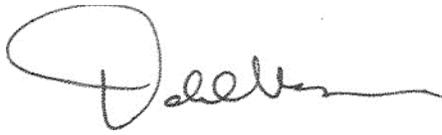
numbers compare unfavorably with statewide averages. The median household income in Georgia is \$51,037, the percent of the population living below the poverty line is 16.0, and the percent of the population with at least a bachelor's degree is 29.4. (President of East Georgia State College's 8-1-2018 Presentation Economic and Education Statistics). Our students want to succeed in college, but fiscally, many of them face challenges. They often have difficulty obtaining their textbooks due to the high costs.

With the elimination of this financial barrier, student success and retention should increase in this course. A particular strength of this proposal is the use of primary source materials, and the exploration of those materials through interactive discussions, as well as the rich media in the course. This proposal also includes numerous quantitative and qualitative measures for assessment of student success. Dr. Cheek has over thirty-two years of experience in teaching American government, and ten years of experience of teaching the course in an online format. Dr. Larson possesses three years of experience teaching American government (both face to face and online) and he has been an active student of OER technology and the ALG project since its inception.

This proposal will affect positively POLS 1101 for many years. Since POLS 1101 is a required course, Dr. Cheek and Dr. Larson will teach four to five sections of it each Spring and Fall semester and one section each Summer semester. They will keep the course materials up to date with changes in American politics and will make revise it based on the results of quantitative and qualitative assessments. Also, three full time professors other than Dr. Cheek and Dr. Larson teach four to five sections of this course in Spring and Fall and one section in Summer. Since the materials for this course will be open access, the other professors can adopt them for their sections of POLS 1101. Additionally, since POLS 1101 is a required course at all USG institutions, professors at other USG institutions could use the resources created by Dr. Cheek and Dr. Larson for their POLS 1101 courses.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah Vess". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Deborah Vess, Ph.D.



Textbook Transformation Grants, Round Twelve (Fall 2018-2019)

Proposal Form and Narrative

Notes

- The proposal form and narrative .docx file is for offline drafting and review. Submitters must use the InfoReady Review online form for proposal submission.
- The only way to submit the official proposal is through the online form in Georgia Tech's InfoReady Review. The link to the online application is on the [Round 12 RFP Page](#).
- The italic text we provide is meant for clarifications and can be deleted.

Applicant, Team, and Sponsor Information

The **applicant** is the proposed Project Lead for the grant project. The **submitter** is the person submitting the application (which may be a Grants Officer or Administrator). The submitter will often be the applicant – if so, leave the submitter fields blank.

Institution(s)	East Georgia State College
Applicant Name	Brett Larson
Applicant Email	blarson@ega.edu
Applicant Phone #	478-289-2058
Applicant Position/Title	Assistant Professor of Political Science
Submitter Name	
Submitter Email	
Submitter Phone #	
Submitter Position	

Please provide the first/last names and email addresses of all team members within the proposed project. Include the applicant (Project Lead) in this list. Do not include prefixes or suffixes such as Ms., Dr., Ph.D., etc.

	Name	Email Address
Team Member 1	Brett Larson	blarson@ega.edu
Team Member 2	H. Lee Cheek	lcheek@ega.edu
Team Member 3		
Team Member 4		
Team Member 5		
Team Member 6		
Team Member 7		
Team Member 8		

If you have any more team members to add, please enter their names and email addresses in the text box below.

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Please provide the sponsor's name, title, department, and institution. The sponsor is the provider of your Letter of Support.

Dr. Deborah Vess, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, East Georgia State College
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Project Information and Impact Data

Title of Grant Project	<i>Transforming POLS 1101 with No Cost Open Educational Resources</i>
Type of Grant	<i>"No-or-Low-Cost-to-Students Learning Materials"</i>
Requested Amount of Funding	\$10,800
Course Names and Course Numbers	American Government POLS 1101
Final Semester of Project	Fall 2019
Average Number of Students Per Course Section Affected by Project	30
Average Number of Sections Affected by Project in One Academic Year	22
Total Number of Students Affected by Project in One Academic Year	660
Average Number of Students Affected per Summer Semester	60
Average Number of Students Affected per Fall Semester	300
Average Number of Students Affected per Spring Semester	300
Title/Author of Original Required Materials	<i>American Government: Institutions and Policies</i> , James Q. Wilson, John J. Dilulio, Jr., Meena Bose, Matthew S. Levendusky, 16 th edition, Cengage, 2019, ISBN 978-1-33780-6855. https://www.cengage.com/c/american-government-institutions-and-policies-16e-wilson This book is required. A new bundle package (Printed Text + MindTap Political Science) version of <i>American Government</i> costs \$262.95.
Original Total Cost Per Student	\$262.95
Post-Project Cost Per Student	\$0
Post-Project Savings Per Student	\$262.95

Projected Total Annual Student Savings Per Academic Year	\$173,547.00
Using OpenStax Textbook?	Yes <i>American Government</i> , Glen Krutz, OpenStax, 2017, ISBN 978-1-947172-19-7 https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government This book will be required. It costs \$0.

Narrative Section

1. Project Goals

1. Reduce students' costs of taking POLS 1101 by using no-cost, high quality open educational resources instead of cost prohibitive, traditional textbooks.
2. Revise and update existing open educational resources such as *American Government* by Glen Krutz.
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The costs to students of taking POLS 1101 are very high (\$262.95 per student). East Georgia State College is an access institution that serves many low income students. In East Georgia State College's service region, the median household income is \$40,216, the percent of the population living below the poverty line is 22.6, and the percent of people twenty-five or older with at least a bachelor's degree is only 16.4. These numbers compare unfavorably with statewide averages. The median household income in Georgia is \$51,037, the percent of the population living below the poverty line is 16.0, and the percent of the population with at least a bachelor's degree is 29.4 (President of East Georgia State College's 8-1-2018 Presentation Economic and Education Statistics). To remove economic barriers to education, East Georgia State College offers low tuition rates (\$92.67 per credit hour). However, the high costs of textbooks remain a serious obstacle to students. Since many students cannot afford to spend \$262.95 on textbooks for one class, they either delay purchasing the textbooks until after receiving their financial aid (up to a month after classes start) or do not purchase the textbooks at all. Students who delay purchasing or do not purchase the course materials cannot complete assignments and are at high risk of failing the class.

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Quantitative Measures

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results of the pre and post-tests in the courses using the open educational resources (summer 2019, fall 2019) with courses they taught previously that used a traditional textbook (spring 2019 and earlier).

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Qualitative Measures

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5. Timeline

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6. Budget

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\$400 travel support for Dr. Brett Larson

\$5000 salary support for Dr. Lee Cheek

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Total: \$10,800

7. Sustainability Plan

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Further, Larson and Cheek will pursue opportunities to present the results of transforming POLS 1101 at academic conferences such as the Georgia Political Science Association's annual meeting.

Note: Letter of Support