Call for Participation: PSYC 1101 Affordable Adaptive Learning Pilot

# 1. Purpose

Initial data from Affordable Learning Georgia’s Course Catalog Designators indicated a high potential for department-wide OER scaling in the highly-enrolled **Introduction to General Psychology (PSYC 1101)**. In collaboration with the Regents Academic Advisory Committee on Psychology, Affordable Learning Georgia identified some barriers to adoption in Introduction to General Psychology at this scale. In order for PSYC 1101 courses across the system to implement more affordable materials, instructors needed:

* Easy materials setup within the Learning Management System (LMS) to account for last-minute appointments and limited preparation time in some departments.
* Interactive instructional materials which reliably guide learners in competencies related to the [APA Principles for Quality Undergraduate Education in Psychology](https://www.apa.org/education/undergrad/principles).
* Personalized assessment materials with an automatic scoring system which can export to the LMS grade platform.
* Materials which fit the various approaches and focuses of different psychology departments to PSYC 1101, such as behavioral health, social psychology, and evidence-based practice.

To this end, Affordable Learning Georgia is exploring the use of Lumen Learning’s [Waymaker Introduction to Psychology](https://lumenlearning.com/courses-intro-psychology/) in Introduction to General Psychology (PSYC 1101), provided to students with a [total cost of $25 per term](https://lumenlearning.com/how/payment-options/).

# 2. Description of Pilot

## Overview of Pilot

Participants will implement Lumen Learning’s Waymaker Introduction to Psychology within their Introduction to General Psychology (PSYC 1101) course. The only course design requirement is that Waymaker is implemented as part of the course; participants can still create, revise, and use their own materials, including their own assessments or department-wide assessments of student learning.

## Description of Waymaker Introduction to Psychology from Lumen Learning

Lumen Waymaker is a low-cost courseware that combines open educational resources (OER) with personalized learning tools and analytics. Features include:

* **Curated, customizable, outcome-aligned OER content** including text, video, assessments, simulations, and other interactive learning activities.
* **Personalized study plans and quizzes** allowing for frequent practice and immediate feedback.
* **Automated messaging tools** to identify and help struggling students.
* **Outcome analytics** which test iterative improvements to Lumen OER.

Lumen’s support staff, along with a [guided walkthrough](https://info.lumenlearning.com/demo) and [video walkthrough](https://lumenlearning.com/video-lumen-courseware-demos/), can assist instructors in getting started with the Waymaker platform.

[Waymaker Introduction to Psychology Description](https://lumenlearning.com/courses-intro-psychology/)

Waymaker Introduction to Psychology is a comprehensive course package based on the *OpenStax Psychology* open textbook with content covering a comprehensive range of standard topics in an introductory psychology course including, but not limited to, the following:

* Biological psychology
* Cognitive psychology
* Developmental psychology
* Social and personality psychology
* Mental and physical health

Instructors who use Waymaker Introduction to Psychology have access to real-world examples, curated videos, selected [NOBA Project](https://nobaproject.com/) content, algorithmic quizzes, an auto-messaging tool, lecture slides, faculty resource guides including activities and ideas for each learning module, question banks, a pacing guide, pre-created assignments and discussions with solutions, and an ePub version of the content.

## OER and Lumen Learning

Lumen Learning’s text content contains [original, revised, and remixed OER courses](https://lumenlearning.com/courses/) which are available to the public at no cost with an open license, including [all of the course content and learning outcomes for their Psychology course](https://courses.lumenlearning.com/waymaker-psychology/?utm_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Flumenlearning.com%2Fcourses%2Fintroduction-to-psychology%2F). Lumen Learning’s support of this OER includes the enhancement of this content through low-cost adaptive and interactive courseware systems, including the [Waymaker adaptive learning system](https://lumenlearning.com/what/waymaker/) and the [Online Homework Manager](https://lumenlearning.com/what/ohm/).

## Integration with Learning Management Systems

Waymaker is able to integrate with other learning management systems, such as Brightspace D2L and Canvas. Participants will not be required to use an external learning management system for the course. Integrations might differ by institution based on LMS administrators’ capabilities.

## Overview of Funding and Reporting

A $2000 stipend for each faculty member supports the extra time it takes to implement the materials, revise the structure of the course to include the materials, and create final reports at the end of Fall 2021. These reports will inform Affordable Learning Georgia on next steps in supporting adaptive learning with OER. With the course developed and implemented, faculty will then distribute a standard survey to departmental faculty to gather peer perceptions of the materials.

# 3. Participation Requirements

## Pre-Pilot Requirements

Participants must be instructors of at least one section of PSYC 1101 in a USG institution during Fall 2021 and employed by a USG institution at any rank or status. Whether the course is online, hybrid, or face-to-face does not affect qualification for the pilot. If any institution wishes to pilot this as a department-wide implementation, there is additional funding that can be made available.

## Letter of Support

The Department Chair from the corresponding project, or the Department Chair’s direct report such as the Dean or Provost, must provide a signed Letter of Support for the project. This letter should acknowledge the following:

* The department will provide support for fund disbursement in correspondence with the Grants/Business Office.
* The department approves of the work on the proposal by the applicant(s).

## Required Activities

* Meetings with ALG as needed
* Training sessions with Lumen Learning as needed
* Implementation of [Waymaker Introduction to Psychology](https://lumenlearning.com/courses-intro-psychology/) for instruction in Fall 2021 as the only course materials requiring a purchase
  + No other course materials with a cost can be included: the total materials cost per student must be the $25-per-student Waymaker cost only.
* Measuring particular success factors (see Quantitative and Qualitative Measures)
* Reporting on the implementation and measures in a Final Report
* Identification of content gaps (required topics and learning outcomes within your course which Waymaker either does not cover at all, does not cover enough, or does not cover within your approach)

## Quantitative and Qualitative Measures

* The cost of the materials previously used in the course before the Fall 2021 implementation (*the previous cost can be $0 if using OER and no-cost materials)*
* Student perceptions of the new materials, through the distribution of a standard survey created by ALG
* Instructor perceptions of the new materials, through the distribution of a standard survey created by ALG
* Peer perceptions of the new materials from other PSYC 1101 instructors in the department, through the distribution of a standard survey created by ALG
* Student performance, through semester-by-semester comparisons of learning outcomes measures including grades; *if possible, overall reporting of disaggregated data by Pell eligibility, race/ethnicity, and full-time/part-time status per* [*Watson, Colvard, and Park’s study on OER efficacy*](http://www.isetl.org/ijtlhe/pdf/IJTLHE3386.pdf)
* Student course-level retention, through semester-by-semester comparisons of DFW rates (depending on the institution, this is either Grade D/Grade F/Withdraw, or Drop/Fail/Withdraw); *if possible, overall reporting of disaggregated data by Pell eligibility, race/ethnicity, and full-time/part-time status per* [*Watson, Colvard, and Park’s study on OER efficacy*](http://www.isetl.org/ijtlhe/pdf/IJTLHE3386.pdf)

# 4. Application Process

The application process takes place in the [Online Application Form](https://forms.gle/tnJ6XmKTiXVm76AY7), followed by the submission of the Letter of Support (see section 3) to Affordable Learning Georgia administrators (Jeff Gallant, [jeff.gallant@usg.edu](mailto:jeff.gallant@usg.edu); Tiffani Reardon, [tiffani.reardon@usg.edu](mailto:tiffani.reardon@usg.edu)). Reviews for the pilot are administrative only. Applications will be selected by prioritizing the inclusion of multiple institutions and types of instructors.

[Application Form Link](https://forms.gle/tnJ6XmKTiXVm76AY7)

# 5. Timeline

* October 26, 2020: Application Deadline
* November 5, 2020: Notifications
* November 18, 2020, 1pm-3pm: Online Kickoff Meeting
* Spring and Summer 2021: Redesign and Waymaker implementation work
* Fall 2021: Implementation of Waymaker in course
* December 20, 2021: Completion of Final Report

# 6. Funding

Through a Service Level Agreement, the USG funds the institution in order to get the work on this pilots CFP and the team’s proposal completed. Awards from Affordable Learning Georgia can only cover direct costs related to the project; unlike external grants, they cannot cover indirect costs. For a basic definition of what indirect costs are, consult the [US Department of Education’s definition of indirect costs](https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocfo/intro.html).

Funding will be released to the sponsoring institutional office in two parts through two separate invoices: 50% on return of the USG-drafted Service Level Agreement (SLA), and 50% on submission of the final report.

This funding structure allows for flexibility with varying institutional guidelines. Funding procedures largely rely on institutional policies, along with state and BOR guidelines. Participants must coordinate as necessary with their Grants, Research, and/or Business Offices per institutional guidelines to determine how to handle fund distribution.

Funds can cover faculty and staff time and compensation, including course release time, overload pay, and replacement coverage, depending on institutional and departmental policies.