

Open Educational Resources (OER) + YOU, the Student

Advocating for Free and Affordable Textbooks on
YOUR Campus!



What is OER?

- Free or low-cost alternatives to costly commercial classroom materials

- OER is more than textbooks! They include slides, quiz banks, tutorials, syllabi and even full courses

- OER material is peer-reviewed and published with an open license. Instructors have the ability to download, edit and share without copyright concerns

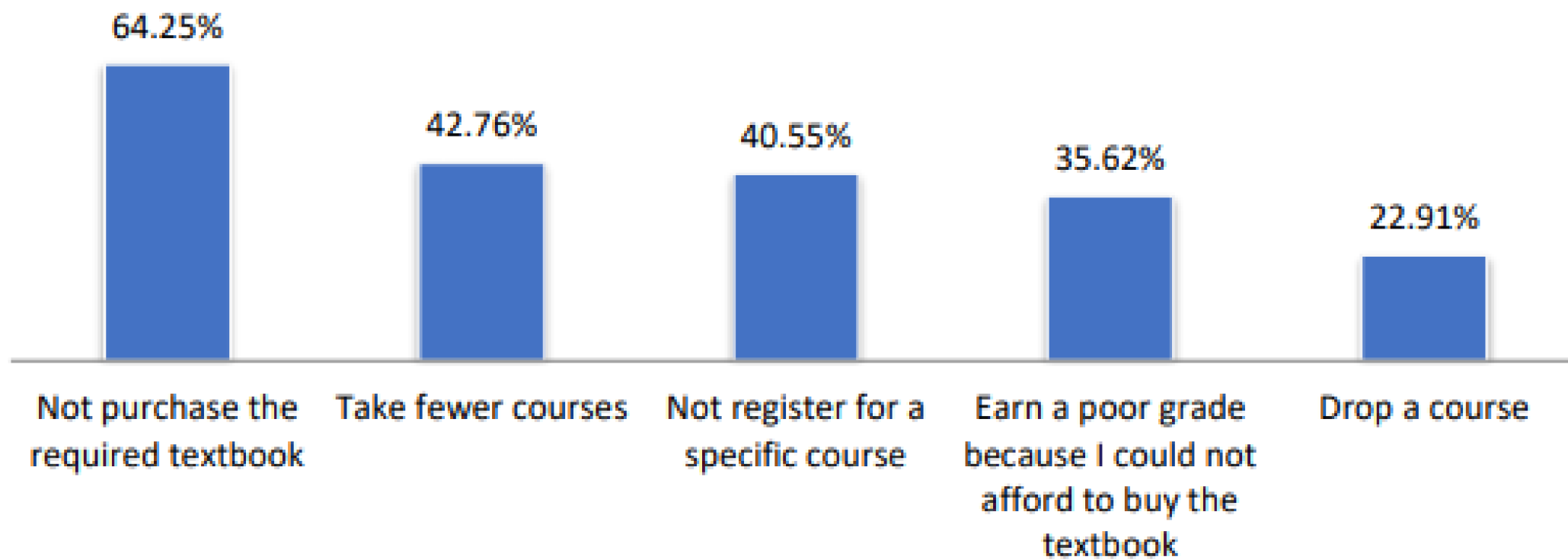
- Anyone can remix, reuse and revise material to better fit their course, their students and their community



Why OER?

- **Day One** access to your course material
- Reduces the **cost** burden on students
- Immediately **accessible**, online, download and print
- Improves **diversity and equity**: OER can be customized to create course material that is relevant and inclusive

The impact of textbook cost



Source: [Florida Virtual Campus, 2018 Student Textbook and Course Materials Survey: Results and Findings](#)



**Students
just like YOU
are ADVOCATING
for OER
on their campus!**



What Sacrifices Have You Made in Order to Afford Course Material?

[Take our Quick + Anonymous Survey!](#)

01

I have skipped a meal

02

I have missed a holiday home with my family

03

I had to choose a new major or a different class

04

I didn't buy the required book

05

Earned a lower grade or failed a course because I could not afford the textbook





Talking about OER Across YOUR campus



- **COST SAVINGS:** OER are free or low-cost and directly address reducing overall educational expenses
- **ACCESS:** Available to EVERY student from Day One- no need to wait until you can afford the material to begin assignments and join class discussions and follow along with lectures
- **UPDATES:** No need to buy a new edition each year- just access the latest updates online
- **ADAPTABLE:** Faculty can adapt existing OER and tailor it to their individual courses; are traditionally published textbooks including the important experiences of your community?

Making the Case with Campus Administrators

- **EQUITY** by reducing the cost burden on students
- **DIVERSITY** by allowing instructors to edit and adapt material to suit their students and course
- **ACCESSIBILITY** by allowing users to read, listen and experience material from that supports their learning needs
- **ENGAGEMENT** Students in classes who use OER are more engaged- improving participation and the academic experience



Making the Case with Campus Administrators

- **STUDENT SUCCESS** by ensuring that every student has all course materials from the first day of classes

OER have demonstrated to positively impact student success, per a recent study, *“They also improve course grades at greater rates and decrease DFW rates at greater rates for Pell recipient students, part-time students, and populations historically underserved by higher education”*

The Impact of Open Educational Resources on Various Student Success Metrics

- **MARKETING** investing in using OER material helps provide name recognition and reputational support. Become the textbook free degree University



Student OER Advocacy Ideas and Resources



Student Public Interest Research Groups
Open Textbooks Alliance
opentextbookalliance.org

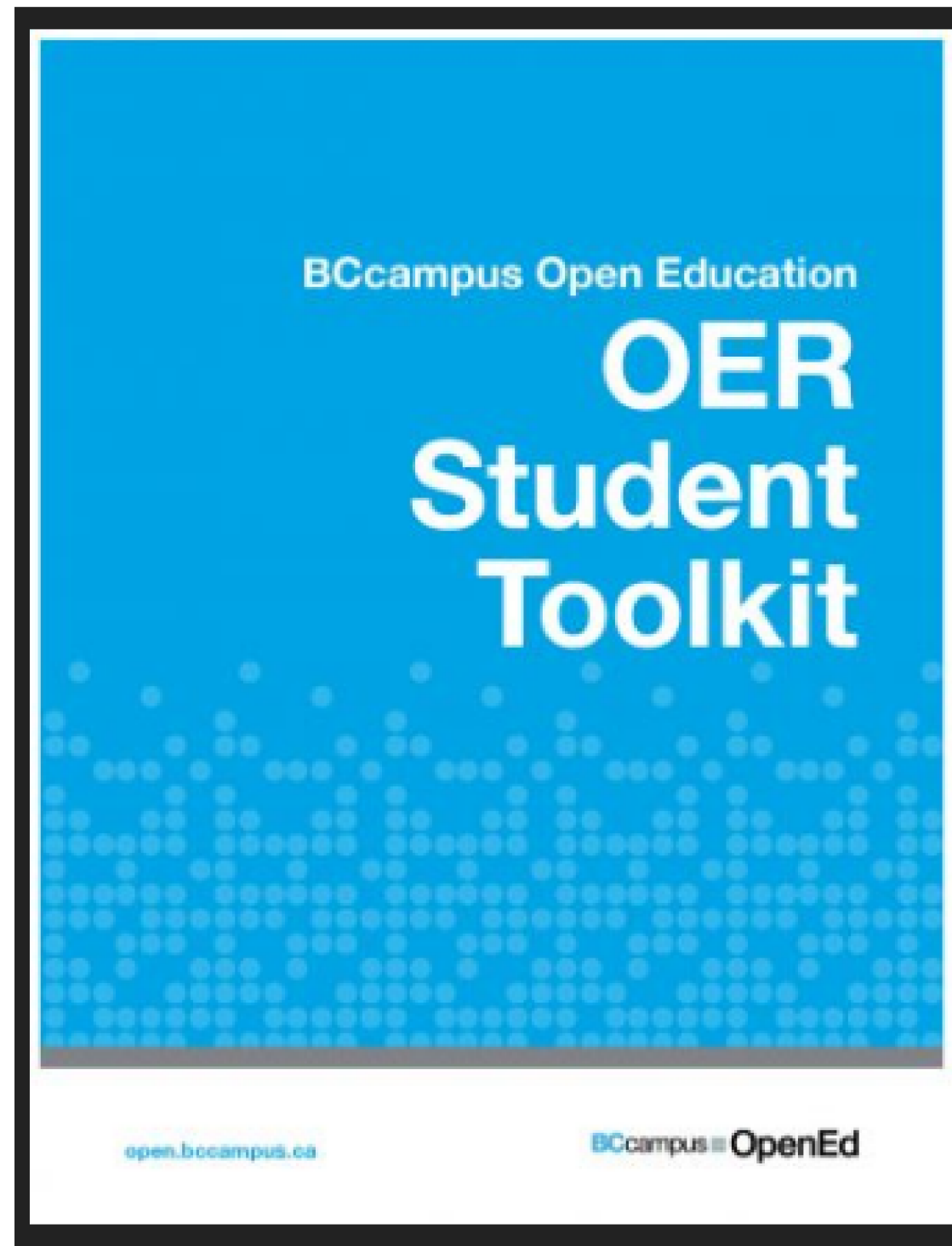
- In 2020, 65 percent of students surveyed reported skipping buying a textbook because of cost; 63 percent skipped purchasing one during the same period the previous year.
- More students are skipping access codes during the pandemic The number of students who report not buying an access code increased from 17 percent in 2019 to 21 percent in 2020.
- COVID-19 is hitting students hard and impacts course material affordability
- Food insecure students skip buying course materials at a significantly higher rate; 82 percent of students who reported missing a meal due to the pandemic also reported skipping buying textbooks due to the cost

Fixing the Broken Textbook Market, 3rd Edition

Report February 24, 2021 | Cailyn Nagle Director, Affordable Textbooks Campaign, U.S. PIRG



Student OER Advocacy Ideas and Resources



FREE + OPEN

DESIGNED BY STUDENTS

What Are OER, Why Are They Important?

What Already Exists On Your Campus?

How To Advocate On Your Campus

#textbooksobroke campaign

opentextbc.ca/studenttoolkit



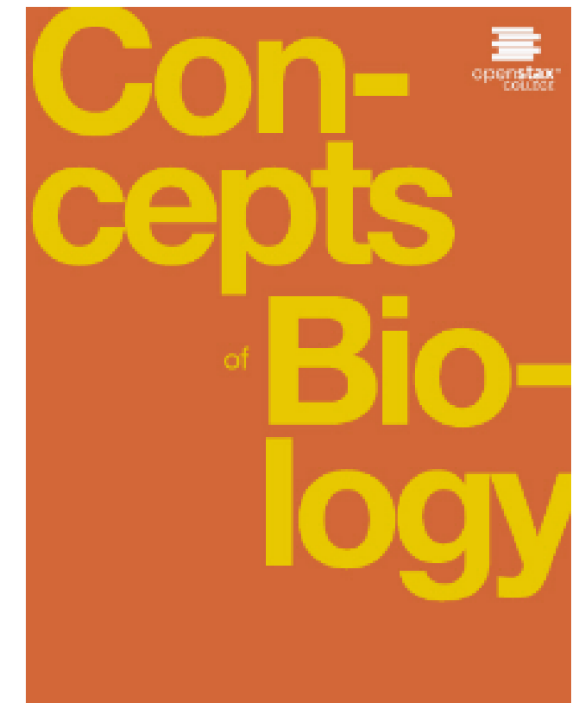
Student OER Advocacy Ideas and Resources

*Don't wait for an
OER textbook
to be assigned!*



Check out what's available right now:
[Open Textbook Library](#)

Take a quick look at this
introductory OER textbook:
[Concepts of Biology](#)



WHAT SACRIFICES HAVE YOU MADE IN ORDER TO AFFORD COURSE MATERIALS?



- I have skipped a meal.
- I have missed a holiday home with my family.
- I had to choose a new major.
- I didn't buy a required textbook because it was too expensive.
- Other:

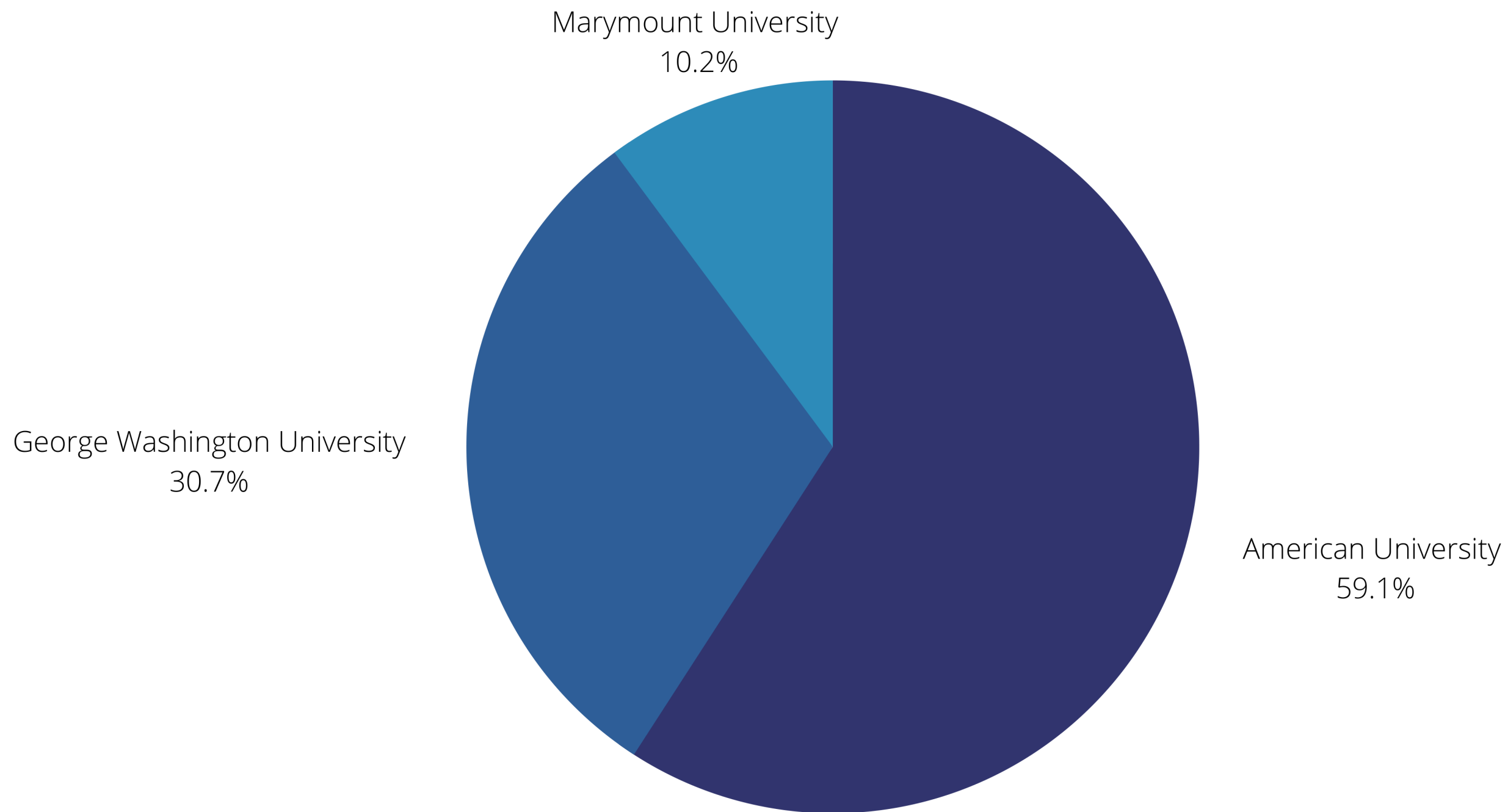
I ask my university faculty to stop assigning expensive access codes and transition to affordable course materials. I also call on campus leadership to support programs promoting the use of free, open textbooks on campus.

Professor's name & course number: _____

University _____ Name or initials: _____

For more information, contact open@wrlc.org or visit <https://open.wrlc.org>

***What do your fellow
classmates have to say?***
Download, print and share
the: [#textbooksobroke
postcard survey](#)



OER Savings in the DMV

How Much Money is Your School Working to Save You?



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Meet Your TAWG-ers! Textbook Affordability Working Group

*If your library contact is
is not listed, contact us
at open@wrlc.org for*



More OER Resources

- [Contact Your OER Campus Representative!](#)

- [Student PIRGs Activist Toolkit](#)

- [Open Textbook Alliance](#)

- [Open Textbook Alliance Toolkit: download here!](#)

- [Right to Research Coalition](#)

- and of course, your home team!
[Open@WRLC](#)

