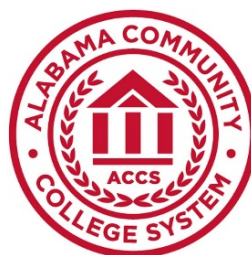


EBSCO



WILEY

ACHE/ACCS

Open Educational Resources (OER)

Creative Commons Certificate Grant Program

2020-2021 Academic Year

Overview

In the 2018-2019 academic year, the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) and the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) initiated a grant program that provided funds to instructors for the purpose of replacing their traditional course materials with open educational resources (OER). Open educational resources are teaching and learning materials that instructors and students may freely use and reuse at no cost without asking permission. The grant program was a tremendous success, affecting over 18,000 students and resulting in over \$2 million dollars in cost savings to students. As a result of the success of this first OER initiative, educators across the state have asked for more opportunities for grants related to OER as well as more customized training about the development and implementation of OER.

Consequently, ACHE and ACCS are co-sponsoring a grant program to encourage faculty and staff members at Alabama's K-20 institutions to learn more about replacing existing expensive traditional textbooks and other costly teaching and learning materials with open educational resources. Unlike traditionally copyrighted resources, OER are developed and posted for public use by the creators who agree to retain few, if any, ownership rights. Most OER are published using a Creative Commons license.

Creative Commons (<https://creativecommons.org>) is a nonprofit organization that focuses on sharing of knowledge and creativity. They achieve their mission by providing Creative Commons licenses and public domain tools to the public, working with institutions to create, adopt, and implement Creative Commons licenses, and offering the Creative Commons Certificate through their training course.

The grant program will fund the registration fee of \$500 for up to 22 faculty and staff members across the State to participate in the Creative Commons Certificate Training from January 18, 2021 through March 28, 2021. The training is a rigorous 10-week online course which requires an average of 6-10 hours of work per week. The course is mostly asynchronous, but there will be graded materials due

every week and four optional webinars. The Resources page for the training, including a sample syllabus, can be found at <https://certificates.creativecommons.org/about/certificate-resources-cc-by/>.

Number of Grants

Of the 22 grants available, 10 are reserved for community college participants, 10 are reserved for public four-year institution participants, and two are open to K-20 educators and staff members at any public or private institution. The two open seats are generously provided by EBSCO and Wiley.

No more than one individual will be selected from each institution unless there are fewer than 22 institutions represented in the applicant pool. In that case, grants will be awarded in order of points earned using an evaluation rubric (**Appendix 1**).

Regardless of the number of applicants, the application must meet the minimum threshold of acceptability using the evaluation rubric.

Application Process

Individuals who want to participate should:

1. Complete the grant application (Proposal for ACHE/ACCS Open Educational Resources Creative Commons Certificate Grant).
2. Review the application using the OER Grant Proposal Evaluation Rubric (**Appendix 1**) to ensure that all required elements are in place.
3. Secure at least one letter of support from the chief administrator (Dean of Instruction, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Principal of High School, etc.) of the sponsoring unit.
4. Package the grant application and letter(s) of support into a single PDF and e-mail the file to both Ron Leonard (ron.leonard@ache.edu) and Brad Fricks (brad.fricks@accs.edu).

For questions about the grant program or the application process, contact either of the following:

Ron Leonard, Director of Special Initiatives
Alabama Commission on Higher Education
100 South Union Street
P.O. Box 302000
Montgomery, AL 36130-2000
Phone: 334-242-2211
ron.leonard@ache.edu

Brad Fricks, Director of Academic Affairs
Alabama Community College System
135 South Union Street
P.O. Box 302130
Montgomery, AL 36130-2130
Phone: 334-293-4536
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Evaluation of Proposals

Applications will be evaluated by an administrative team composed of representatives from the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) and the Alabama Community College System (ACCS). Proposals will be judged on the response to the essay question using the OER Grant Proposal Evaluation Rubric (see Appendix 1). Follow-up questions or interviews may be requested of applicants.

Priority consideration will be given to applications that demonstrate a firm commitment to complete the course in its entirety, evidence of how the learning will be disseminated to other educators at the institution, a willingness to be an ongoing institutional contact for other educators interested in learning about OER and Creative Commons, and plans for either revising an existing resource or creating one.

Funding Details

The ACHE/ACCS OER Creative Commons Training Grant will be disbursed directly from the Alabama Commission on Higher Education or the Alabama Community College System to Creative Commons for the registration fees of the grant recipients. Funds **will not** be issued to individual recipients.

Registration of grant recipients will be completed upon receipt of the signed ACHE/ACCS OER Creative Commons Training Grant Agreement. The agreement must be signed by the recipient and the chief administrator of the recipient's sponsoring organization.

Required Actions/Activities

Grant recipients will be expected to do the following:

1. Complete the Creative Commons Certificate training,
2. Choose the "Design Your Own Project" option as your final project in the training course, and post your project on the Alabama Hub of the OER Commons platform, and
3. Complete an evaluation of the training upon completion.

In addition, it is requested that each recipient choose one of the following options:

1. Make a presentation to the recipient's colleagues on their campuses about OER and/or Creative Commons licensing. The presentation should be recorded for posting on the ACHE OER webpage.
2. Record a video presentation about how you are using what you have learned in the training course on your campus. The presentation will be posted on the ACHE OER webpage.

Timeline

- **November 2, 2020 (5:00PM CDT): Deadline for submission of applications**
- November 4, 2020: Administrative review and evaluation of applications
- November 6, 2020: Notification of award decisions
- November 13, 2020: Deadline to submit signed grant agreement
- January 18, 2021 – March 28, 2021: Participate in the training
- April 16, 2021: Deadline for submission of evaluation of training and for posting of final course project on the Alabama Hub of OER Commons
- December 31, 2021: Deadline for presenting to colleagues about OER, delivering a copy of the recording of the presentation to ACHE, and, if applicable, posting a resource to the Alabama Hub of OER Commons.

Appendix 1

ACHE/ACCS OER Creative Commons Training Grant Application

Evaluation Rubric

Category	Possible Points				Score	Reviewer Comments
Commitment to completion of the course	None Evident 0	Minimal 1 – 2	Sufficient 3 – 4	Strong 5		
Commitment to disseminative knowledge and skills to other educators at the institution	None Evident 0	Minimal 1 – 2	Sufficient 3 – 4	Strong 5		
Willingness to be an ongoing institutional contact about OER and CC	None Evident 0	Minimal 1 – 2	Sufficient 3 – 4	Strong 5		
Plans for either revising an existing resource or creating a new resource	None Evident 0	Minimal 1 – 2	Sufficient 3 – 4	Strong 5		
Total Points						

Overall Reviewer Comments, Questions, Concerns, or Feedback to Proposer: