

# AB Textbook Broke

For University Administrators the benefits of Open Educational Resources (OER) are clear:

- Multiple studies have found that courses using OER produce learning outcomes that are not statistically different from courses using traditional textbooks (but they save students money)
- Research has demonstrated a positive impact between OER use in courses and withdrawal rates from courses
- Institutions making use of OER may garner reputational benefits

OER May Confer Institutional Reputational Benefits

While MIT started the OER movement over 20 years ago by making course materials open, it has been suggested that institutions may garner reputational benefits through their use of OER (Littlejohn et al., 2014; Falconer et al., 2016)

## OER's Have a Positive Impact on Reducing Withdrawal Rates

Use of OER has repeatedly been found to produce a statistically significant impact on reducing withdrawal rates in courses (Chiorescu, 2017; Bol et al., 2022; Wiley et al., 2016). Furthermore, positive impacts on reducing course drop outs has been found in both in person and online classes (Hilton et al., 2016). One study of engineering students even found that use of OER in a course was positively associated with increasing student retention one year after the course was offered (Zhao et al., 2020). Improvements to withdrawal and retention rates not only benefit students, but can also contribute to institutional savings (Clinton, 2019).

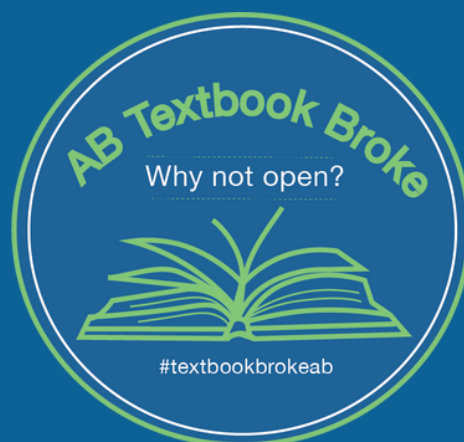
## OER's Have No Negative Impact on Student Learning

Empirical research, including Canadian examinations, have demonstrated that student performance in classes using OER is comparable to classes using traditional textbooks (Clinton, 2019; Jhangiani et al., 2018; Fischer et al, 2015; Hilton and Laman, 2012; Hilton, 2018; Hilton, 2020; Hilton, 2016). In two Canadian studies, over 90% of students perceived OER as equal to or better than traditional textbooks (Jhangiani and Jhangiani, 2017; Hendricks et al, 2017). Faculty also benefit. Multiple studies have found that the primary benefit for instructors using OER is that they are a source of ideas and inspiration (Jhangiani et al., 2016; de los Arcos et al., 2015) and can broaden teaching methods (Weller et al., 2017).

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**With cost savings for students, no negative impacts on student learning, benefits for faculty teaching, improved retention rates, and possible institutional reputation benefits... Why Not Open?**

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