

SAC STUDENT GUIDE TO OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Santa Ana College Distance Education, Cesar Chavez Building Room A-101, (714) 564-6725, DistEd@sac.edu

Open Educational Resources (OER) are course materials that can be used and reused freely at no cost. Unlike conventional copyrighted course material, OER material creators retain few, if any, ownership rights. Why is that important? The premise of OER is to provide “free and unfettered access, and perpetual, irrevocable 5R permissions” that allow instructors and students to “retain, reuse, revise, remix, and redistribute” the course material. (Dr. David Wiley, October 2016)

SAC STUDENT GUIDE TO OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Welcome to the Santa Ana College (SAC) Student Guide to Open Educational Resources (OER). The purpose of this guide is to provide guidance and support for students who are taking a course that utilizes OER materials. For more information about OER at SAC, please see the website: www.sac.edu/OERStudents.

What does a student need to know about Open Educational Resources (OER)? The SAC Student Guide to Open Educational Resources has the following information:

- [How to find courses that use OER at SAC](#)
- [Where the OER material will be located](#)
- [How to access and use OER material](#)
- [Options for retaining OER course material \(when applicable\)](#)
- [Options for printing OER course material \(when applicable\)](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

How to find courses that use OER at SAC:

Students can search for OER courses at SAC by using [Web Advisor](#). To search for current OER Courses at Santa Ana College, access [Web Advisor](#). On the Search for Sections Page, complete the Term and Location fields using the pull down menu. **Under Section Type, select OER - Open Education Resource** from the pull down menu. Click the Submit button at the bottom to display the current OER Courses at SAC. For more information, including a “how to” and video on how to search for courses that use OER at SAC, please see the website: www.sac.edu/OERSearch.

Where the OER material will be located:

Just as with traditional courses, all OER course material will be located in the course in Blackboard. Blackboard can be accessed through the SAC website (www.sac.edu) or directly at <http://rscdd.blackboard.com>.

How to access and use OER material:

The following identifies what a student will need or may need in order to access the OER content in a course. Within a course, the exact location of the OER material in the Blackboard course shell may vary by instructor.

Internet Access

As OER content is most often electronic and is housed in Blackboard, Internet access is required. High-speed access is preferable. If a student does not have internet access, there are computers on campus available for student use in the Nealley Library (www.sac.edu/library).

Blackboard Learn

OER material for the course, will be housed in Blackboard (<http://rscdd.blackboard.com>). The starting point for all material will be in the Blackboard course, but may redirect students to outside sources such as external websites, YouTube, Lumen, Wikimedia Commons, and/or other online repositories of digital content.

Using OER

Content can come in a variety of forms such as text, video, audio, documents, websites, and mixed media. Students will need the ability to access all electronic forms that content may be delivered in, which may include PDF documents, Microsoft Office, mp3, or mp4 files.

Options for retaining OER material (when applicable)

Some OER content can be downloaded and retained by the student. For downloaded content, it is advisable for students to have a specific place, such as a dedicated folder on a personal computer or a flash drive, to store any downloaded course material. For content on external websites, students can set a bookmark on the browser on their personal computer or device, to enable students to revisit material when needed.

Options for printing OER material (when applicable)

OER text-based material can be printed by students who prefer a hard copy. There are a few options available to students for printing. The SAC Bookstore works with instructors to provide low-cost printed options for OER materials. Students also have the option of printing the material on their own device. The Nealley Library at SAC also has printers available to students at a cost.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Q: What are Open Educational Resources (OER)?

Open Educational Resources (OER) are course materials that can be used and reused freely at no cost. Unlike conventional copyrighted course material, OER material creators retain few, if any,

ownership rights. Why is that important? The premise of OER is to provide “free and unfettered access, and perpetual, irrevocable 5R permissions” that allow instructors and students to “retain, reuse, revise, remix, and redistribute” the course material. (Dr. David Wiley, October 2016)

Q: Why is my instructor using OER?

Instructors opt to use Open Educational Resources for a variety of reasons. Faculty, like many students, have become concerned with the significant rise in the cost of textbooks. OER offers instructors and students with a low cost or no cost options for course materials. OER also offers instructors flexibility in their content, as they are able to reuse, revise, and remix the material to always ensure that their courses contain the most up-to-date and relevant information.

Q: Where can I find OER content?

Students can search for courses at SAC that use OER on Web Advisor. To search for current OER Courses at Santa Ana College, access [Web Advisor](#). On the Search for Sections Page, complete the Term and Location fields using the pull down menu. **Under Section Type, select OER - Open Education Resource** from the pull down menu. Click the Submit button at the bottom to display the current OER Courses at SAC. For more information, including a “how to” and video on how to search for courses that use OER at SAC, please see the website: www.sac.edu/OERSearch.

Q: Am I allowed to keep and share the course materials?

One of the benefits of OER is that it is open and available. Most OER materials are developed under a Creative Commons license. While there are some restrictions that the creator can impose, the exact nature of the Creative Commons license can be found on the website: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses>. OER material can be retained and shared in accordance with the specifics of the licensing agreement.

Q: Is Internet access required to take an OER course?

OER courses will be accessed online through Blackboard, which does require Internet access. If students do not have Internet access at home, there are computers available for student use at the Nealley Library on the SAC campus.

Q: Can OER be accessed on a tablet or mobile device?

OER material used at SAC will be delivered through Blackboard. Blackboard can be accessed on a tablet or mobile device. Students can download the free Blackboard app, Bb Student, for Android and Apple devices. While content such as documents, videos, or websites can be easily accessed online utilizing the app or browser, it is not recommended to complete assignments or tests on a mobile device. Use a computer with a reliable Internet connection for any assignments or tests.

Q: Where can I find more information about Open Educational Resources?

For more information about OER at Santa Ana College, go to the website: www.sac.edu/OERStudents. For information on the specifics of a Creative Commons licensing agreement, go to the website: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses>.