

OPEN EDUCATIONAL  
RESOURCES

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## For Students: What Does OPEN Mean for Students?

### Copyright

A simple definition of copyright is that it is a bunch of rights in certain creative works (literary works, artistic works, musical works, computer programs, sound recordings, films and broadcasts) which can be used to stop others from copying the creative works without permission.

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**OER** (Open Educational Resources) are teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an open copyright license that permits their free use and re-purposing by others. Open educational resources include full courses, course materials, modules, textbooks, streaming videos, tests, software, and any other tools, materials, or techniques used to support access to knowledge. (Based on Hewlett Foundation)

Open educational resources allow users to engage with '5R activities.'

### The 5 Rs of Open

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Retain	Make and own a <b>copy</b>
Reuse	<b>Use</b> in a wide range of ways
Revise	<b>Adapt</b> , modify, and improve
Remix	<b>Combine</b> two or more
Redistribute	<b>Share</b> with others

**Open Pedagogy** takes OER as a starting point for rethinking the relationship between instructors, students and knowledge. If instructors and students are able to modify their learning materials, a shift can be made from students as consumers to producers of knowledge.

### Creative Commons Licenses Explained

The table below shows what users have permission to do with materials that have a public domain designation or carry a Creative Commons license:

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#### Less Permissions

### Why Your Instructors May Be Using OER:

Your instructors may be using open textbooks or other OER, or integrating open pedagogy into your courses for a variety of reasons including:

- The ability to customize learning materials to make them what you really need in your course
- The opportunity to allow you to engage in the 5Rs of open by creating, collaborating with others, and sharing your own work or existing OER that you're building upon
- The opportunity to increase access to learning materials because they are available freely, in a variety of formats, whenever you need them

Using OER (particularly as a replacement for a commercial textbook) can require a large investment of time for faculty in, for example, developing course notes, assignments, quizzes, exams, slides, etc.. In addition, OER may not yet exist for your course. Keep these things in mind if you are going to speak to your instructor about using OER.



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