



## Textbook Cost Type: Search and Display Project

### Faculty Information

As faculty and campuses adopt zero-cost textbooks and materials and zero textbook cost degrees (Z-Degrees), students need a method to find these courses while registering. Campuses are required to be transparent about course costs, and because the student registration process was developed by the system, Minnesota State has been working on a solution to present a consistent method for searching and displaying courses that offer zero-cost textbooks and materials during course registration.

### Definitions

**Regular-Cost Textbook:** Total cost of textbooks and materials is more than \$40.

**Zero Textbook Cost (No Cost):** An instructor uses textbooks and related course materials that are no cost for students.

Common materials that are **NOT** calculated in the zero textbook cost definition are:

- Art supplies
- Calculators
- Equipment
- Class fees

**OER:** An instructor uses a textbook that is Creative Commons Licensed and is no cost to students. This will appear to students as “**No Cost.**” Note: If a print option is available, but is a cost for students, the textbook can still be an OER if a zero-cost option is available to all students.

**Low Textbook Cost:** An instructor uses a textbook that costs less than or equal to \$40.

**No Textbook Used:** An instructor does not use a textbook or any materials identified in the **included in textbook costs\*** section.

**Unknown Textbook Used:** An instructor does not report the textbook type.



Participating campuses of Phase 1, which began in March 2020, include colleges in the Z-Degree Project:

- Anoka-Ramsey Community College
- Central Lakes College
- Century College
- Lake Superior College
- Mesabi Range College
- Minneapolis College
- Northland Community and Technical College

Students of these participating campuses can only search for courses that offer **No Cost Textbooks** (includes OER, Zero Cost, and No Textbook Used) during this phase.

Future phases of the project will assess additional options that result from the pilot.

Visit the [OER Community Site](#) to find more information, including **\*FAQs**.

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