

Spring 2016

## College Algebra (University of North Georgia)

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# Grants Collection

University of North Georgia



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM  
OF GEORGIA



Minsu Kim, Hashim Saber, Bikash Das, Thomas Hartfield

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# College Algebra

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## Grants Collection

Affordable Learning Georgia Grants Collections are intended to provide faculty with the frameworks to quickly implement or revise the same materials as a Textbook Transformation Grants team, along with the aims and lessons learned from project teams during the implementation process.

Each collection contains the following materials:

- Linked Syllabus
  - The syllabus should provide the framework for both direct implementation of the grant team's selected and created materials and the adaptation/transformation of these materials.
- Initial Proposal
  - The initial proposal describes the grant project's aims in detail.
- Final Report
  - The final report describes the outcomes of the project and any lessons learned.



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# Initial Proposal

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**Affordable Learning Georgia Textbook Transformation Grants  
Rounds Four and Five  
For Implementations Beginning Spring Semester 2016  
Running Through Spring Semester 2017**

**Proposal Form and Narrative**

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<b>Applicant Phone Number</b>	678-717-3546
<b>Primary Appointment Title</b>	Assistant Professor
<b>Institution Name(s)</b>	University of North Georgia – Gainesville Campus
<b>Team Members</b>	<p>1. Minsu Kim, Assistant Professor of Mathematics; <a href="mailto:minus.kim@ung.edu">minus.kim@ung.edu</a></p> <p>2. Hashim Saber, Professor of Mathematics; <a href="mailto:hashim.saber@ung.edu">hashim.saber@ung.edu</a></p> <p>3. Bikash Das, Assistant Professor of Mathematics; <a href="mailto:bikash.das@ung.edu">bikash.das@ung.edu</a></p> <p>4. Thomas Hartfield, Associate Professor of Mathematics; <a href="mailto:Thomas.Hartfield@ung.edu">Thomas.Hartfield@ung.edu</a></p>

<b>Sponsor, Title, Department, Institution</b>	<i>Dr. John Cruthirds, Department Chair of Mathematics, University of North Georgia; john.cruthirds@ung.edu</i>				
<b>Proposal Title</b>	No-cost replacement of the high cost required materials for four mathematics courses (College Algebra, Pre-Calculus, Elementary Statistics, and Calculus II)				
<b>Course Names, Course Numbers and Semesters Offered</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>College Algebra; Math 1111, offered every Fall, Spring, and Summer</i></li> <li>2. <i>Pre-Calculus; Math 1113, offered every Fall, Spring, and Summer</i></li> <li>3. <i>Elementary Statistics; Math 2400, offered every Fall, Spring, and Summer</i></li> <li>4. <i>Calculus II; Math 2460, offered every Fall, Spring, and Summer</i></li> </ol>				
<b>Final Semester of Instruction</b>	Fall 2016				
<b>Average Number of Students Per Course Section</b>	30	<b>Number of Course Sections Affected by Implementation in Academic Year</b>	35	<b>Total Number of Students Affected by Implementation in Academic Year</b>	1050
<b>Award Category (pick one)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No-Cost-to-Students Learning Materials <input type="checkbox"/> OpenStax Textbooks <input type="checkbox"/> Specific Top 50 Lower Division Courses				
<b>List the original course materials for students (including title, whether optional or required, &amp; cost for each item)</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>Course Materials</b>			<b>Optional /Required &amp; cost[e-book: hard cover]</b>
	College Algebra (Math 1111)	Julie Miller, College Algebra, McGraw Hill; 2014			Required \$133.35
		ConnectMath Homework software			Optional \$98.70
Pre-Calculus (Math 1113)	Stewart, Redlin & Watson, Algebra and Trigonometry, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition,			Required	

		Brooks/Cole;2012	\$206.80
		WebAssign Homework software	Optional \$92
	Elementary Statistics (Math 2400)	Fundamentals of Statistics by Michael Sullivan (Fourth Edition)	Required \$98
	Calculus II (Math 2460)	Calculus. Early Transcendental Functions 6th edition by Larson & Edwards (Publisher: Brooks/Cole)	Required \$299.70
		WebAssign Homework Software	Optional \$118
<b>Original Per Student Cost</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. College Algebra (Math 1111) – \$98.70 (with e-text) to \$133.35 (with hardcover)</li> <li>2. Pre-Calculus (Math 1113) - \$92 (with e-text) to \$206.80 (with hardcover)</li> <li>3. Elementary Statistics (Math 2400) - \$98 (with e-text)</li> <li>4. Calculus II (Math 2460) - \$118 (with e-text) to \$299.70 (with hardcover)</li> </ol>		
<b>Post-Proposal Projected Per Student Cost</b>	\$0 (100% savings)		
<b>Projected Per Student Savings</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. From \$98.70 to \$133.35 for College Algebra (Math 1111)</li> <li>2. From \$92 to 206.80 for Pre-Calculus (Math 1113)</li> <li>3. \$98 for Elementary Statistics (Math 2400)</li> <li>4. From \$118 to \$299.70 for Calculus II (Math 2460)</li> </ol>		
<b>Plan for Hosting Materials</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">OpenStax CNX</a> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D2L <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">LibGuides</a> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other – Shared Class Files		
<b>Requested Amount of Funding</b>	\$21,200		

## **NARRATIVE**

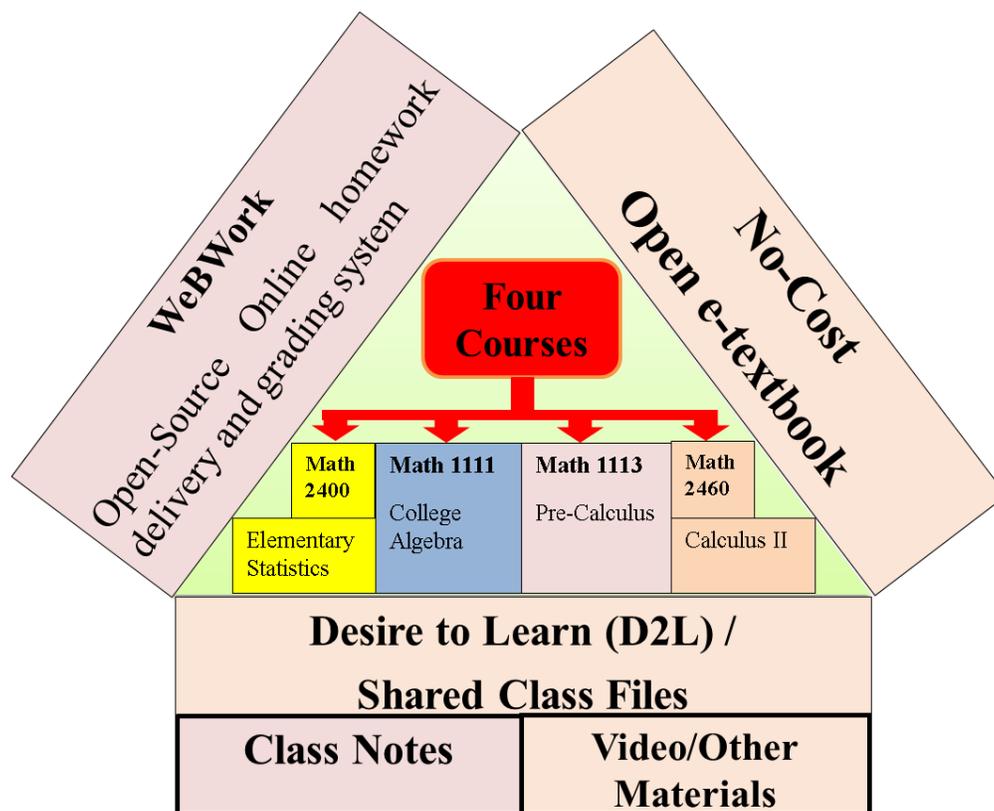
### **1.1 PROJECT GOALS**

There are three goals that the project intend to achieve

1. To Replace high-cost required textbooks by high-quality and affordable instructional materials, through Open Education Resources, at zero cost to students.
2. To improve education quality and student's learning by providing easy access valuable textbooks and supplement materials with zero cost to students. These chosen open resources and constructed materials (short video lectures, notes, open textbooks materials and videos) will be mapped to the objectives and topics of each course to maintain syllabus consistency and provide better capacity to meet learning goals of each course. Materials will be accessed through D2L and shared class files.
3. To incorporating a free computerized homework and quiz delivery and grading system (WeBWork) into each course. Commercial software is usually costly and most students do not take the advantage of using the software because they can't afford buying them.

It is a fact that purchasing a high-cost required textbook is a burdensome to students and in particular to low-income and non-traditional students. Even students who receive financial aids sometimes have to wait until the second week of classes before the aid become available. This project will make all instructional materials available to all students in the four courses from day one of the semester with no cost. As a result, this project serves to increase retention and progression in the course and raise awareness to students regarding resources that available to them at no cost.

## 1.2 STATEMENT OF TRANSFORMATION



For the four courses, College Algebra, Pre-calculus, Elementary Statistics, and Calculus II, online texts from Affordable Learning Georgia open online texts will be adopted and will be linked to D2L or Shared Class Files. To improve teaching and learning, WeBWork, a free open-source online computerized homework-generating and grading system, will be used for homework and quizzes. Since video lectures help students develop conceptual understanding and motivation (Ruthven & Hennessy, 2002), we will link supplemental micro video lectures and practice exercises from Khan Academy or YouTube for the appropriate sections in D2L and Shared Class Files. In addition we plan to create additional short video lectures or videos for reviews using Camtasia Studio. Thus, students will access the aforementioned open resources on D2L or Shared Class Files with no cost to students.

The primary stakeholders are students. Utilizing the Affordable Learning Georgia Textbook Transformation Grant, students will have opportunities to learn using materials with the same educational recourses and similar instructional methods to commercial resources at no cost. In addition, students will be prepared for upper-level mathematics courses in an innovative educational environment at a minimum of expense.

The faculty members who teach these courses are also stakeholders. Mathematics faculty will have the opportunity to use innovative open resources with the same quality of

commercial texts and materials. Instructors have the opportunity to use their time more efficiently and better develop their pedagogical methods through this project. For example, instructional materials in D2L or Shared Class Files will serve as a guide providing no-cost-to-student learning materials. In addition, we will post and share our quizzes and homework assignments through WeBWorK. Each faculty member can utilize the same problem sets for their quizzes and homework on WeBWorK because WeBWorK changes the numerical values using the same question forms. Thus, this project will encourage faculty to align their instruction with sound pedagogical methods and innovative open educational recourses for College Algebra, Pre-Calculus, Elementary Statistics, and Calculus II because of the high quality of teaching materials, reduction in financial concerns for students, and easy access to our class websites on D2L and Shared Class Files.

This project will have immediate impact for approximately 1,050 students to reduce their cost of learning materials each academic year (see Table 1). In addition, a total savings in the year of implementation will be at least \$96,600.

Table 1. Cumulative saving cost of Spring, Summer, and Fall 2015				
Course	The number of sections from College Algebra, Pre-Calculus, Statistics, and Calculus II	The number of students	The minimum cost for a text (at least \$92): College Algebra \$98.70 (with e-text), <b>Pre-Calculus</b> <b>\$92 (with e-text),</b> Statistics \$98(with e-text), Calculus II \$118 (with e-text)	Total cost savings
Spring 2016	10	300	\$27,600 (\$92×300)	\$27,600
Summer 2016	Possible 10	300	\$27,600 (\$92×300)	\$27,600
Fall 2016	15	450	\$41,400 (\$92×450)	\$41,400
Total	35	1050		\$96,600

### 1.3 TRANSFORMATION ACTION PLAN

There are four components of the action plan for this project:

1. Review and development

Each team member will review all course materials and identify research in terms of adopting free educational open resources in order to find the most appropriate open texts. We will develop a syllabus for each course and replace a commercial textbook with a free open text from Affordable Learning Georgia and incorporate computerized homework by using WeBWorK.

2. Creation of open education rescors

We will create PDF lecture notes or Power Points. We will create homework assignments and quizzes for each section of each course on WeBWorK and make these assignments available to faculty who teach these courses. Mr. Thomas Hartfield and Dr. Kim will utilize their expertise to create additional video lectures using Camtasia Studio.

3. Integration

We will search for appropriate videos and interactive multimedia content. We will link short videos or interactive multimedia content to the PDF lecture notes or Power Points based on topics for the four courses.

4. Implement in College Algebra, Elementary Statistics, and Calculus II (sections taught by only grant members)

The open texts, online lecture notes with linked video and interactive multimedia, and WeBWorK for each course will be uploaded into D2L or Shared Class Files.

### 1.4 QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE MEASURES

- i) To evaluate this project, data will be collected from three different data sources: Drop, Fail, Withdraw (DFW) rate from Banner Web. This data will then be cross tabulated along with the preliminary assessment and Cumulative Final exam results.

Rubric							
Course	Total no. of stud. Registered	Preliminary assessment (median)	Withdraw %	Drop %	Cumulative Final exam (median)	Pass %	Fail % Individual Scores are less than 60%
College Algebra (Math 1111)							
Pre-Calculus (Math 1113)							
Calculus II (Math 2460)							
Elementary Statistics							

(Math 2400)							
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Data for the rubric will be collected from Spring 2016 for all the above mentioned courses which will be analyzed with a similar set of data from control courses taught in a traditional fashion using an actual text book and/or an online publishers' website. The linear correlation will be examined to study the interplay between "no cost" courses and "students' success/retention".

- ii) Technological Competency: The students' Internet skills, retrieving and managing information via technology will be evaluated at least three times during the semester period via online survey and assessments through D2L. Data like how often and how long a student is logged in to the online learning system WeBWorK or accessing OpenStax text books and how that corresponds to their successful completion of the course will be collected. For all these data the appropriate central tendencies and variabilities will be calculated. These statistics will be used as point estimates to estimate the population parameters for the entire UNG Mathematics student population. The final results will be closely administered and studied thoroughly to determine necessary improvements and easier accessibility of the course resources.
- iii) Students' feedback through survey: Students will be asked to participate in anonymous surveys about the overall effectiveness of the "no cost" courses at least twice during the semester. We plan to conduct an initial survey early in the term with a final survey near the end of the semester. A separate survey will be conducted to determine students' progress which will target the following areas: how regularly or reluctantly students are attaining lectures or attending classes; to what degree the major assignments are being completed; the degree of efficiency in completing major assignments; and the level of student participation in class work and/or discussions. Moreover, the principal investigators will conduct a self-assessment of the experience of adopting the **Affordable Learning Georgia** initiatives.

At the conclusion of the semester a general report based on the rubric will be created for peer evaluation and the following learning outcomes will be evaluated:

1. Students will be able to identify and relate to the course specific topic mastery requirements.
2. Students will be able to relate each of the course topics with at least one real life application problem and master it.
3. Students will be able to develop skills for **reading Mathematics course materials** and retain the information with ease.
4. Students will exhibit the characteristic of self-directed learners.

Finally, we will ask students if they encountered any difficulties using the materials accessible through the internet or their mobile devices so that the courses can be made easier to access from anywhere using a wide variety of devices such as tablets and smartphones.

## 1.5 TIMELINE

10/1/2015	Kick-off meeting to construct learning materials for the four courses (Math 1111; Math 1113; Math 2400; and Math 2460).
10/15/2015	Finalize reviewing and evaluating no-cost e-textbooks. Map the learning objectives (stated in UNG syllabi) of each of the four courses to the sections of the texts selected from the e-textbook. Modify each course syllabus to reflect the changes.
11/30/2015	Complete creation of learning materials to include class notes and short videos for each of the four courses based on the selected no-cost e-textbook.
12/15/2015	Complete creation of assignments in WeBWork for each of the four courses. [WeBWork is already installed in UNG-Gainesville server]
12/18/2015	Submit a semester status report to ALG
12/20/2015	Finalize the learning materials and upload all needed electronic materials to D2L and UNG WeBWork site to make sure that all four courses are ready for delivery in the Spring 2016 semester.
January 11, 2016-April 29, 2016	1/12/2016 Pre-test completed for the four courses
	Implementation: Piloting of course materials for the four classes – Spring 2016 semester.
	4/28/2016 Complete data collection and complete Post-test (the four courses)
May 2016	Review and modify the piloted materials
May 20, 2016	Submit a semester status report to ALG
Summer 2016	Implement possibly 10 sections for the four courses
August 12, 2016	Submit a semester status report to ALG
Fall 2016	Implement 15 sections for the four courses; conduct discussions with colleagues and the department Curriculum Committee to see if implementation on a larger scale is an appropriate departmental endeavor.
December 2016	Work on data analysis and evaluating course effectiveness
	Prepare final project report
December 23, 2016	Submit final project report

## 1.6 BUDGET

Dr. Hashim Saber	Faculty additional time spent for preparation instructional materials	\$5,000
Dr. Minsu Kim	Faculty additional time spent for preparation instructional materials	\$5,000
Dr. Bikash Das	Faculty additional time spent for preparation instructional materials	\$5,000
Mr. Thomas Hartfield	Faculty additional time spent for preparation instructional materials	\$5,000
Travel	Kick-off meeting or Conference	\$800
Supplementary material	Paper, ink cartridges, and copying cost. etc	\$400

## 1.7 SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

We anticipate good results and a positive impact on student success as a result of piloting the four courses during the first academic year (10 sections in Spring 2016, possibly 10 sections in Summer 2016, and 15 sections in Fall 2016). Materials (Open Textbook, class notes, and WeBWrok assignments) for the four redesigned courses will be available to math instructors who are interested in OER for future terms. The project team members will keep the original copy of the learning material and will maintain and update materials as needed. The D2L part of each course must be updated each semester which can be easily done with help from the UNG-IT department.

## 1.8 REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS

Ruthven, K., & Hennessy, S. (2002). A practitioner model of the use of computer-based tools and resources to support mathematics teaching and learning. *Educational studies in mathematics*, 49(1), 47-88.

# Syllabus

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**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA**  
**COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS**  
**MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT**

- Semester / Course: Fall 2016 MATH 1111 – College Algebra
- Instructor: Thomas Hartfield
- Office / Web: Watkins Academic Building - 120 <http://faculty.ung.edu/thartfield/>
- Phone / Email: 678.717.3858 [thomas.hartfield@ung.edu](mailto:thomas.hartfield@ung.edu)
- Office Hours: Mondays/Wednesdays 11:00 am – 12:00 pm, 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
Tuesdays/Thursdays 11:00 am – 12:00 pm, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm  
*other times may be possible by request, contact professor*
- Withdrawal Deadline: Friday, October 14, 2016
- Final Exam: MW 1:15 pm class (G19): Friday, December 16, 2016 at 12:40 pm  
TR 2:00 pm class (G20): Thursday, December 15, 2016 at 3:00 pm  
MW 4:05 pm class (G21): Friday, December 15, 2016 at 3:00 pm
- Knowledge Base:
1. Required Text: Guided Notes at Instructor's Web Page
  2. Supplemental Text: *College Algebra, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.* by Carl Stitz and Jeff Zeager, available at Instructor's Webpage
  3. Required Online Access: WebAssign
  4. Library Resources:
    - Mathematics Teacher, NCTM, Reston, VA.
    - Schaum's easy outlines. **College algebra** : based on Schaum's Outline of **college algebra** by Murray R. Spiegel and Robert E. Moyer [computer file] / abridgement editor, George J. Hademenos
    - Bell, E. T. Men of Mathematics. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1937.
    - Osen, Lynn. Women in Mathematics. Cambridge MA, MIT Press, 1974.
    - *Women and Science Celebrating Achievements Charting Challenges* (NSF, 1997)
    - *Multicultural and Gender Equity in the Mathematics Classroom: The Gift of Diversity* (Janet Trentacosta & J. Kenney, Eds., NCTM, 1997)
  5. Web-based Resources:
    - Project Interactivate - <http://www.shodor.org/interactivate>
    - Association for Women in Mathematics – <http://www.awm-math.org>
    - The Math Forum - <http://mathforum.org/>
    - Texas Instruments - <http://education.ti.com/educationportal>
    - Key Curriculum Press – <http://www.keypress.com>
    - Eric Weisstein's World of Mathematics (Encyclopedia of Mathematics) - <http://mathworld.wolfram.com>
    - Math Nerds – <http://www.mathnerds.com/mathnerds>
    - SOS Mathematics – <http://www.sosmath.com>
    - Multicultural Pavilion - <http://www.edchange.org/multicultural>
    - Women in Mathematics - <http://www.aqnesscott.edu/lriddle/women/women.htm>
    - Careers in Mathematics - <http://www.ams.org/early-careers/>
  6. Technology Resources:
    - Required graphing calculator access – TI-83 or TI-84 strongly preferred – cannot do symbolic algebra manipulation
    - Recommended download of Geogebra, available free online
    - Use of a computer and the ability to get online is required.

**Catalog Description:** Topics include algebraic and absolute value equations and inequalities; piece-wise defined, polynomial, rational, exponential and logarithmic functions with their graphs and applications; and systems of equations. This course is designed to prepare students for MATH 1113 or MATH 2040. Students in majors that do **not** require these courses are encouraged to take MATH 1001 or MATH 1101. **Credit:** 3 hours.  
**Prerequisite:** Regular placement or successful completion of MATH 0099 or MATH 0989. **Co-requisite:** MATH 0999 is required if Math 0989 is successfully completed; otherwise, the Math Placement Index is used to determine if MATH 0999 is required.

**Course Objectives:** After completion of the course the student will be:

- Prepared for further work in mathematics.
- Able to represent and solve real-world problems and applications of mathematics.
- Exposed to technology that enhances understanding of mathematics.
- Able to apply the distance and midpoint formulas.
- Able to graph and find the equation of a circle in standard form.
- Able to apply a variety of problem solving strategies including algebraic, numerical, and graphical techniques to analyze and/or solve piecewise-defined, polynomial, rational, and absolute value equations and inequalities.
- Able to apply function concepts and notation including function composition and inverse function.
- Able to set up and solve variation problems.
- Able to perform sums, products, and quotients of polynomials (including the Remainder and Factor Theorems.)
- Able to apply a variety of problem solving strategies including algebraic, numerical, and graphical techniques to solve exponential and logarithmic functions.
- Able to solve and classify systems of linear equations.

**Methods of Instruction:** Will include, but are not limited to: lecture, question-and-answer sessions, feedback from formative assessments, and computer and/or calculator based explorations. Students are encouraged to assess and monitor their own problem-solving process to determine when an error has been made or a new strategy should be used.

**Attendance Policy:** Students with four or more absences *may* be withdrawn from the class in accordance with the UNG policy on excessive absences. Students withdrawn prior to the midpoint may receive either a W or a WF. Students withdrawn from the class after the midpoint will receive a WF. A student who fails the course will have his/her date of last attendance or assignment completed noted for federal financial aid regulations.

Evaluation Methods: Formative assessment will be in the form of four written tests, supplemented by online homework assignments, and summative assessment will be in the form of a final examination.

Tentative Test Dates are:

Test 1 on Wednesday, September 14 *or* Thursday, September 15

Test 2 on Monday, October 10 *or* Tuesday, October 11

Test 3 on Wednesday, November 2 *or* Thursday, November 3

Test 4 on Monday, December 5 *or* Tuesday, December 6

Testing Policy: In class tests must be started before any student in the classroom completes his/her test.

No make-up tests will be offered. The final exam grade will be applied in the place of any missed test.

Homework Policy: A collection of assignments covering the topics of each unit will be available on WebAssign at the beginning of each unit. The homework for each unit will be due at the beginning of the class period on the day of the unit test. Students are *strongly* encouraged not to get behind on the homework assignments. No alternative homework assignments will be offered.

Final Grades: The semester grade will be determined by multiplying the four test grades and the homework grade each by 15% and adding these scores to 25% of the Final Exam grade.

Supplemental Syllabus: Additional information is provided at <http://ung.edu/academic-affairs/policies-and-guidelines/supplemental-syllabus.php> covering the following topics: Academic Success Plan Program, Students with Disabilities, Academic Integrity Policy, Disruptive Behavior Policy, Class Evaluations, Academic Exchange, Inclement Weather, & Course Grades and Withdrawal Process

ALG Grant Disclosure: This class is part of a UNG project participating in the Affordable Learning Georgia initiative by the USG Board of Regents. The textbook for this course is open source and is free for students to use. Online homework access for one semester through WebAssign will cost \$27.95 and must be paid for through the WebAssign web site. Students will be expected to complete surveys about the course, with a particular emphasis on technology competency, as a part of this initiative. For more questions, please contact the instructor.

# Final Report

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# Affordable Learning Georgia Textbook Transformation Grants

## Final Report

**Date:** 12/23/2016

**Grant Number:** 178

**Institution Name(s):** University of North Georgia

**Team Members (Name, Title, Department, Institutions if different, and email address for each):**

1. Minsu Kim, Assistant Professor of Mathematics; [minus.kim@ung.edu](mailto:minus.kim@ung.edu)

2. Hashim Saber, Professor of Mathematics; [hashim.saber@ung.edu](mailto:hashim.saber@ung.edu)

3. Bikash Das, Assistant Professor of Mathematics; [bikash.das@ung.edu](mailto:bikash.das@ung.edu)

4. Thomas Hartfield, Associate Professor of Mathematics; [Thomas.Hartfield@ung.edu](mailto:Thomas.Hartfield@ung.edu)

**Project Lead:** Minsu Kim

**Course Name(s) and Course Numbers:**

1. College Algebra; Math 1111
2. Pre-Calculus; Math 1113
3. Elementary Statistics; Math 2400
4. Calculus II; Math 2460

**Semester Project Began:** Spring 2016

**Semester(s) of Implementation:** Spring 2016, Summer 2016, Fall 2016

**Average Number of Students Per Course Section:** 30

**Number of Course Sections Affected by Implementation:** 23

**Total Number of Students Affected by Implementation:** 581

## 1. Narrative

This project had a direct impact on 581 students and saved them a significant amount of money [\$48,717 to \$81,965] in four mathematics courses (College Algebra, Precalculus, Elementary Statistics, and Calculus II). We felt that we accomplished our main goal of this project in replacing high-cost required textbooks by high-quality and affordable instructional materials in the following two categories:

1. At zero cost to 465 students: We have incorporated chosen open textbooks, a free computerized homework and quiz delivery and grading system (WeBWork). Depending whether students buy an e-version, or purchase a hardcover copy, the savings were \$41,328 to \$70,567. The use of WeBWork to develop the homework and quizzes was thoughtful and allowed for ease of grading, supplementing the textbook homework and quizzes, and continued support and implementation for future courses.
2. At a reduced cost (20%-50%) for 116 students: These students were in four sections where an open textbook is chosen together with a commercial homework and quiz delivery system (WebAssign) which cost \$35 per student. Depending whether students buy an e-version, or purchase a hardcover copy, the savings were \$7,389 to \$11,409.

Thus, the total savings for the 581 students involved in this project was \$48,717 to \$81,965. Students expressed a more positive and satisfactory opinion about the course having a free textbook and a free or reduced cost homework program available to them from day one of the semester. Overall, they were also generally pleased with the content and examples of the selected textbooks.

Transformative impacts on students involved in this project include relevance, free and/or reduced cost of the material and presentation of the resources. The chosen open resources and constructed materials (short video lectures, notes, open textbooks materials and videos) were mapped to the objectives and topics of each of the four courses involved in this project. This was carefully done to maintain syllabus consistency and provide better capacity to meet learning goals of each course. In some of the courses materials were accessed through D2L and in others, local shared class files were used to post course materials.

Students on four sections of college algebra had the opportunity to access auditory and visual approaches which supplemented the lectures as well as provided additional review. In general, all courses have access to for videos and other resources stated in the syllabus.

One of the main outcomes of this project is that all instructional materials were made available to all students in the four courses from day one of the semester. As presented in the qualitative analysis section, having free resources available increased student's retention and their progression in the course. It also raised their awareness regarding resources that available to them at no or minimal cost.

Having ALG, OpenStax, and other vendors to locate resources was very beneficial to each professor and in response, to students. For our team, the transformation was an opportunity to

locate and evaluate new resources for courses involved in this project and for other future courses where open resource implementation is possible.

A challenge in implementing the project is to get students adopted to the limitations in using WeBWorK for students who are familiar with other commercial system that was used in previous course. Commercial systems usually have many rich features that are not yet available in WeBWorK. For example: math palette entry for symbolic questions; graphing tools students can use; links to sections of the e-text right on questions; links to animated mini-lectures (with sound); etc. We feel that some of the commercial features are too much for the students and WeBWorK have the necessary features that can support students' learning process. WeBWorK provides students with immediate feedback on the correctness of their answers, WeBWorK encourages students to make multiple attempts until they succeed. WeBWorK can present and grade any mathematics calculation problem from different mathematical courses. As with a commercial system, students usually take some time to learn the syntax and format of the software.

Our team felt that this project has given them the freedom from the restriction of using one assigned textbook and gave them the opportunity to improve education quality and student's learning by providing easy access to not just one, but several valuable textbooks and supplement materials with zero or minimal cost to students.

Our future-plans in using open resources will be mixing and combining materials from different textbooks to come up with a new textbook tailored to our students' needs.

By looking more closely at some of the homework problems developed in WeBWorK, we found some errors and things that needed to be improved. We also realized that we needed to put more time and effort to create problems that are compatible with the selected textbook. Faculty involved in this task felt they gained experience and felt the sense of ownership when developing WeBWorK problems, quizzes and tests that can be used in future courses. Faculty who use our product in future OER based courses will have better selection of WeBWorK problems. Moreover, with the experience gained by our team in open resources and learning about available resources, some of us will consider using different textbook for future classes with additional instructor designed content that better suits our needs. In fact, one of our team members changed the proposed Statistics textbook to a different one when he taught the course in Spring2016.

We also noticed that students tend to have a hardcopy of the textbook especially if it is not expensive. As a faculty, we felt that in-class activities and homework discussion can be done more efficiently when students have a tangible hardcopy in their hand. Hardcopy version of the textbook usually average \$35. In the future, we will encourage students to purchase a hardcopy of the book. Students in the sections of college algebra using WebAssign displayed satisfactory progress on homework strictly by using the online program resulting in a complementary net output per student when using this approach.

## 2. Quotes

- “The use of webwork and free textbook was fantastic! I am a nontraditional student and I pay for schooling myself. So, when Dr. Das told us of the free textbook and web based program we would use during his calculus 2 course, I was ecstatic. The average cost of a textbook is roughly \$150.00 and it is a cost added to already rising tuition costs. As one can imagine it is difficult enough to put yourself through school whilst raising a family. Professors, such as, Dr. Das are the few on the side of the students that REALLY want to help people of any age achieve their goals and I hope that these types of trends continue well into the future, and that other additional savings might be allocated as well.”
- “This semester I enjoyed having a free class. At the beginning of the semester, I thought I was going to struggle without having a hard copy text book. I didn't understand how to use WebWork, but then began to really appreciate the way it helped me learn. Being a freshman in college and paying for tuition, it was a treat to not have to pay for another textbook. On WebWork, I liked being able to see if I got the answer correct as soon as I submitted it. Overall, this has been a great class and learning opportunity.”
- “I enjoy and appreciate the easy accessibility of the online textbook and the fact that it is free of any charges.”
- “This paragraph is written in support of the use of Webwork in the Mathematics Department here at the University of North Georgia. I have had the opportunity the last two semesters to assist students and actually solve several of the problems in Calculus I and Calculus II. Webwork provides problems that are challenging for student to do. Webwork also provide students with additional practice and practice makes perfect for students who are trying to learn challenging material. Webwork give student immediate feedback if problems are done correctly. As a math tutor, I would encourage other colleges to use Webwork.”
- “The textbook I used in this course was a free to download book from APEX Calculus provided by my professor. I found the book to be very useful and informative, usually with both a comprehensive variety of clearly demonstrated examples for each lesson and a thorough explanation of the topic at hand as well as many practice problems and solutions. However, there were a couple problems over the course of the semester which the book did not cover in sufficient detail to solve.”

## 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Measures

### 3a. Overall Measurements

#### Student Opinion of Materials

**Was the overall student opinion about the materials used in the course positive, neutral, or negative?**

Total number of students affected in this project: **581**

- Positive: **62.78 %** of **581** number of respondents
- Neutral: **20.41 %** of **581** number of respondents
- Negative: **16.81 %** of **581** number of respondents

### Student Learning Outcomes and Grades

**Was the overall comparative impact on student performance in terms of learning outcomes and grades in the semester(s) of implementation over previous semesters positive, neutral, or negative?**

**The overall outcomes and grades in the semester(s) of implementation over previous semesters positive.**

Choose One:

- Positive: Higher performance outcomes measured over previous semester(s)
- Neutral: Same performance outcomes over previous semester(s)
- Negative: Lower performance outcomes over previous semester(s)

### Student Drop/Fail/Withdraw (DFW) Rates

**Was the overall comparative impact on Drop/Fail/Withdraw (DFW) rates in the semester(s) of implementation over previous semesters positive, neutral, or negative?**

**The overall comparative impact on Drop/Fail/Withdraw (DFW) rates in the semester(s) of implementation over previous semesters positive?**

### Drop/Fail/Withdraw Rate:

**26.85 %** of students, out of a total **581** students affected, dropped/failed/withdrew from the course in the final semester of implementation.

Choose One:

- Positive: This is a lower percentage of students with D/F/W than previous semester(s)
- Neutral: This is the same percentage of students with D/F/W than previous semester(s)
- Negative: This is a higher percentage of students with D/F/W than previous semester(s)

### 3b. Narrative

To evaluate this project, we have collected data from three different data sources: Drop, Fail, Withdraw (DFW) rate from Banner Web. This data will then be cross tabulated along with the preliminary assessment and Cumulative Final exam results.

<i>Course</i>	<i>Total no. of stud. Registered</i>	<i>Withdraw %</i>	<i>A/B/C/D</i>	<i>Pass %</i>	<i>Fail % Individual Scores are less than 60%</i>
<i>College Algebra (Math 1111)</i>	<i>175</i>	<i>19.43 %</i>	<i>23/21/40/23</i>	<i>61.14 %</i>	<i>18.88 %</i>
<i>Pre-Calculus (Math 1113)</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>24.44%</i>	<i>14/21/16/7</i>	<i>64.44 %</i>	<i>11.11 %</i>
<i>Calculus II (Math 2460)</i>	<i>104</i>	<i>34.61 %</i>	<i>37/5/13/3</i>	<i>55.76 %</i>	<i>9.61 %</i>
<i>Elementary Statistics (Math 2400)</i>	<i>212</i>	<i>27.83 %</i>	<i>30/38/44/11</i>	<i>58.02 %</i>	<i>13.21 %</i>

All percentages in the chart above are based on the total number of students registered for each course since the first week of the semester, found in column two. The number of students who passed with each letter grade, A, B, C, or D, are displayed in column four. No comparison was made between passing/failing and the number of students who completed the course with a letter grade (not a W / WF). The percentage of students who completed each semester can be determined by subtracting the Withdraw % from 100%.

In total, 581 students registered for all four classes. A total of 156 students withdrew, producing combined average withdrawal rate of 26.85%.

- i) **Technological Competency:** The students' Internet skills, retrieving and managing information via technology was evaluated twice during the semester via assessments through D2L. Data like how often and how long a student is logged in to the online learning system WeBWorK or accessing OpenStax text books and how that corresponds to their successful completion of the course. We found the expected grade of a College Algebra student under the ALG Project was high C or a low B. Whereas the expected grade of a Pre-Calculus student under the ALG Project was a low B. We also found that the expected grade of a Calculus II student under the ALG Project was a high B. And the expected grade of an Elementary Statistics student under the ALG Project was a high B to low A.
- ii) **Students' feedback through survey:** Students were asked to participate in anonymous surveys about the overall effectiveness of the "no cost" courses twice during each semester. For each of the questions the student responded saying whether they **never (1), rarely (2), occasionally (3), regularly (4) or always (5)** participated or practiced the objectives of the survey on a weekly basis. The following tables describes the weighted means of the responses to some of the survey that directly correlates with the ALG project.

A. How often do you use material posted on D2L or shared class files?

		<b>Mean beginning of the semester</b>	<b>Mean end of the semester</b>
<b>College Algebra</b>		<b>4.42</b>	<b>4.28</b>
<b>Pre-calculus</b>		<b>4.38</b>	<b>4.03</b>
<b>Calculus II</b>		<b>3.83</b>	<b>3.83</b>
<b>Elementary Statistics</b>		<b>4.44</b>	<b>4.23</b>

B. How often do you use the online homework system?

		<b>Mean beginning of the semester</b>	<b>Mean end of the semester</b>
<b>College Algebra</b>		<b>4.56</b>	<b>4.61</b>
<b>Pre-calculus</b>		<b>3.51</b>	<b>3.59</b>
<b>Calculus II</b>		<b>4.57</b>	<b>4.51</b>
<b>Elementary Statistics</b>		<b>3.92</b>	<b>4.28</b>

C. How helpful is your online homework for learning?

		<b>Mean beginning of the semester</b>	<b>Mean end of the semester</b>
<b>College Algebra</b>		<b>4.21</b>	<b>4.20</b>
<b>Pre-calculus</b>		<b>3.51</b>	<b>3.41</b>
<b>Calculus II</b>		<b>4.45</b>	<b>4.37</b>
<b>Elementary Statistics</b>		<b>3.05</b>	<b>3.34</b>

D. How helpful is your textbook for learning?

		Mean beginning of the semester	Mean end of the semester
<b>College Algebra</b>		<b>2.93</b>	<b>2.44</b>
<b>Pre-calculus</b>		<b>3.13</b>	<b>3.17</b>
<b>Calculus II</b>		<b>2.51</b>	<b>2.84</b>
<b>Elementary Statistics</b>		<b>3.51</b>	<b>2.78</b>

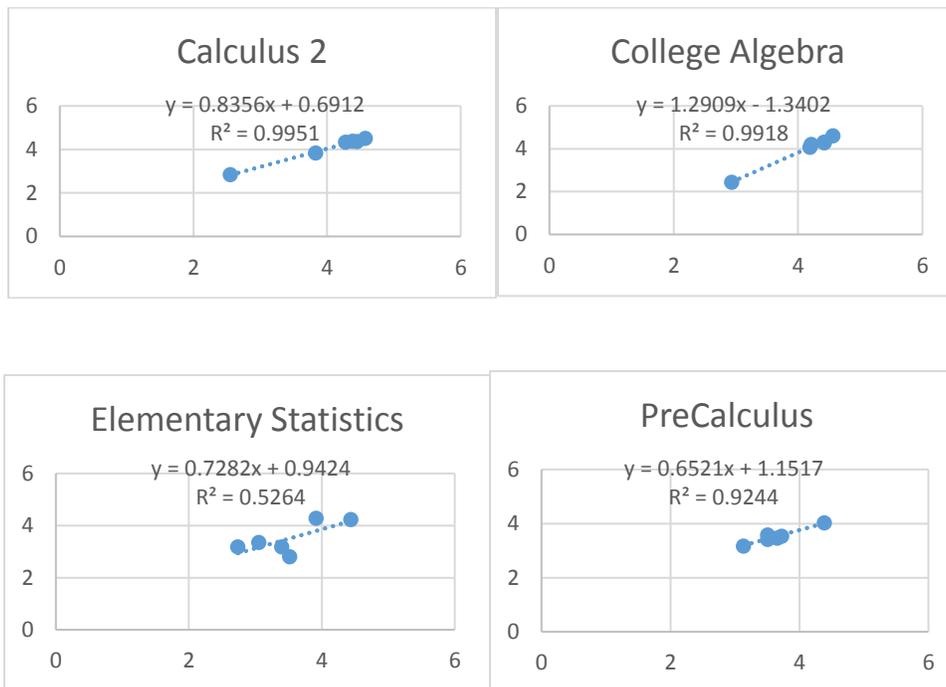
E. Overall, are you satisfied with the educational materials, for example, a text book, WebWork or worksheets?

		Mean beginning of the semester	Mean end of the semester
<b>College Algebra</b>		<b>4.19</b>	<b>4.07</b>
<b>Pre-calculus</b>		<b>3.72</b>	<b>3.53</b>
<b>Calculus II</b>		<b>4.28</b>	<b>4.33</b>
<b>Elementary Statistics</b>		<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.18</b>

F. Overall, are you satisfied with your learning experience in this class?

		Mean beginning of the semester	Mean end of the semester
<b>College Algebra</b>		<b>4.42</b>	<b>4.31</b>
<b>Pre-calculus</b>		<b>3.66</b>	<b>3.47</b>
<b>Calculus II</b>		<b>4.38</b>	<b>4.38</b>
<b>Elementary Statistics</b>		<b>2.74</b>	<b>3.18</b>

We also have performed regression analysis with these data to see whether the ALG project has any positive impact on the outcomes over the aforesaid qualitative traits of the subjected students. Between the two surveys, the first done early in the semester and the second done in the weeks preceding final exams, we have seen steep increase in the quality of the responses. We are providing four linear regression graphs demonstrating the correlation between student usage of the different facets of the ALG project and the likelihood of getting desired responses about the qualitative traits.



As shown in the above graphs, all four courses brought under the ALG banner have seen positive slope in the line of best fit. The impact on learning outcomes for these classes, as based on student experiences in zero/partial cost settings, was confirmed and investigators found a strong betterment of student responses. The range of betterments varied between 33% and 52% between the two surveys done at the beginning of the semester and at the end of the semester. A t-test has revealed that there is enough evidence at the significance level of 0.0001 (99.99%) that the ALG project implementation has improved the quality of student learning outcomes, student retentions during the academic year of 2016.

#### 4. Sustainability Plan

We will share materials (open textbooks, class notes, WebWork, or OpenStax in WebAssign) for the four courses, College Algebra, Pre-Calculus, Elementary Statistics, Calculus II, with math instructors who are interested in OER. The project team members will keep the original copy of the learning material and will maintain and update materials as needed.

## 5. Future Plans

We expect that we will continue to improve and adopt the materials for the four courses. According to the positive results of this project, we have a plan to adopt open textbooks for the other courses and encourage faculty to adopt OERs. We anticipate to present our results at a conference.

## 6. Description of Photograph



- *(left to right) Mr. Thomas Hartfield instructor; Dr. Hashim Saber, instructor; Dr. Bikash Das, instructor; Dr. Minsu Kim, instructor and proposal investigator.*