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Beyond the Numbers: Measuring Academic Success Perceptions for OER and Affordable Textbook Initiatives

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Table 1

Courses Included in the Study

Fall 2020		Spring 2021	
Discipline	Course Designator	Discipline	Course Designator
Engineering	EGR 101	Engineering	EGR 101
Psychology	PSY 101	Psychology	PSY 101
Aeronautical Science	AS 357	Aeronautical Science	AS 357
Humanities	COM 122	Aeronautical Science	WX 475
Humanities	HON 350		
Humanities	HU 300		
Aeronautical Science	WX 280		

Table 2

Survey Respondents by Course

Fall 2020		Spring 2021	
Discipline	Percent	Course Designator	Percent
Aeronautical Science (AS)	27%	Aeronautical Science	14%
Humanities (HUM)	7%	Humanities	0
Engineering (EGR)	22%	Engineering	36%
Psychology (PSY)	43%	Psychology	49%

Table 3

Survey Respondents by Number of Semesters of College Completed

	0-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	10+
AS (53)	2%	43%	26%	19%	2%	8%
EGR (65)	92%	5%	2%	2%	0	0
HUM (11)	36%	45%	9%	9%	0	0
PSY (108)	79%	12%	4%	4%	2%	0

Table 4

Unable or Unwilling to Purchase a Textbook Due to Cost

	Yes	No
All (237)	70%	30%

Responses by Discipline		
AS (53)	79%	21%
EGR (65)	65%	35%
HUM (11)	64%	36%
PSY (108)	69%	31%
Responses by Time at ERAU		
0-4 Semesters (194)	66%	34%
5+ Semesters (43)	86%	14%

Table 5

Textbook Spend in a Typical Semester

	<\$100	\$101-\$200	\$201-\$300	\$301-\$400	\$401-\$500	\$501-\$999	<\$1000	IDK
All (237)	15%	36%	22%	10%	6%	5%	1%	5%
Responses by Discipline								
AS (53)	13%	28%	26%	11%	6%	11%	0	4%
EGR (65)	17%	48%	22%	5%	3%	2%	0	5%
HUM (11)	27%	36%	18%	9%	9%	0	0	0
PSY (108)	14%	33%	20%	12%	8%	4%	1%	7%
Responses by Time at ERAU								
0-4 Semesters (194)	13%	40%	20%	10%	5%	4%	1%	7%
5+ Semesters (43)	21%	16%	33%	9%	12%	9%	0	0

Table 6

Perceived Impact of Lack of a Textbook on Ability to Succeed

	It made no difference.	I did not learn all of the material for the course.	Completing assignments was more difficult.	Getting a good grade was more difficult.	Other selection
All (219)	30%	17%	30%	18%	5%
Responses by Discipline					
AS (55)	35%	15%	25%	18%	7%
EGR (54)	19%	17%	41%	20%	4%
HUM (8)	50%	25%	13%	0	13%
PSY (102)	32%	18%	27%	19%	4%
Responses by Time at ERAU					
0-4 Semesters (164)	31%	17%	30%	18%	4%
5+ Semesters (55)	28%	16%	31%	18%	7%

Table 7

Comparison of Students' Ease with Accessing Course Materials

Accessing Course Materials	Much harder	Somewhat harder	The same	Somewhat easier	Much easier
All (221)	1%	5%	20%	16%	58%
Responses by Discipline					
AS (50)	0	2%	16%	16%	66%
EGR (61)	0	10%	21%	11%	57%
HUM (9)	0	0	0	33%	67%
PSY (101)	1%	4%	24%	17%	55%
Responses by Time at ERAU					
0-4 Semesters (179)	1%	6%	21%	15%	57%
5+ Semesters (42)	0	2%	14%	19%	65%

Table 8

Comparison of Students' Ease with Reading Course Materials

Reading Course Materials	Much harder	Somewhat harder	The same	Somewhat easier	Much easier
All (219)	2%	5%	23%	19%	51%
Responses by Discipline					
AS (50)	0	2%	24%	20%	54%
EGR (61)	2%	11%	20%	11%	56%
HUM (9)	0	0	11%	33%	56%
PSY (99)	3%	3%	26%	21%	46%
Responses by Time at ERAU					
0-4 Semesters (177)	2%	6%	24%	17%	51%
5+ Semesters (42)	0	0	19%	29%	52%

Table 9

Comparison of Students' Ease with Taking Notes

Taking Notes	Much harder	Somewhat harder	The same	Somewhat easier	Much easier
All (219)	2%	6%	29%	15%	48%

Responses by Discipline					
AS (50)	0	0	32%	14%	54%
EGR (61)	0	8%	28%	16%	48%
HUM (9)	0	0	33%	33%	33%
PSY (99)	4%	7%	29%	12%	47%
Responses by Time at ERAU					
0-4 Semesters (177)	2%	7%	29%	14%	48%
5+ Semesters (42)	0	0	31%	17%	52%

Table 10

Comparison of Students' Ease Working with Other Students

Working with other Students	Much harder	Somewhat harder	The same	Somewhat easier	Much easier
All (217)	1%	3%	41%	14%	41%
Responses by Discipline					
AS (49)	0	0	31%	14%	55%
EGR (61)	2%	5%	39%	16%	38%
HUM (9)	0	0	44%	22%	33%
PSY (98)	2%	1%	48%	12%	37%
Responses by Time at ERAU					
0-4 Semesters (176)	2%	2%	45%	14%	37%
5+ Semesters (41)	0	0	27%	17%	56%

Table 11

Comparison of Overall Learning

	Much Better	Somewhat Better	The Same	Somewhat Worse	Much Worse
All (220)	46%	26%	24%	4%	0
Responses by Discipline					
AS (49)	59%	18%	20%	2%	0
EGR (61)	39%	30%	28%	3%	0
HUM (9)	22%	78%	0	0	0
PSY (101)	47%	23%	26%	5%	0
Responses by Time at ERAU					
0-4 Semesters (178)	44%	26%	26%	4%	0
5+ Semesters (42)	60%	24%	14%	2%	0

Table 12

Importance of the University Making Textbooks Affordable

	Very Important	Important	Moderately Important	Slightly Important	Not at all Important
All (220)	46%	26%	24%	4%	0
Responses by Discipline					
AS (49)	59%	18%	20%	2%	0
EGR (61)	39%	30%	28%	3%	0
HUM (9)	22%	78%	0	0	0
PSY (101)	47%	23%	26%	5%	0
Responses by Time at ERAU					
0-4 Semesters (178)	44%	26%	26%	4%	0
5+ Semesters (42)	60%	24%	14%	2%	0

Table 13

Comment Distribution

	Cost	Access	Learning	Other
All (84)	46%	20%	18%	14%
Responses by Discipline				
AS (22)	45%	9%	14%	32% ¹
EGR (20)	25%	30%	30% ²	15%
HUM (5)	40%	40%	10%	0
PSY (32)	56%	16%	22%	6%
Responses by Time at ERAU				
0-4 Semesters (60)	46%	22%	22%	10%
5+ Semesters (24)	54%	17%	12%	17%

¹ Four in this category responded that they do not need or use textbooks

² Two in this category emphasized how much easier it is to work together in groups because of everyone having virtual access.