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Consider the Cost of Free Content: Spotlight on Inclusive Access



Nahel Awadallah, an instructor at Nash Community College, was looking for ways to cut costs for his students—an initiative that was strongly encouraged by the North Carolina Community College System. Professor Awadallah turned to Open Educational Resources (OER). After a thorough evaluation, he found that OER materials were lacking in many areas.

The primary concerns noted were that OER resources:

- Lack consistency in writing style and level across chapters
- Contain errors and outdated research
- Vary in compliance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, potentially posing additional challenges for students with disabilities
- Offer little to no faculty resources, which are particularly important for adjunct faculty
- Have no content appropriate for laboratory requirements
- Do not provide engaging, interactive, or adaptive content for students' home use
- Don't offer automatically-graded content and/or content tagged to course learning objectives

While OER initially appeared less expensive, the need to add a meaningful lab component completely offset those savings. Professor Awadallah continued his search until Nash Community College implemented the Inclusive Access (IA) program at their campus. The IA program significantly lowered costs for participating courses, including Awadallah's.

He finally got the content he wanted for the price his students needed. While acknowledging that OER may be an appropriate cost-saving solution for some courses, Professor Awadallah felt that it would be a disservice to his students to abandon the very course materials that helped improve student engagement, learning outcomes, and pass rates.

“All factors considered, I believe that high-quality, publisher-provided resources such as Connect and Virtual Labs—delivered through an Inclusive Access program—represent a far better value than OER.”

Professor Nahel Awadallah,
Nash Community College



Students saved approximately

\$225 each

per semester with
Inclusive Access



Students in the
A&P course saved

\$81K

per semester



For more information, visit mheducation.com/highered/inclusive-access»