Call for Chapter Proposals
Due April 1, 2020

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CALL FOR CHAPTERS
Proposals Submission Deadline: April 1, 2020
Full Chapters Due: August 1, 2020
Publication Date: January 1, 2021

BACKGROUND
First-Year Seminars
First-year seminars (FYS) have been offered by colleges and universities in various forms for more than a century. Their purpose is “to enhance the academic and/or social integration of first-year students” (Barefoot, 1992, p. 49). Research suggests a positive association between FYS and college student outcomes (persistence, grade performance, etc.). At Sam Houston State University, these courses provide practical strategy development and introduction to campus resources and opportunities. Students develop an action plan for and engage in academic and life skill acquisition, social engagement, civic responsibility, personal development, and career planning. First-year seminars at Sam Houston State University (UNIV 1301/1101) currently serve more than 700 entering students each fall.

Cost of Textbooks
There are many FYS textbooks, but these resources can come at a considerable cost to students. For example, the cost of two popular FYS textbooks range from $100 to $125 each. Textbook costs have risen by more than three times the rate of inflation since 1977 (Popken, 2015) and this has disproportionately affected first-year and first-generation students (Hill, 2016). As a result, some students choose not to purchase textbooks, which can negatively impact their success (Salem, 2019).

Open Educational Resources
The use of open educational resources (OER) can reduce the cost of course materials for students. Open educational resources are publicly available to copy, use, and adapt by others. The use of OER can also provide opportunities to introduce students to digital resources earlier during their college career. This may be important given trends in OER technologies and their increased use within academics.

OBJECTIVE
The purpose is to produce an OER textbook for UNIV 1301/1101 at Sam Houston State University. Although OER exist for first-year seminars, the options are limited, tailored to specific institutions, or written for other contexts (i.e., community college). Given that academic and social integration can be institution specific, it is important to provide students with resources that are most applicable to their
college experience. Further, the expertise to create an OER textbook exists on the campus of SHSU. This will provide an opportunity for incoming students to learn about course topics directly from campus experts.

**RECOMMENDED TOPICS**

The following topics have been identified as potential chapters of this OER text:

- Campus Resources
- Career Exploration
- Communication Strategies
- Critical Reading
- Critical Thinking
- Diversity Integration
- Emotional Intelligence
- Financial Literacy
- Information/Digital Literacy
- Goal Setting
- Health & Wellness
- Memory
- Metacognition
- Note-taking
- Reflective Practice
- Resilience
- Learning Technologies
- Test-Taking Strategies
- Time Management Skills

**INITIAL PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS**

Faculty and staff are invited to submit on or before April 1, 2020, a proposal of no more than 1,000 words clearly explaining an overview of the proposed chapter. Chapter proposals should include the following:

- Title (proposed topic)
- Abstract (50-100 words)
- Learning Objectives
- Outline of the chapter, including key terms and any embedded elements
- Sample learning activity

Authors should submit proposals to forrest.lane@shsu.edu.

**FINAL CHAPTER SUBMISSIONS**

Authors will be notified by May 1, 2020 about the status of their proposals and, if accepted, provided with detailed chapter guidelines. Full chapters are expected to be submitted by August 1, 2020. All submitted chapters will be blind reviewed. Contributors may also be requested to serve as reviewers for this project.

**KEY DATES**

April 1, 2020  Proposal Submission Deadline
May 1, 2020  Notification of Proposal Acceptance
August 1, 2020  Full Chapter Proposal Deadline
October 1, 2020  Review Results Returned
November 1, 2020  Final Chapter Submission Due
December 1, 2020  Final Publication Acceptance
January 1, 2021  Publication
OER PLATFORM
The OER platform for this text will be OER Commons (https://www.oercommons.org/). OER Commons is supported in part by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Institute for the Study of Knowledge Management in Education (ISKME).

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