

# Staebler Insurance OER Fellows Grant Application

## Instructions

Please answer the below questions and upload your completed document to the [web form](#). The web form will be open from Monday, November 6, 2023 to Sunday, February 4, 2024. Remember that you must also submit a budget and timeline for your project using the templates provided. See the grant guidelines [How to Apply section](#) for more information.

## Project Information

1. **Project title:** Sociology 101 E-Campus Ontario Textbook Update – Introduction to Sociology, William Little (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3 edition)

2. **Provide the names and roles of project team members, if any.**

Two graduate students (Maria Brisbane and Mrittika Dreesha) will be hired and share the work equally. This work includes updating, editing, and streamlining an existing e-Campus Ontario textbook and aligning it with the UW CEL version of Sociology 101.

3. **Provide a one paragraph description of the OER project.**

The OER project will update the assigned chapters of an existing textbook offered through e-Campus Ontario. These changes include a) Updating figures, tables and statistics with the latest material from Statistics Canada, OECD, Our World Data, and similar sources; b) Updating examples and news events that will resonate with today's students; c) Update references with more recent research where appropriate; d) Add recommended podcasts (e.g., 'Sociology Ruins Everything'), TedTalks and other relevant materials to support chapter and course content; e) Better align the content of readings with UW's CEL Soc 101 course, including editing out materials and making connections; and f) updating test bank and definitions.

4. **What type of OER are you developing?**

Design and create original resource(s)

**Adapt existing resource(s)**

Other. Please describe:

5. **What form will this OER take and where will it reside?**

The updated Canadian textbook will be housed in the **eCampusOntario Pressbook library** for other instructors to use at edit at Waterloo or across Ontario/Canada.

6. **Which Creative Commons or open license will you assign to the completed project?**

CC By

7. **Provide an outline of the content (high-level content map) of the proposed OER. Describe any ancillary resources or supplementary material you plan to create (e.g. interactive quizzes, videos, question banks, slides, etc.).**

In addition to updating the textbook, we will update test-bank, definitions and other assessment resources that align with the updated textbook and online content (e.g., podcasts). The test bank is online and will be updated (Learn).

8. **Are there other OERs available that cover the same learning objectives as your proposal?**  
<https://opentextbc.ca/introductiontosociology3rdedition/back-matter/3rd-canadian-edition-changes/>

There is a third edition (BC e-Campus) of the Canadian version. In several places, this version does not align with the UW version of the course.

- Chapters on major social institutions such as Education were cut. This is a baffling omission.
- Figures/trends/examples are still out of date in several places (e.g., crime statistics from 2011).
- The textbook introduces too many figures/theoretical perspectives (and many are not sufficiently covered throughout the chapters but are instead scattered throughout). I have taught this course since 2013 and have come to appreciate that 'more is less'. I focus on three main theoretical buckets to provide students with a solid foundation moving into their second-year Sociology courses.
- Each chapter is too long. Having taught at UW for over 16 years, the amount of reading that is 'tolerated' has decreased significantly. The current version is 40-50 per chapter. We will cut extraneous material to both streamline and better align with the course content.

There are American versions of this textbook that have been updated and streamlined. However, these lack sufficient Canadian content (e.g., crime statistics) and their context and analysis speak to the United States. We will review and use both the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition Canadian and US versions to help us streamline content.

### Course Information

1. **Provide the course code and title that will use the OER:** Sociology 101
2. **Provide the typical class size and/or number of sections:** 300-400 per section.
3. **How often is the course offered?** Usually 5-7 times per year (fall, winter and spring offerings)

**4. What resource(s) does the course typically use? (choose all that apply)**

- Required commercial textbook\*
- Required open textbook\*
- Required course pack
- Other. Please describe:

\*Depends on instructor

**5. What is the approximate cost of the above required resource(s)?**

\$60-100 if a regular textbook is used. For example:

- a) \$107 plus tax: Corrigan-Brown, C. 2022. Imagining Sociology
- b) \$84 plus tax: Giddens, A et al. 2021. Introduction to Sociology
- c) \$65 - \$85 - MacLennan, J et al. 2020. Sociology, 10<sup>th</sup> edition

**6. Will the creation of this OER reduce student costs for your course?**

Yes. Each year, the University of Waterloo enrolls approximately 1200 Sociology 101 students, of which 750 are enrolled in the online version that assigns this textbook (Figures are based on 4-year average). Providing an up-to-date textbook for free will save our students approximately \$75,000 per year (750 students x \$100), and possibly more if other sections of 101 adopt it. However, as it stands it is not an ideal option for instructors for the reasons stated (e.g., American version; outdated materials).

I cannot keep using the current e-Campus Ontario textbook and will turn to a regular textbook (likely the Corrigan-Brown – which I have reviewed and is high quality).

**7. Are there any other Waterloo courses that might use the OER? If yes, please list the Waterloo courses that might use the OER.**

Yes, other sections of Sociology 101 at UW.

**8. Do you know of similar courses at other institutions that might use the OER? If yes, please list the courses at other institutions that might use the OER.**

Introduction to Sociology is taught across Canada. To be clear, I will only be updating the chapters that are covered at UW. After the foundations are taught, instructors, like myself, tend to draw on substantial topics that align with their research areas. I have no expertise, for example, in the sociology of religion or government. The funds do not provide sufficient resources to update all chapters.

## Project Impact

1. Describe the impact of your project, if any, on your students, you as an instructor, your department, your discipline, or the University.

See above. A) Updating, streamlining and aligning textbook; and b) Saving 101 students a significant amount of money each year.

## Plan for Project Success

- 1. In 3-4 sentences, describe how you plan to measure the impact of the project, including, but not limited to, student learning experience/feedback?**

The impact will include having an up-to-date free textbook, used by 750 students per year that aligns with course content and provides a solid foundation. The course includes a student perception survey at the end of the course in which students can provide feedback.

- 2. In 3-4 sentences, describe your maintenance plan. How will the OER be regularly reviewed and revised? What is your plan for updating the OER and keeping it openly available online?**

The textbook is housed by e-Campus Ontario/Pressbooks. Future instructors can update the content on an ongoing basis.

| Item | Project Stage                                | Stage Detail   | Who is Responsible          | Target Timeline            | Additional information                     |
|------|--|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| 1    | Research exemplary versions of the textbook. | Use exceptional American models as a template to guide editorial decisions (e.g., what material to cut in the current version; how to streamline; what topics to add). The first month will be used to develop an outline of how each chapter will be updated. | Two PhD candidates; PI (me) | May 2024 (1 month)         | 5 hours each of research and meeting time. |
| 2    | Search and update materials.                 | Find up-to-date Canadian materials (e.g., Canadian statistics, events), update references, TedTalks and podcasts that align with course content. Have ongoing consultation with our library team to ensure all new content adheres to CC laws.                 | Two PhD candidates          | June 2024 (1 month)        | 6 hours each of research and meeting time. |
| 3    | Edit existing textbook and do final review   | Research from Item 1 and 2 will be used to edit and update existing textbook.  | Two PhD candidates; PI (me) | August-Oct 2024 (3 months) | 25 hours each of editing/updating work.    |
| 3    | Update existing supporting materials         | Update test bank, definitions and supporting materials to reflect new course content   | Two PhD candidates          | 2024-11-01 (1 month)       | 6 hours each to update these materials     |
| 3    | Final review                                 | Final edit/review  | PI (me)                     | 2024-12-01 (1 month)       |  |

# Grant Expenses

| Item | Expense Name                                    | Expense Detail  | Cost Breakdown  | Total Expense | Additional information  |
|------|---|---|---|---------------|---|
| 1    | PhD student who has TA'd for the course before. | My two PhD students will work collaboratively with me to fulfill all aspects of the project from making editorial decisions, to gathering up-to-date materials, and final editing/streamlining of materials. I will divide the number of chapters equally between the two students. | 42 hours x \$52 + 14% vacation (based on UW recommended salary rates) | \$2,500       | If successful, both students have agreed to work on this project. |
| 2    | PhD student who has TA'd for the course before. | My two PhD students will work collaboratively with me to fulfill all aspects of the project from making editorial decisions, to gathering up-to-date materials, and final editing/streamlining of materials. I will divide the number of chapters equally between the two students. | 42 hours x \$52 + 14% vacation (based on UW recommended salary rates) | \$2,500       | If successful, both students have agreed to work on this project. |