

# OpenStax at a glance

For OpenStax Allies

## About us

### Mission

To improve educational access and learning for everyone.

### Story

OpenStax was founded in 1999 by Richard Baraniuk, an electrical engineering professor at Rice University.

Originally named Connexions, OpenStax started as an Open Educational Resource (OER) repository where faculty around the world could publish, share, and remix educational materials.

We started publishing our own line of free, peer-reviewed textbooks in 2012 to maximize our impact by providing high quality, flexible, turnkey resources for instructors and students at little to no cost. Since publishing our first textbook in 2012, our library has since grown to over 40 books for college and AP courses.

### Sustainability & funding

Philanthropic foundations and donors give OpenStax the funding to create high quality, peer-reviewed textbooks that have the same look and feel as traditional publisher texts.

We focus on providing a high-quality textbook that meets the scope and sequence requirements for each course; however, we also understand that faculty and students often need ancillary resources, such as online homework. To meet that need, we have partnerships with for-profit companies that provide sophisticated, optional resources that integrate with our textbooks. These companies give us a mission support fee in return for using our content, contributing to our sustainability.

This model allows us to create free, peer-reviewed, openly licensed textbooks and keep those titles up to date.

## Editorial process

### Creation of textbooks

We hire a core team of authors who write the content with the help of our editors. Then, the content is reviewed for accuracy and quality by a board of reviewers. With over 100 reviewers for each title, we ensure that quality is a top priority. Once the title is finished, we publish the books in online formats on openstax.org. These books are free and don't require a login to access.

Books are available in a variety of formats, including an in-browser version, PDF, mobile app, and low-cost print available. Most books also have iBooks and Kindle versions.

Our print partner XanEdu provides high quality, low-cost print options to students, including full-color hardcover versions and black and white softcover paperback versions. Order on Amazon or directly from campus bookstores.

### **Customizability of textbooks**

All of our textbooks are openly licensed (all titles are CC BY, except for our calculus and accounting books, which are CC BY-NC-SA.) With the Creative Commons license, anyone is free to copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format. They can also remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially.

Our textbooks meet the scope and sequence requirements for the courses for which they are designed, so many instructors use the book as is or simply assign sections from the complete title.

### **Revisions**

The online version of OpenStax books are always kept up-to-date and freely available. Instructors are welcome to submit errata suggestions via their book page on the OpenStax website for our subject matter experts to review. We revise our books when it is pedagogically necessary; we may publish a new edition to accommodate significant developments in the field, while smaller updates are made regularly in the web view of your book. Each June, OpenStax publishes a new PDF and print version of most of our books to reflect these updates (when substantial changes are present).

