

Combining Open Educational Resources and High-Impact Educational Practices to Transform Humanities at GRU

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GOAL

- **Improve Student Engagement**
- **Lower Rates of students receiving a grade of D, F or W**
- **Improve Retention, Progression and Graduation Rates**
- **Lower Student expenses on textbooks**

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The project included a three components:

- A complete **redesign of the two-course Humanities sequence** (HUMN 2001 and 2002) according the current best practices by an interdisciplinary faculty team from the Departments of Art, Music , and English and Foreign Languages.
- The selection and development of **Open Educational Resource (OER)** materials for two required core courses by a team of faculty members and university librarians.
- The develop a resource materials and a program of **faculty development**, so that the transition to OERs integrates with the new course design and instructional delivery methods.

COURSE REDESIGN

A eight member team attending a two-day workshop on curriculum design **created a framework for the new course and new student learning outcomes.**

The redesign includes

- **Better alignment** of learning outcomes, assessments and assignments,
- **Interdisciplinary team-teaching** in each section
- Integration of **AACU's LEAP high-impact practices** for
 - Global Learning and
 - Collaborative Learning in Writing-Intensive courses

PROJECT TEAM

Project Lead:

Robert Bledsoe, PhD, Associate Professor of German, Director of the Humanities Program, rbledsoe@gru.edu

Team Leaders:

Deborah Richardson, PhD, Professor of Psychology, Director of the Office for Faculty Development and Teaching Excellence, derichardson@gru.edu

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COURSE MATERIALS

Course materials previously included:

- 5 textbooks
- 2 sets of supplemental course readers

At a cost of **\$500 per student** (purchasing new books).

Course materials currently include:

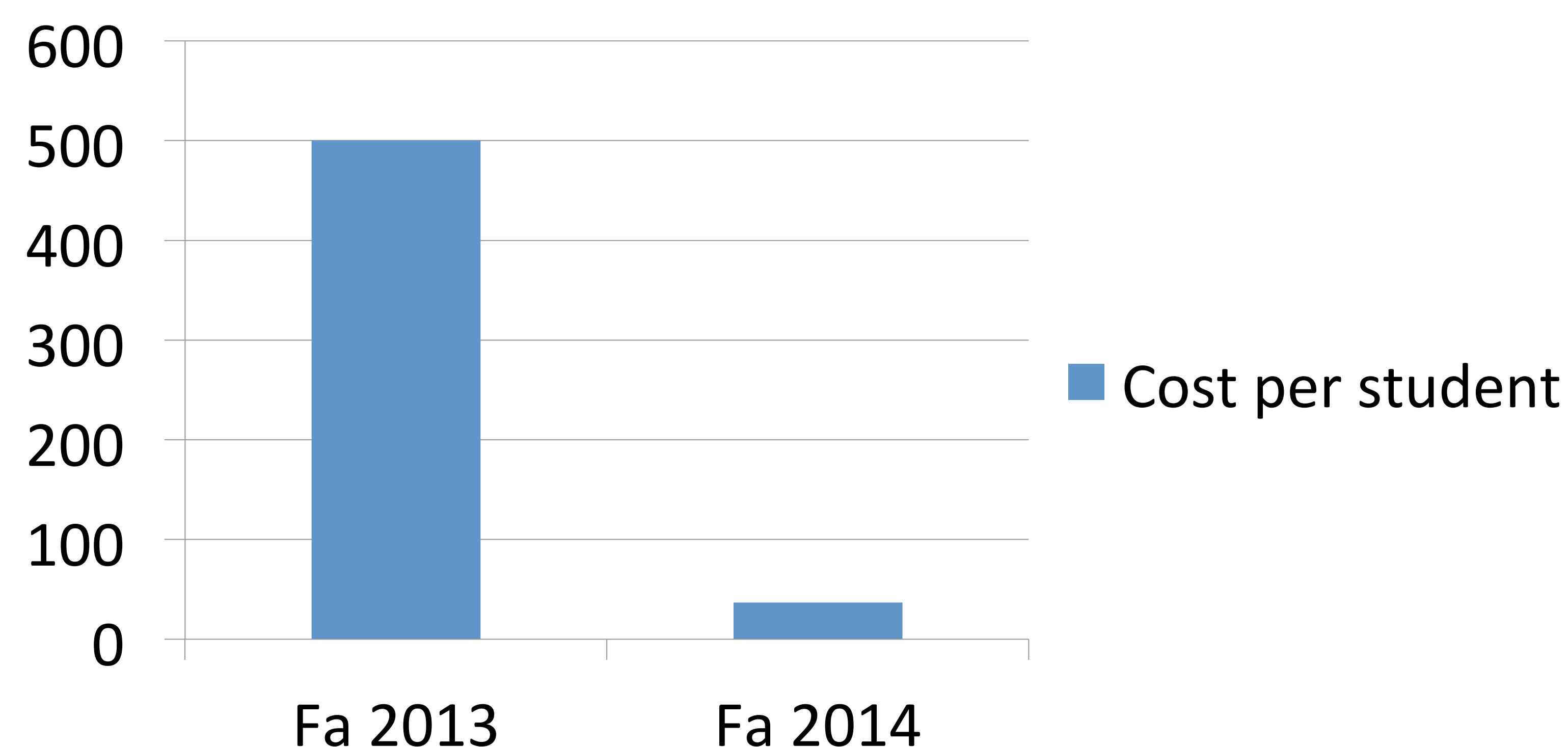
- 3 printed books
- Open Education Resources and
- Digital Resources available via Gil and Galileo including
 - Articles
 - Books
 - Reference Works
 - Videos
 - Music
 - Images
 - "Libguides"

- Supplemental Materials on Desire2Learn (CMS)

At a cost of **\$37 per student** (purchasing new books).

STUDENT COST

Textbook Cost per Student



PROJECT SUPPORTED THROUGH AN INNOVATION GRANT FROM



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA
CREATING A MORE EDUCATED GEORGIA.



FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

In Fall 2013 **eight** faculty members participated in the two-day Curriculum Design Academy , a CCG-funded effort by the Office of Faculty Development and Teaching Excellence.

In Spring and Summer 2014 **twelve** faculty members and university librarians developed course materials and shaped the new curriculum with the idea of creating units that increased student engagement and learning .

Fall 2014 **twenty-six** faculty participated in training that introduced them to the new course design and encouraged the adoption of best practices to foster student learning.

MOVING FORWARD

The process of revising the Humanities Course Sequence will take a minimum of two semesters and will require assessment beyond the implementation period. We are currently engaged in

- The revision and enhancement of course materials
- Faculty development on course content and teaching practices
- Assessment of student engagement, student learning and student progression

IMPACT

- Because of the courses' position in the GRU core curriculum, the project will impact **every undergraduate at GRU**, except those who transfer with enough hours in Area C (Humanities, Fine Arts, & Ethics).
- By moving to Open Educational Resources (OERs), the **financial burden on students** in these two courses has been **reduced up to \$350,000 annually**. Given the current per credit hour cost of \$225.60, the successful creation and adoption of OERs would be an immediate, direct value to each student of 2 credit hours' worth of tuition.
- **30 faculty members** are participating in an on-going faculty development program training
- We are tracking student progress to determine the effect on **DFW and RPG rates**.