



Faculty Center for Learning Innovation (FCLI)

Innovation Exchange Activity

Note: This activity follows the Transparency in Learning and Teaching (TILT) framework, which is a tool for supporting learning through assignment design. [Learn more about the TILT framework.](#)

Activity Title:

A Hands-On Introduction to Creative Commons for Teaching with OERs

Created By

Maria Ruelas & Laura Tadena

Credentials

OER Librarian/Assistant Professor & Head Librarian/Associate Professor

Short Biography

Maria Ruelas is a Faculty Librarian and Assistant Professor at Austin Community College and an ACC graduate. She has been part of the ACC community for over a decade, working in various roles supporting teaching, learning, and student success. She currently serves as ACC's OER Librarian.

Laura Tadena is a Faculty Head Librarian and Associate Professor at Austin Community College. Her professional background spans libraries, education, and community engagement, with a focus on helping students navigate information, resources, and the college experience. She currently serves as Head Librarian at ACC's Eastview Campus.

Purpose

Why am I doing this?

We want to help increase awareness of OER and make open resources more accessible to our ACC community through understanding how Creative Commons licensing works. Creative Commons licensing can help faculty confidently find, use,



Faculty Center for Learning Innovation (FCLI)

adapt, and share resources for teaching while supporting more affordable and flexible learning opportunities for students.

This hands-on workshop gives faculty an opportunity to practice making decisions with CC-licensed materials rather than simply learning about the licenses. Participants will decode CC licenses, search for openly licensed resources, evaluate whether a resource can be used for a specific teaching purpose, and create a proper attribution. The session connects these skills directly to course design and OER adoption at ACC.

Innovation Exchange Introduction

Rather than spending the session memorizing license definitions, participants will work through realistic teaching scenarios and a CC Resource Challenge. They will learn how the six CC licenses communicate permissions and restrictions, practice identifying what they can and cannot do with a resource, search for a CC-licensed resource related to their discipline, and create an attribution using Title, Author, Source, and License (TASL). The session concludes with participants identifying one way they could incorporate a CC-licensed resource into their own teaching.

Learning Objectives

What do you want your participants to do?

- Identify the six Creative Commons licenses and the permissions and restrictions represented by BY, NC, ND, and SA.
- Evaluate a CC license to determine whether a resource can be used, adapted, or shared for a specific teaching purpose.
- Apply the TASL attribution framework (Title, Author, Source, and License) to create an appropriate attribution.



Topic or Tool Overview

Creative Commons licenses give copyright holders a standardized way to communicate permissions for others to use their work. For faculty, CC licensing can make it easier to identify resources that can be legally reused, adapted, and shared in teaching.

Participants will use five license elements to decode the six standard CC licenses:

Symbol	Meaning
CC 	Creative Commons Share. Build. Contribute.
BY 	Attribution Giving credit to the creator, use the name or attribution information the creator has provided.
NC 	Non Commercial Use not intended for commercial gains
ND 	No Derivatives Users cannot share adaptations of the work
SA 	Share Alike If you adapt or remix a work, you must share your new version under the same compatible license



Faculty Center for Learning Innovation (FCLI)

The Six Licenses

License	Meaning
CC BY 	Others may use your work for any purpose, including commercial use, as long as they give you credit.
CC BY-SA 	Allows commercial use, sharing, and adaptation with attribution. Modified versions must use the same compatible license.
CC BY-ND 	Others can copy and share your work, including for commercial use, as long as they give you credit and do not change it.
CC BY-NC 	Others can share, remix, and adapt your work for noncommercial purposes with attribution.
CC BY-NC-SA 	Allows sharing and adaptation with attribution for noncommercial use only. New versions must use the same compatible license.
CC BY-NC-ND	



Faculty Center for Learning Innovation (FCLI)



Allows others to share your work with credit for noncommercial use only. Derivatives are not allowed.

Why This Matters at ACC?

The workshop connects Creative Commons licensing to teaching, learning, and OER adoption through three practical questions:

Can I find it? Where can I find openly licensed resources?

Can I use it? What does the license actually allow?

Can I make it mine? Can I adapt, remix, or share it? And what do I need to do?

Task: Hands-on Activity Instructions

What should I do?

Time	Activity	Participant Action	Bloom's Level
0–3 min	Quick Confidence Check	Rate confidence (1–5) in finding, evaluating, and using CC-licensed resources.	Self-assess
3–5 min	Today's Goal	Review the FIND → DECODE → USE pathway and session outcomes.	Understand
5–10 min	What is OER? / Pathways Toward OER	Distinguish OER from “free” resources and identify a realistic pathway: reduce, supplement, replace, adapt, remix, or create.	Understand/Identify



Faculty Center for Learning Innovation (FCLI)

10–15 min	Creative Commons: Share. Build. Contribute.	Connect CC licensing to permissions and restrictions.	Understand
15–22 min	Four Building Blocks + Six Licenses	Decode BY, NC, ND, and SA and connect them to the six licenses.	Understand/Analyze
22–27 min	Activity 1: License Decoder Challenge	Match licenses to descriptions and discuss what the symbols allow.	Identify/Analyze
27–31 min	Activity 2: Can I Use It?	Make a YES / YES, BUT... / NO decision for a realistic teaching scenario and explain why.	Evaluate
31–35 min	Activity 3: Can I Use It?	Apply the same reasoning to an OERTX resource and identify what needs to be checked.	Evaluate
35–48 min	Activity 4: CC Resource Challenge	Choose a teaching need, search a repository, verify the license, and plan a teaching use.	Apply/Analyze/Create
48–53 min	TASL Attribution	Use Title, Author, Source, and License to draft an attribution.	Create
53–56 min	Bring It Back to ACC	Identify how CC could support the participant's own teaching through replace, adapt, remix, or create.	Create
56–58 min	What Do I Do Next?	Identify a support/resource next step.	Apply



Faculty Center for Learning Innovation (FCLI)

58–60 min	After Confidence + Before You Go	Re-rate confidence and complete one thing learned, one thing they can do, and one next step.	Evaluate/Reflect
-----------	----------------------------------	--	------------------

Task: Hands-on Activity - The CC Resource Challenge

Participants leave the session with a completed CC Resource Plan that they can potentially use in their own teaching.

Step 1: Choose a Teaching Need

Identify something you need for your course:

- A reading or other instructional material
- A replacement for an expensive course material
- An example for an assignment
- A resource you would like to adapt, remix, or openly share

Step 2: Find a CC Resource

Search a reliable OER repository, such as:

- [OERTX](#)
- [OER Commons](#)
- [OASIS](#)
- [LibreTexts](#)

Step 3: Become a License Detective

Record and verify:

- Resource title
- Creator/author
- Source/repository



Faculty Center for Learning Innovation (FCLI)

- CC license
- What the license permits
- What restrictions apply

Step 4: Can I Use It?

Decide whether the resource can be used for your intended teaching purpose:

- YES I can use/adapt/share it as planned.
- YES, BUT I can use it, but I need to follow certain conditions.
- NO This license does not permit the use I have planned.

Explain why your decision is correct.

Step 5: Create the Attribution

Use TASL:

- T- Title
- A - Author
- S - Source
- L - License

Create an attribution using the information you found.

Example: "[Title]" by [Author], [Source], licensed under [CC License].

Step 6: Make It Relevant to Your Teaching

Complete:

I could use this resource in my _____ course to _____

_____.

The CC license allows me to _____.

_____.

Before using it, I need to _____.



Task: Peer Feedback - CC Check

What should I do?

Share your resources with the group.

- License: What does the license allow?
- Attribution: Does the attribution include Title, Author, Source, and License?
- Teaching use: Does the proposed use match the license?

Task: CC Resource Plan

What should I do?

Each participant will produce a CC Resource Plan containing:

- A CC-licensed resource
- The resource's license
- An explanation of the license permissions/restrictions
- A completed TASL attribution
- A proposed instructional use
- A brief explanation of how the resource could support their teaching

Criteria for Success

How do I do well?

A successful CC Resource Plan should allow another faculty member to understand what was found, what can be done with it, and how to give credit.

- ☐ I identified the resource's CC license.
- ☐ I can explain what the license allows me to do.
- ☐ I identified the restrictions associated with the license.
- ☐ I explained why the resource is appropriate for my intended use.
- ☐ I identified the Title.
- ☐ I identified the Author.



Faculty Center for Learning Innovation (FCLI)

- ☐ I provided the Source.
- ☐ I identified the License.
- ☐ I created a complete attribution.
- ☐ I explained how I could use the resource in my teaching.

Reflection and Next Steps

What did I learn?

One thing I learned about Creative Commons: _____

One thing I can now do with a CC-licensed resource: _____

One thing I will try in my teaching: _____

One question I still have: _____

What do I do next?

Continue your OER journey by connecting with the ACC OER Librarian, Maria Ruelas at maria.ruelas@austincc.edu or scheduling a consultation with your [subject librarian](#) for help finding resources for your course.

Other Optional Sections

- Participant Worksheet: CC Resource Plan
- Reference List