

Searching for Zero-Textbook Cost (ZTC) Classes in Schedule Builder



At ECC, we are exploring ways to reduce barriers to education, including the increasingly high costs of commercial textbooks. Some faculty have developed “zero-textbook cost” course sections and, as a result of [SB1359](#), California Community Colleges and the CSUs are now required to highlight course sections that exclusively consist of open or free textbooks or other no-cost course materials.

Class sections at El Camino College are designated as being “**Zero-Textbook Cost**” if they meet the following:

- If all assigned textbooks are optional for the section
- If all assigned textbooks are identified as [Open Educational Resource](#) (OER) textbooks
- If there is no assigned textbook
- If the assigned textbooks (including course readers) are available online for free (e.g. library ebooks/database content) AND students are not required to buy a physical copy.

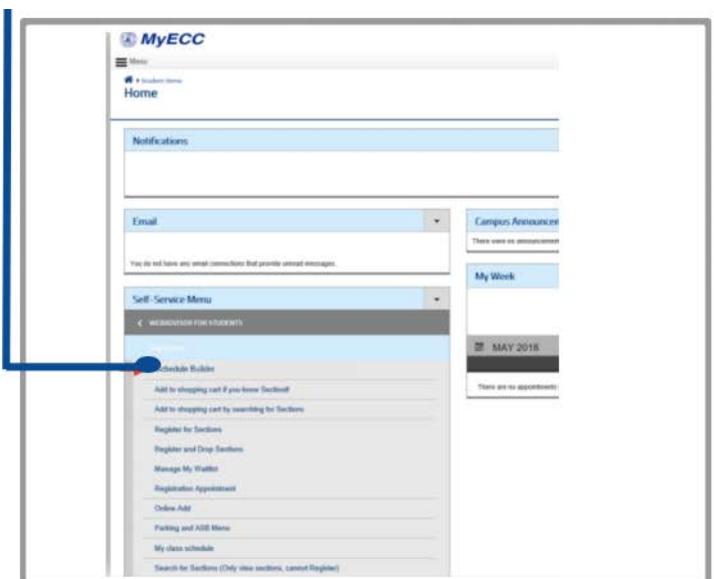
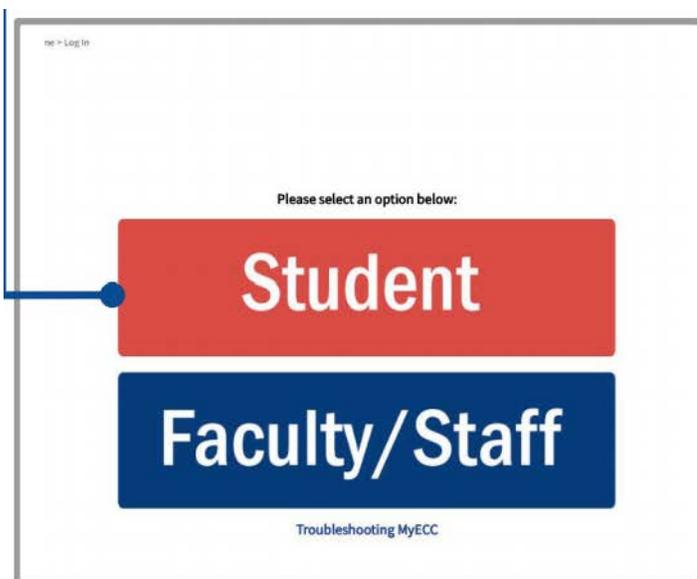
Included in the cost caps are: textbooks and other text-based materials, workbooks, lab manuals, along with homework platforms and codes and/or publisher-provided curricular materials for students.

Excluded from the cost caps are: standard supplies (e.g. pencils/paper/blue books), calculators, class fees, or necessary learning materials such as musical instruments, art supplies, camera equipment and other such materials that have continuing and lasting value beyond the class term.

Steps for Searching for ZTC Class Sections:

At ECC, students can search for ZTC course sections using the online [Schedule Builder](#) platform. Instructions for accessing Schedule Builder is available on the [Class Schedules](#) webpage.

Step 1: Sign into MYECC: <http://www.elcamino.edu/myecc/> Login and navigate to the Self Service Menu and select Schedule Builder from the menu.



Step 2: Once in Schedule Builder, select the term to search and click on “Add Course.”

Schedule Builder ? Help Sign out

El Camino College

Course Status: Open & Full Change Parts of Term: All Parts of Term Selected Change

Term: Fall Semester 2020 Change

Instructions: Add desired courses and breaks and click Generate Schedules button! ×

Courses + Add Course **Breaks** + Add Break

Add the courses you wish to take for the upcoming term. Add times during the day you do not wish to take classes.

Schedules ⚙️ Advanced Options 📅 View Schedules

🔄 Generate Schedules

📄 Compare ℹ️ Select at least two schedules to compare side by side

Step 3: Select the “Low Cost/No Cost” tab, select the ZTC\$ attribute. This will begin to populate associated subject and course options. Click on “Add Course.” Click “Done” when finished adding courses.

Schedule Builder Text Only

Add Course

By Subject Search by Course Attribute: **Low Cost/No Cost Material Courses** Search By Instructor

Attribute: **ZTC\$ - Zero Textbook Cost** Subject: ART - Art Course: 101 Art/Visual Cultr: Gbl Perspec

← Done + Add Course

Art 101 - Art/Visual Cultr: Gbl Perspec

This course is an introduction to art and visual culture across time and diverse cultures with a global perspective. Examining works of art through themes, theory, terminology and media, students acquire analytical and interpretive skills to develop visual literacy as well as an understanding of the role of art and visual culture in relation to contemporary life. This course explores how meaning is constructed, transmitted and negotiated in an increasingly visual world.

ℹ️ Choose 'ZTC - Zero Textbook Cost' or 'LOWS - Low Resource Cost' from the Attribute drop-down. Click 'Done' when you've finished adding courses.

Step 4: From the listing of selected courses, click on the “Options” icon to see the specific sections, faculty, and schedule for those that are ZTC.

The screenshot displays the El Camino College Schedule Builder interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with "Schedule Builder" and "Text Only" tabs, and "Help" and "Sign out" links. Below this is the El Camino College logo and name. The interface includes several configuration sections: "Course Status" (Open & Full), "Term" (Spring Semester 2019), "Campuses" (2 of 4 Selected), and "Parts of Term" (All Parts of Term Selected). A yellow instruction box states: "Instructions: Add desired courses and breaks and click Generate Schedules button!".

The "Courses" section lists two selected courses:

- ASTR 20** (The Solar System) with a "Free Textbook" label. An "Options" icon (gear) is highlighted with a red box.
- COMS 100** (Public Speaking (ztc\$)) with a "Free Textbook" label. An "Options" icon (gear) is highlighted with a red box.

The "Breaks" section has a yellow instruction box: "Add times during the day you do not wish to take classes." and a "+ Add Break" button.

At the bottom, there is a "Schedules" section with a "Generate Schedules" button, "Advanced Options" (gear icon), and "View Schedules" (calendar icon) buttons.

To see which sections of the course are ZTC, click on Options

Searching for zero-textbook cost class sections prior to registering for classes is one way to potentially lower costs. While not all faculty have yet to adopt freely available online textbooks, and for some subject areas there haven't yet been ones published of high quality, the number of course sections using zero (or low) cost course materials continue to grow each year.