

Estimated Savings from ZTC Courses 2024/25

May 9, 2025



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Overview

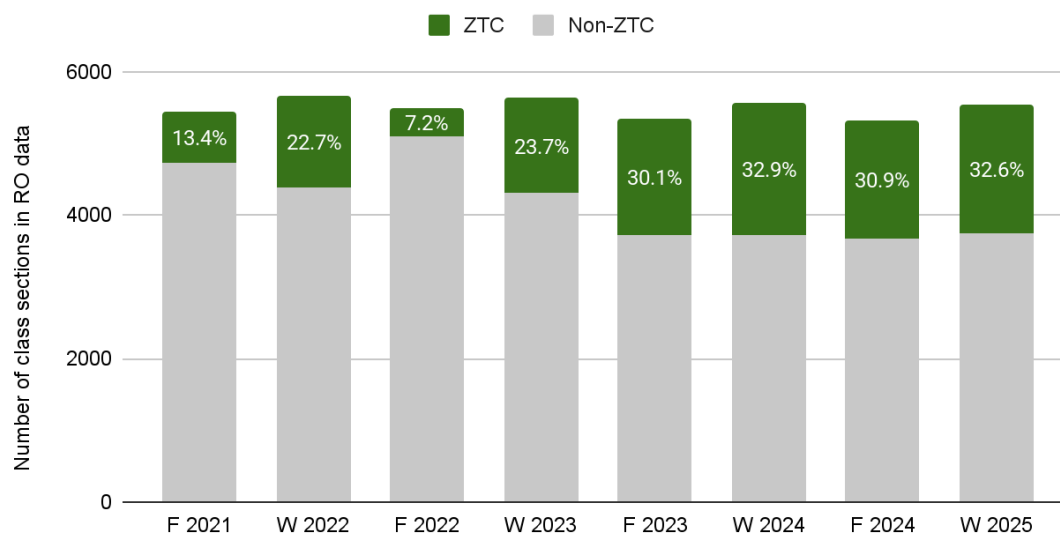
Since 2022, the UASU has estimated students' potential savings because of participating instructors' choices to run zero-textbook-cost (ZTC) classes. The ZTC course indicator on Bear Tracks arose from UASU advocacy and significant long-term support by the Registrar's Office, University of Alberta Libraries staff, and IST. Classes registered as ZTC on Bear Tracks saved students up to \$9.0 million in [2021/22](#), up to \$7.8 million in [2022/23](#), and up to \$12.7 million in [2023/24](#).

As explained below, the UASU estimates that ZTC classes saved students up to \$13.9 million in Spring/Summer 2024, Fall 2024, and Winter 2025, for total savings of up to \$43.4 million across the four years since the ZTC course indicator was implemented. This is a conservative estimate.

The share of class sections that use the ZTC course indicator on Bear Tracks was stable compared to the previous year. One-third of University of Alberta classes are ZTC.

This metric will be important to monitor as the implementation of the 'First Day Access' automatic textbook billing program in Fall 2025 carries risks for open educational resource (OER) adoption. Reduced ZTC classes would be one possible indicator that FDA has negative effects.

ZTC class sections as share of all sections, per fall/winter term



Average Class Section Size

The University currently [publishes](#) average class sizes of 38 for North Campus, 20 for Campus Saint-Jean, and 22 for Augustana. The CSJ and Augustana numbers have varied year to year. These campuses are calculated separately below.

Participating Course Sections

These values were calculated from data provided by the Registrar's Office to the VP Academic.

Spring/Summer 2024:

- Augustana: 0
- CSJ: 0
- All others: 14

Fall 2024:

- Augustana: 183
- CSJ: 50
- All others: 1413

Winter 2025:

- Augustana: 404
- CSJ: 48
- All others: 1352

Average Textbook Cost

The UASU estimates have always used a value of \$115, derived from Canadian and American pilot projects in 2014, 2017, 2018, and 2020. However, past years have seen significant inflation. At this time we have no reliable alternative number for textbook cost that would have been saved per seat per student. This makes our estimates conservative. Savings may be higher than projected.

Calculating Impact Estimates

The impact estimate formula for a term is: *(average per-student per-course per-term impact) x (average campus class size) x (number of participating class sections).*

Spring and Summer 2024	ZTC class sections	Average class section size	Savings at \$115
All sections	14	38	\$61,180

Fall 2024	ZTC class sections	Average class section size	Savings at \$115
Augustana	183	22	\$0.46M
CSJ	50	20	\$0.12M
All other sections	1413	38	\$6.17M
<i>Total</i>	<i>1646</i>	-	<i>\$6.75M</i>

Winter 2025	ZTC class sections	Average class section size	Savings at \$115
Augustana	404	22	\$1.02M
CSJ	48	20	\$0.11M
All other sections	1352	38	\$5.91M
<i>Total</i>	<i>1804</i>	-	<i>\$7.04M</i>