

Application for Sabbatical, for Academic Year 2023

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Application for Sabbatical Academic Year 2023

Please type and submit as an attachment

Full name as it appears on your work record James Matthew Danza

Number of years of continuous full time service at VCCCD: 6

Number of years of continuous full time service at OC:

Have you ever had a sabbatical at VCCCD? No (type yes or no)

How many years ago was your last sabbatical? None

(Please continue to the next page to write your proposal; you may make each section as long as you wish, but please see the examples on page 1 of this packet)

Use as much space as needed.

Project Description:

The purpose of my sabbatical is to increase students' use of technology and critical thinking by incorporating into laboratory manuals computerized data collection, graphing and web browsing critical thinking exercises and research and incorporate modern laboratory and field equipment, so that students gain experience with modern equipment in the physical geography and environmental science and resource management (ESRM) laboratory courses. Both lab manuals will have added critical thinking sections. Additionally, I will provide a plan to add education features, such as exhibits and displays in and around the Letter and Science Building to create excitement and inspiration in our STEM programs.

I authored the laboratory manuals for both physical geography and ESRM courses at OC. The physical geography manual was gradually expanded to replace the published manual over several years. The manual now covers all laboratory topics and is used by OC geography professors. The ESRM lab manual is more focused on online learning currently. Both manuals are edited each semester with minor adjustments/improvements and are published royalty free for use at OC.

The goals of my sabbatical leave are three-fold:

Goal 1: Physical Geography Laboratory Manual. Increase the use of technology and research methods in the physical geography laboratory course and associated laboratory lectures including use of computer technology. Incorporate the use of newly acquired laboratory equipment, and add critical thinking sections to the physical geography laboratory manual.

Goal 2: ESRM Laboratory Manual. Add technology and research to the ESRM laboratory course and adapt for in-person learning by incorporating newly acquired laboratory equipment with the addition of a long-term research project using the local environment.

Goal 3: Create a Plan for Educational Features in and around the LS Building Science Wing. To inspire students and offer positive messaging for STEM pathways, I will provide a plan to re-envision the existing science spaces at OC. The plan will provide a vision for the indoor and outdoor spaces to create an atmosphere of excitement and inspiration for STEM.

I am requesting my sabbatical for Fall 2022 instead of Spring 2023 because I don't want to impact Oxnard Middle College High School students who take my physical geography lecture and laboratory courses in the spring.

Your background as it relates to the project and to your role at Oxnard College:

I began teaching at Oxnard College in 2016 as a Professor of Geography. I received tenure in 2020. I expanded my discipline to include ecology so I teach Environmental Science and Resource Management.

I came to Oxnard College after 21 years as a full-time civilian at Naval Base Ventura County as Planning Branch Head, while concurrently teaching geography for 16 of those years as an adjunct professor of geography at Ventura College.

Currently, I am the sole full-time geography professor at Oxnard College. My primary focus is to expand our students' view of the world with field experiences and community service.

Goal 2 Environmental Science and Resource Management Objectives:

1. The laboratory manual was written with an

2.6. Provide locations for the use of large screen LCD displays to advertise events and science program offerings.

Product of the sabbatical (a paper, a film, an exhibit,)etc.

Geography Laboratory Manual:

- 1) Computer files developed for specific labs, such as templates made in Excel.
- 2) Laboratory Manual chapter on GIS with instructions on access an online program.
- 3) The had copy of the lab manual will have added instruction on completing the computer work.
- 4) Update related laboratory lectures to introduce the above changes.

ESRM Laboratory Manual:

- 1) Computer files developed for specific labs, such as templates made in Excel
- 2) Thehard copy of the lab manual will have added instruction on completing the computer work.
- 3) The hard copy of the lab manual will have added instruction on completing field sampling and observation in the field near the OC Marine Center.
- 4) Additional pages added to the existing lab manual

Update related laboratory lectures to introduce the above changes.

- 1) Provide a detailed plan of location, examples from other campuses, site/floor plan, and rough order of magnitude cost.

How do you plan to share your sabbatical results at Oxnard College? Do you have plans for sharing your results more broadly?

The laboratory manuals for geography and manuals will be published and available for use by students and faculty that teach these courses.

I will hold a sharing session to assist faculty members that use Geography lab manual. I am the only ESRM instructor at this time, however the improvements will be presented to the Counselors meeting so they are aware of the updates to ESRM program.

For Goal 3 I will provide a written plan with diagrams and photos. I will present to the Science Department/College administrations as appropriate to garner support for the projects in the plan.

Work plan and schedule (Show the committee the steps in your plan and approximately when you will complete each one, including the product or method of sharing your work).

Goal 1 for Geography

Task	Date	Product	Sharing
1. Create Excel spreadsheets for data collection and graphing with sample formulas and design			

2. Create Excel spreadsheets for data collection and graphing with sample formulas and design. Use of internet web browsing for appropriate sources of data, information

November Excel Spreadsheet fab
2022

site plans, diagrams and examples of displays			Dean and College Admin
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Value of Project (here, given an overall statement of how this project will benefit you, personally and professionally, as well as how it will benefit others).

I will benefit professionally by having a lab manual that matches exactly what I believe is best for our students and is relevant to students. Making academic work relevant to student's life is a great teaching technique. Many lab exercises will be specifically based on the local environment including the OC Marine Center. I take pride in teaching about environmental matters in our County and around the world.

I benefit personally by furthering my knowledge of the fields of Geography and Ecology. Writing and updating a book is a tremendous task that engrosses you. The quality must be high to preserve the integrity and our academic institution.

Geography and environmental science are multidisciplinary sciences, so my research and planning for the exhibits will deepen my knowledge of the many sciences that relate to my disciplines.

Faculty who teach physical geography will use the revised lab manual. I will provide a forum on the changes and to discuss the lab manual and methods of instruction.

The College and the District will benefit with increase prestige that another faculty member has authored a high quality and up to date laboratory manual for two disciplines. Also, the reputation of Oxnard College will further grow as an excellent institution for laboratory and field sciences.

Students will benefit from a laboratory manual that is updated with the use of current computer technology and methods that are similar to industry, which prepares them for careers and transfer to a university. New laboratory equipment, which was recently acquired and maybe further expanded with the new OC STEM Grant, will dive deeper into the complexities of the science and will support research, critical thinking and analysis necessary in today's careers.

Critical thinking will be emphasized to provide students with skills on how to interpret information and data and analyze results to form solid based conclusions.

Students will receive messaging about STEM that will inspire them to continue their education and consider the sciences as their discipline. When waiting for classes, studying, or walking the halls and outdoor area, they will gain appreciation for STEM through viewing student projects,

interesting displays of equipment and posters. OC will gain notoriety and respect with displays of student projects that demonstrate to the public the value OC has to offer in academics