



POLICY: 6Hx28:3D-12

Responsible Executive: ~~Vice President,~~
~~Organizational Development and Human~~
~~Resources~~ Chief Human Resources Officer

Policy Contacts: Asst Vice President,
Human Resources

Specific Authority: 1001.64, F.S.
Law Implemented: 1001.64, F.S.

Effective Date: ~~05-23-2018~~ XX-XX-2025

Date of Last Policy Review: ~~06-30-~~
~~2021~~ XX-XX-2025

Total Rewards: Sabbatical Leave for Full Time Tenured Faculty

Policy Statement:

- I. Sabbatical Leave is authorized for the primary purpose of offering renewal and learning opportunities for eligible tenured faculty such that the quality of the individual's future contributions to Valencia College is enhanced. Sabbatical Leave should provide the individual a significant opportunity for new, or renewed, achievement and growth through activities such as study, research, writing, creative work, and travel so that the individual's teaching and/or professional effectiveness may be enhanced. Sabbatical Leave granted in accordance with this policy and its implementing procedures is awarded to faculty not as a sole reward for past service, but rather for the purpose of enabling them to acquire additional knowledge and competency in their respective fields, acquire renewed energy and focus, and/or to complete projects that support the mission of the College.
- II. Sabbatical Leave is not deferred compensation and is not automatically granted. Sabbatical Leave may be granted, upon application and approval based on established criteria, for study, research, creative work, field observations, or other pursuits of value to the individual and/or the College, so that they may return to their posts with renewed vigor, perspective, and insight. Opportunities for additional training, for improving skills and for maintaining currency in the field are understood to be included as a purpose of sabbatical leave. General criteria for award will include exceptional service to the College, seniority, whether the sabbatical proposal provides for individual renewal or experience which will enhance the individual's ability to contribute to the College, and the ability of the affected College department or division to reallocate work during the proposed

sabbatical.

III. Sabbatical Leave Program Closure: The Sabbatical Leave program is being phased out by the College and will conclude with the expiration of the program and the repeal of the policy, effective 9-2-2027.

A. Effective 3-12-2025, no new Sabbatical Leave applications will be accepted, and no grants of Sabbatical Leave will be approved by the College.

B. The Sabbatical Leave program will remain available to those full-time tenured faculty members who have already been approved for and granted sabbatical leave pursuant to this policy. These faculty members may proceed with their sabbatical leave in accordance with the terms of this policy and its implementing procedures.

H.IV. The President or designee shall establish procedures to implement this policy.

Policy History:

Adopted 6-22-04; Amended 10-19-10; Amended 5-23-18; Amended XX-XX-2025;
Formerly 6Hx28:07-23

Related Documents/Policies:

College Policy 6Hx28: 5-09.1 Copyright and Trademark Ownership

Procedures:

I. Eligibility

A. Full-time tenured faculty with at least five years of continuous qualifying Valencia service and not in the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) are eligible to apply for sabbatical leave. Eligible employees may apply for a sabbatical leave upon completion of five years of continuous qualifying service but must complete seven years of continuous qualifying service before a sabbatical leave can commence.

- 1 For the purpose of determining five years of continuous qualifying service in a tenure or tenure-track position, service does not include time served on temporary or part-time contracts, or any role outside of tenure or tenure-track. Time spent in the tenure-earning process counts towards qualifying years of service providing the applicant is tenured at the time of application. Any properly reported, approved, and documented leave taken in accordance with Valencia's policies and procedures shall not be

considered an interruption of service, unless provided otherwise in the document approving the leave. Leave of absence without pay shall not be counted as service to Valencia for purposes of sabbatical leave.

- 2 For the purpose of determining qualifying Valencia service, eligible employees must demonstrate satisfactory performance in the performance review period immediately preceding the sabbatical leave application and includes a status where no formal discipline or performance improvement plan has been received during the 12-month period preceding the sabbatical leave application through the period leading up to the sabbatical leave.
- B. An employee who has taken a sabbatical leave is eligible to apply for another Sabbatical Leave in the fall of the academic year five years following the successful completion of the prior sabbatical leave academic year. Seven years of continuous qualifying service must be completed before the next sabbatical leave can commence.

II. Applications

- A. Each applicant must initiate the sabbatical leave application process with his/her dean or immediate supervisor. In addition to the general criteria for award as outlined in these procedures, the granting of a sabbatical leave should not create undue hardship or disruption for students or coworkers, and it should not unduly limit College functions, including without limitation course offerings, student services, and College operations.
- B. Sabbatical leave applications will be available on the College website. An individual must submit completed application materials as required by the deadline provided in the posting. If a proposal includes a request for college funds for activities such as travel, purchase of equipment or materials, or other related expenses, a budget must be attached to the application, which shall be separately considered by the College President or designee.
- C. Proposals must be approved by the employee's Campus Provost or Vice President. If the immediate supervisor is not a Campus Provost or Vice President, then the proposal, if approved by the immediate supervisor, is forwarded to the respective Campus Provost or Vice President for consideration and approval prior to submission. Approvals by the supervisor(s) affirm(s) that the general criteria for award are met. Approved applications are forwarded to the chair of the Sabbatical Leave Committee.

III. Sabbatical Leave Committee

- A. The Sabbatical Leave Committee membership shall consist of fourteen

members: nine faculty (i.e. three faculty members from each campus region), two deans, and the Assistant Vice President, Teaching & Learning or other designated administrator, who will serve as a non-voting chair. Campus region is defined as an area reporting to a Campus Provost (i.e. Lake Nona/Osceola/Poinciana region; Winter Park/East Campus region; West/Downtown region).

- B. The Faculty Association shall appoint faculty representatives for the Sabbatical Leave Committee. The Instructional Affairs Committee (IAC) shall appoint dean representatives. The College President or designee shall appoint the AVP, Teaching and Learning or other administrator as the non-voting chair. Members shall serve one year terms that coincide with the academic year.
- C. Applicants for sabbatical leaves may not serve as members of the Sabbatical Leave Committee in the same year that the individual's application is being considered.

IV. Sabbatical Leave Review Process

- A. The Office of Employee Development in Organizational Development and Human Resources (ODHR) will validate the years of continuous and qualifying Valencia service for each applicant in accordance with requirements.
- B. All sabbatical leave applications and proposals shall be reviewed by the Sabbatical Leave Committee to determine if the documents are complete and meet the sabbatical purpose and criteria.
- C. At the discretion of the Sabbatical Leave Committee, some applicants may be contacted to provide additional information before final recommendations are made to the College President or designee.
- D. All of the applications/proposals submitted in accordance with the requirements of the Sabbatical Leave policy shall initially be evaluated by the Sabbatical Leave Committee using the following criteria:
 - 1 The merit of the proposal with respect to the principles and criteria stated in this policy and implementing procedures;
 - 2 Exceptional service to the college;
- E. Proposals passing the initial evaluation shall be ranked by the Sabbatical Leave Committee using the following criteria:

- 1 The number of prior sabbatical leaves approved and taken by the applicant (lower number receives greater priority);
- 2 Number of years of applicable Valencia service to the applicant.

(Note: When two employees are equal based on criteria requirements, ranking shall be determined based on the content of the proposal and/or additional involvement and service to the college.)

- F. The Sabbatical Leave Committee's recommendations with regard to all proposals shall be submitted to the College President or designee for review and action. The recommendations shall clearly state:
 - 1 The reasons for the decision with reference to this policy/procedure;
 - 2 An assessment of the effect of the individual's absence from the College.
- G. The Office of Employee Development shall receive and share the College President or designee's decision on each proposal with the respective Campus Provost/Vice President and Sabbatical Leave Committee Chair.
- H. The Campus Provost or Vice President shall notify applicants who were approved for sabbatical leave. The Campus Provost or Vice President shall send copies of the notification to the respective dean or supervisor of the applicant, and to other offices as deemed appropriate. The Sabbatical Leave Committee Chair shall notify applicants whose applications have been denied with written reasons for denial and as deemed appropriate, any recommendations for improvement.
- I. Once a sabbatical leave has been approved, any substantive changes in the individual's sabbatical plans or term of award, including changes while the leave is underway, must be submitted in writing and approved by the individual's supervisor, the Campus Provost or Vice President, and the Sabbatical Leave Chair on behalf of the Sabbatical Leave Committee. Changes to the term of the award that result in a modification to the academic year must be additionally approved by the Vice President of Organizational Development and Human Resources and the College President or designee.

V. Sabbatical Leave Period and Compensation

- A. Eligible tenured faculty members may be granted sabbatical leave for one term at full salary or for two consecutive terms at one-half salary. Faculty will be eligible to teach in the summer when they are not on sabbatical leave.
- B. The terms “full salary” and “half salary” and “regular salary” are understood to apply to the full-time, annualized contract, not including extra service or stipends, irrespective of the number of installments in which the salary is received, and to include any adjustments that become effective for or during the leave period. During the actual sabbatical leave period, persons are not eligible to perform work at the College through extra service contracts, supplemental contracts, stipends, or over-load assignments.

VI. Grants and Employment

- A. It is not intended that an individual should accept other full-time employment during the period of sabbatical leave, because an individual on sabbatical leave continues to be employed full-time in their current position by the College. An employee on sabbatical leave may accept a grant for study, research or travel from an institution of higher education or from a charitable, religious or educational corporation or foundation, from any business enterprise, or from any state, federal or local government, but may not accept paid full-time employment of any kind except as may be specifically approved by the President. An individual who receives other full-time compensation without the approval of the President, as required by this procedure, will be required to return all base salary compensation received from Valencia during the sabbatical period.

VII. Group Insurance, Teacher Retirement, ORP, etc.

- A. An employee on sabbatical leave is an employee for purposes of participating in the programs and of receiving the benefits made available by or through the College or state to employees. During the duration of the sabbatical leave, the College shall continue all payments and payroll deductions as required by law and as specified by the employee in accordance with the employee’s contract of employment and College procedures.
- B. Although employee health insurance benefits may continue while an employee is on sabbatical leave, Valencia College shall not be responsible for the payment of emergency expenses incurred should a sabbatical recipient experiences illness, accident, or injury during the period of sabbatical leave. If a recipient’s sabbatical leave includes travel, it is recommended that the recipient purchase additional medical/trip insurance to cover unanticipated travel issues at his or her own expense.

VIII. Number of Sabbaticals to be Granted

- A. The President shall determine the number of sabbatical leaves to be awarded in any given year based on criteria including, without limitation, the number of applications received, the recommendations of the Sabbatical Leave Committee, and the resources available to support such activities.

IX. Expectation of Future Service

- A. Sabbatical leave is only awarded with the express provision that the recipient will be expected to continue in full-time service at the College for at least one (1) full academic year after completion of the sabbatical leave. As part of the application process, each applicant shall confirm his/her intent to remain in the employ of the College for at least one (1) academic year after the completion of the sabbatical. For the purpose of this section, one (1) academic year is defined as three (3) terms. Failure to return to and remain in Valencia College employment for all or part of the one-year period (excluding properly reported, approved, and documented leave taken in accordance with Valencia's policies and procedures) will make the person liable to reimburse the College an amount of money equivalent to all, or part, of the sabbatical base compensation paid to the recipient during the term of the sabbatical leave, calculated in proportion to the percentage of the year after the completion of the sabbatical the recipient was not an employee of Valencia. Each circumstance shall be evaluated on a case by case basis.

X. Additional Sabbatical Leave Requirements

- A. The sabbatical leave recipient must submit a certificate of absence for the sabbatical period within three (3) months prior the scheduled sabbatical leave period. The recipient shall be granted a bank of hours equivalent to the sabbatical period to which the leave will be charged.
- B. The sabbatical leave recipient is relieved of academic and administrative duties and responsibilities during the period of the leave. Recipients shall not serve on college committees, faculty assemblies, or accept other similar assignments during the time of sabbatical leave.
- C. The college's policies on intellectual property rights and educational work products apply to all persons on sabbatical leave to the same degree as to other employees of the college. (For additional information, see College Policy 6Hx28:5-09.1 Copyright and Trademark Ownership.) Any exception to these policies must be approved by the College President or designee prior to commencement of the sabbatical leave.
- D. Within four (4) months following completion of the sabbatical leave, recipients must submit to the Sabbatical Leave Committee, the dean or

immediate supervisor and to the Office of Employee Development in ODHR a report summarizing the benefits and/or achievements resulting from the sabbatical leave. A record of each recipient's proposal and summary will be retained by ODHR for consideration by future Sabbatical Leave Committees should the recipient apply again for a sabbatical leave.

- E. Failure by sabbatical leave recipients to fulfill the requirements set forth in Valencia's policy/procedures on sabbatical leave may result in disciplinary action and/or financial obligation for the repayment of all or part of the base salary compensation received during the sabbatical leave period.

Procedure History:

Adopted 6-22-04; Amended 10-19-10; Amended 11-10-10; Amended 5-23-18; Formerly 6Hx28:07-23

Date of Last Procedure Review:

~~06-30-2021~~XX-XX-2025