

**Ventura College Sabbatical Leave Proposal**  
Mathematics Basic Skills Catalog and Dissemination Project for Spring 2013

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**Instructor's Sabbatical Leave Status**

**Full-time hire date:** August, 2004

**Previous Sabbaticals:** 0

**Background of Sabbatical Project:**

Students are still coming to Ventura College underprepared to move directly into transfer level courses. There are many reasons for this: students with learning disabilities (both diagnosed and undiagnosed), students who have had a pause in their education, students who did not do well in their high school mathematics for whatever reason. With the recent decisions to rank Beginning Mathematics and Prealgebra as tier-three courses because they are so far below transfer level, and thus subject to either being reduced in the number of course offerings or cut completely, many of us in the Math Department are concerned about the impact on our newly matriculating students. Mathematics is considered to be a gate-keeper for many of our students. Our concern is that with fewer students able to have access to the remedial or basic skills courses to prepare them to do college level mathematics, many students will be unable to progress with their educational goals.

**Purpose of Sabbatical Project**

The purpose of this Sabbatical is to explore, compile and disseminate a catalog of resources that students can use for independent study so they can prepare themselves to do the level of mathematics that is offered at Ventura College, specifically Elementary Algebra, which is two levels below transfer. This will include researching tools that are already available including free programs and videos available through the internet and commercial programs that students may elect to pursue. Any gaps in the material needed for students' may be filled in with videos, workbooks or other information created by me.

**Components of Sabbatical Project**

Research what is needed: Identify the key skills and topics students need to be successful in Elementary Algebra.

Research and catalog what is readily available (free): There are many videos that have been posted by various instructors and are available on YouTube and other internet sites. This project will involve searching out the best and cataloging them so they are easily found by our students.

Research and catalog what is readily available (commercial): There are many programs available for students. Part of this project will involve reviewing some of those offerings and making available to students upon request an assessment of the strengths and weakness of those programs.

Explore ways to disseminate this information to our students. Students will be provided with a plan that they can follow independently in preparation for taking the placement exam at Ventura College so they will have the opportunity to enroll in the Mathematics sequence of courses that is at a higher level than they would have otherwise.

### **Value of Sabbatical Project to Ventura College Students**

With budget cutbacks and the possibility of few math course offerings, this is a way to organize information for students to take the initiative to prepare themselves for the courses that are offered. For many students the mathematical topics that will be addressed in the project is information they have learned before. Students need the opportunity to review and master the material so they are as prepared as possible to move on to the next level.

### **Value of the Sabbatical Project to the Instructor**

My heart is for my students and their ability to achieve academic success. This project will give me the personal satisfaction that I have done all that I can to help them with their goals.

Thank you for your consideration,

Donna Beatty  
Department of Mathematics