



## **Sabbatical Proposal for Fall 2021**

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**Creating a Free Digital Textbook for PG R101 by  
Designing and Locating Relevant and Up-To-Date Digital Resources**

## **Project Description:**

Oxnard College currently has the highest percentage of students in the district that because of a low-socioeconomic status (SES), qualify for Financial Aid. As both Counseling and Instructional faculty it is constantly my goal to unburden our students of any additional costs to attend college. It has been my observation both in the classroom and in counseling sessions that I have witnessed many students' financial struggles. Often times our students are working while only to use those paychecks to help contribute to their parents and family households.

In light of the many financial struggles of our students and with the new zeitgeist amongst educational practitioners, Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC), I am proposing to use my sabbatical time to author a new ZTC curriculum for the course I most often teach, PG R101 - Career Development & Life Planning (3 units). The current curriculum that we use must be purchased brand new so students can access the online component of the book. The book's online component can also be somewhat difficult for students to navigate. As with any technology factor there can be some inherent confusion, glitches or issues that the instructor and the students must troubleshoot together, oftentimes leading to an additional request for assistance from the publisher, which only adds to an already busy schedule for both instructor and student.

The purpose of my sabbatical is to complete two goals by authoring this new digital resource. It is my intention to create a free and open resource for this three unit course, thus making PG R101 available to our students as a ZTC course. The second intention is to create state of the art online resources that are much easier for students to navigate, and to produce something that I and/or other instructors can seamlessly integrate with our current Learning Management System (LMS), Canvas.

## Rationale

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

I have served the Ventura County Community College District and our students as a Counseling Faculty member for over six years at Oxnard College. Prior to that I was a Counseling Faculty member for three years at Santa Barbara City College (SBCC). In that time I have taught at both campuses including previous Personal Development (PD) counseling courses at SBCC and now our Personal Growth (PG) counseling courses as well. I have had the opportunity to teach multiple sections and topics including College Success (3 units), Career Development & Life Planning (3 units) and Student Success: Academic (1 unit).

During that time span I have had experience teaching in all modalities including fully in-person, web enhanced, hybrid and fully online. It has also provided me an opportunity to use multiple LMS programs and various forms of curriculum. I have also attended professional development growth opportunities relevant to my sabbatical including conferences hosted by authors and publishing companies to highlight best practices within the PG/PD forms of curriculum.

I feel that given the amount of experience that I have with instruction I am ready to take on the monumental task of creating a ZTC course for our students. My background has prepared me for this challenge, and to this date my main obstacle in creating free digital resources has been time. Therefore, I am requesting a single semester sabbatical, for the Fall 2021 semester, to spend the proper time to author this relevant content for the betterment of our students.

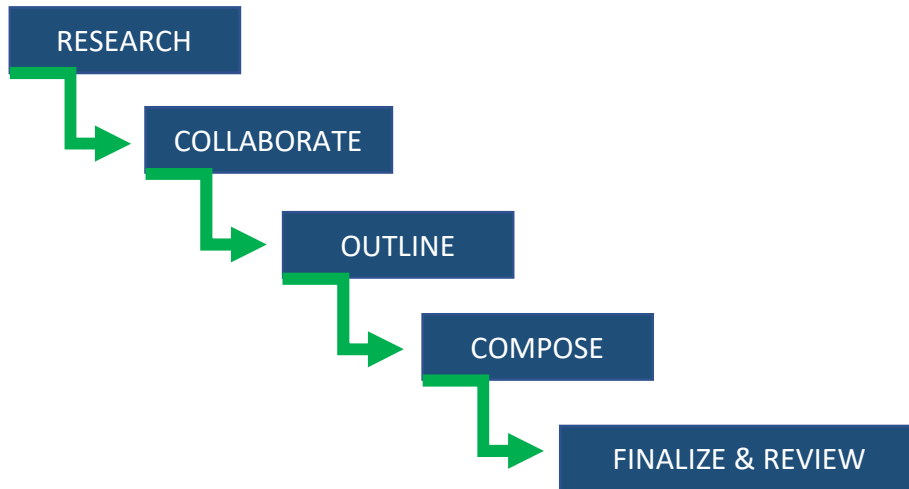
### **Project Objectives:**

“Open educational resources give students more flexibility in learning, and research shows most students perform as well or better using open educational resource course materials compared with students using traditional textbooks.” (California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office, n.d., Open Education Resources section, para. 2)

My sabbatical is mainly focused on the goal to create relevant and up-to-date digital resources for the three unit counseling course, PG R101 - Career Development & Life Planning. These new online resources will allow PG R101 to be taught as a ZTC course for students.

**Project Methodology:**

The methodology that I intend to incorporate to complete the goals of my sabbatical is the Waterfall methodology. Although it was more commonly used for manufacturing and the tech world, I feel that it will provide me a structured workflow to complete my objectives. I will look to complete each task in order to move on to the next one. I will provide further detail for the dates and timeline in a later section, for now here’s what my methodology will look like:



**Product of the sabbatical:**

The final product of my sabbatical will be a free online digital curriculum for PG R101 - Career Development & Life Planning. Composing this brand new curriculum will allow PG R101 to be a part of our ZTC program. My expectations for the final product will be in the digital forms of a PDF which will make up the bulk of the curriculum. The other final product and outcome will be the creation of activities and/or assignments to be used in our Canvas LMS.

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

The results of my sabbatical will be made available to all Counseling Faculty at OC. Particular attention will be given to those Counselors who also instruct PG R101. Since equivalent courses are taught at Moorpark College and Ventura College I intend to share it district wide as well. My hope is to also make it available to share through the Academic Senate for California Community College's OER Initiative. Lastly I will also provide any resources that I create into the Canvas Commons for ease of sharing those into future modules and assignments.

**Work plan and schedule:**

During the Fall 2021 semester I am committed to develop and author this new digital curriculum by following these steps:

1. **Research** - I will begin my sabbatical time conducting research into state of the art online resources for students. Even though I have experience using curriculum this will be my first time creating and authoring digital curriculum. It is my intention to create something meaningful and easy to use for both instructor and student. I also want to ensure that these new digital resources will be both gender and culturally sensitive. My sabbatical will begin with extensive research during the months of July and August.
2. **Collaborate** - As part of the research I want to collaborate with others who have a deeper breadth and depth of knowledge of this process. This collaboration could be in the form of working with our Curriculum Committee, Articulation Officer, State Chancellor's Office and the CA Community College Academic Senate's OER Initiative. My goal is for the research and collaboration to slightly overlap so I will be working on this portion during the months of August and September.
3. **Outline** - Once I have conducted my research and have a solid understanding through collaborative efforts I will begin to draft an outline for the curriculum and envision the chapters. My goal is to create a curriculum that flows seamlessly and logically between chapters. A curriculum that also builds upon each pervious chapter in order to scaffold

the material to maximize student learning and engagement. In the month of October I will synthesize all that I have gathered and begin to envision and formalize the foundation of the new curriculum and digital resources in the form of an outline.

4. **Compose** - The previous three steps will help guide me as I complete the task of writing the curriculum. During this stage I will also begin to develop the assignments and activities that would be part of the course Canvas shell. My goal is to use the months of October and November to do the craft of writing and rewriting the digital curriculum until it feels polished.
5. **Finalize Draft & Review** - The final step will happen in the month of December. I will begin to share my work with colleagues to make edits, gain input and make any final changes before finalizing my curriculum, digital resources and Canvas modules.

### **Value of Project:**

My hope is that you will select my sabbatical proposal for the Fall 2021 semester. In my estimation if I can earn this allotted time through the sabbatical application process I feel that it will be a huge value to my personal growth and development as an educational practitioner. It will also be helpful to the OC Counseling Department, PG Courses and most importantly benefit our students.

For me personally and professionally it will be a growth opportunity by learning more about creating curriculum from the ground up and by researching state of the art online resources for students. This sabbatical time will truly push and challenge me, making me a more informed faculty member for Oxnard College. I am hopeful that I will also grow my network during the sabbatical process by connecting with educators during my research and collaboration time.

My goal is not to stop with simply creating this ZTC course and Canvas resources. I am hopeful to use this new found knowledge to also create similar digital resources for our other counseling PG courses, thus making all of our counseling classes available for the ZTC program. I also want to continue on to create a one-unit version of PG R101 for students who might have already taken it or arrive to OC with that course on their transcript via Dual Enrollment/Articulation.

Lastly, as I stated at the start of my proposal, the main outcome of my sabbatical is to help our students out financially. This new digital curriculum and further development of more in the future will be another way to lessen the financial burden of attending college for our student population. At the end of the day the college with the heart, OC, is about doing all that we can to support and care for our students.