



Sabbatical Proposal for Spring 2024

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## Abstract

Transfer is an integral component of the Educational Master Plan of Oxnard College Mission and Values. One of Oxnard College's primary goals and objectives is to increase the number of transfer students to four-year universities.

“To better prepare those students whose goal is to transfer, we will need to improve our efforts to prepare students to be transfer ready. This cannot be the purview of a single office, but will need to be a campus-wide effort.”

The purpose of my sabbatical leave is to expand my knowledge, enhance my counseling practices, and support the increase of transfer rates at Oxnard College by attending professional development campus visits to the following universities:

### Northern California Four-Year Universities:

- San Francisco State University
- Sacramento State University
- CSU East Bay
- Sonoma State University

### Out-of-State Four-Year Universities:

- University of Montana
- University of Arizona
- University of Hawaii – Manoa

The reason for selecting the above stated northern California campuses is because they have emerging programs in nursing, occupational and physical therapy, kinesiology, and social work, to name a few. These

majors are in high demand and are challenging to get admitted. Most Oxnard College students tend to want to apply and stay locally in southern California universities and they are getting denied admissions partly because they are extremely selective and competitive. I want to provide other transfer options to students to look at northern universities which may be less competitive and increase their chance of getting admitted.

The three out-of-state universities campuses have been selected due to being a part of the Western Undergraduate Exchange Program, which provides steep nonresident tuition savings for out-of-state students. Therefore, the advantage for me to understand the how our transfer student would navigate the admission process, criteria's and admission selection, and being informed of the comprehensive WUE program would benefit me to better understand how to support students transition to these campuses. In addition, the following research will be done regarding attending an out-of-state university:

- Learn about state licensing and certifications for nursing, dental hygiene and physical therapy.
- Understanding each state's grants, institutional grants, scholarships, application fee waivers, and other financial aid resources for out-of-state students.
- Student support programs and housing available for out-of-state students.
- Student challenges and transitional adjustments to the campus environment.

In the past few years, I have seen how the university transfer process has become so much more complex and challenging for students who wish to transfer. This is especially true in some of the most impacted majors such as nursing, dental hygiene, communicative disorders, occupational

and physical therapy, to name a few. Admission into these programs has become extremely competitive and continues to be challenging for students, throughout the state of California. As a result, many students are considering transferring out-of-state to have a higher chance of being admitted into these impacted majors.

My role as a counselor is to provide academic, career and personal counseling to all students; however, due to budget constraints within our department and not being able to travel long distance to in-state or out-of-state professional development opportunities, it limits my ability to expand my knowledge and gain specific insight to what these universities can offer our students as it relates to transferring and completing their educational goal.

Not only am I frequently asked for in-state university transfer requirements, but out-of-state requirements as well. This sabbatical will provide me an opportunity to continue growing and developing in my profession as a counseling faculty of Oxnard College and is aligned with the college's goals and objectives.

### Background

Transfer has always been the specialized area in my profession. I have a enthusiastic passion in supporting our transfer students. I have worked at Oxnard College for over 34 years in various counseling capacities, such as EOPS, Career, International Students, Transfer Center, and in General Counseling. For over seven years, I served as the Transfer Center Counselor/Coordinator, which I absolutely loved. If granted, this would be my third sabbatical.

### Sabbatical Project Proposal – Spring 2024

Purpose:

The purpose of my sabbatical is to expand my professional development and skills in the area of servicing Oxnard College students for transfer readiness to out-of-state universities and seeking Northern California universities.

Objectives:

1. To increase the transfer rate.
2. Prepare students to not only to be transfer ready but be transfer prepared.
3. Create new opportunities for collaboration and partnerships for further work in the future.
4. To learn more about major specific requirements in majors such as nursing, dental hygiene, communicative disorders, forestry, occupational and physical therapy to enhance student's chance of being admitted.
5. To learn more about internships/research opportunities for transfer students.

Work Plan and Schedule:

During the spring 2024, I am committed to visit the following northern universities in California and out-of-state universities. I will be scheduling one-on-one meetings with the following:

- Admissions Directors
- Admissions Counselors
- Transfer Center Directors
- Financial Aid Counselors/Directors
- Housing Directors
- Currently enrolled students

Northern California Universities:

- San Francisco State University
- Sacramento State University
- CSU East Bay
- Sonoma State University

#### Out-of-State Universities:

- University of Montana
- University of Arizona
- University of Hawaii – Manoa

#### Timeline of the proposed activities

##### January 2024

Visit University of Hawaii – Manoa

##### February 2024

Visit San Francisco State University  
Visit CSU East Bay

##### March 2024

Visit Sacramento State University  
Visit Sonoma State University

##### April 2024

Visit University of Montana  
Visit University of Arizona

##### May 2024

Write formal written report and create PowerPoint presentation

### Value of Project:

My hope is that you will select my sabbatical proposal for spring 2024 semester. During the semester I will have time to visit/tour the aforementioned universities. It will be a learning and growth opportunity that will enhance my counseling skills for the rest of my career. I selected these universities because I am not familiar with them regarding what they offer students such as majors, student support services, housing options and financial assistance. As a counselor, I want to be prepared to answer students' questions about these particular universities and share my first-hand experience. I want to expand my network base with admissions counselors, university representatives, faculty and administrators, financial aid and housing staff. This would allow me to navigate the universities and have some key contact people that can provide insight into the admissions process.

Physically visiting and touring these campuses will provide me a totally different experience than just reading the school's website. I am taking my own advice. Often times students ask me about these specific northern California and out-of-state universities. If granted sabbatical, I will more equipped with personal insight than what the websites provide. The schools' website is important but visiting the campus is priceless. I always encourage students to go visit the campus they are interested in, so they can get a feel for the campus. Each campus has its own culture and I ask students to ask themselves "Do I picture myself here? Is this university right fit for me?"

A key value of my sabbatical is to continue my growth and development in counseling to assist our students who are interested in transferring out of our local area. In addition, I would like to expand transfer opportunities beyond the norm for Oxnard College students has as

Moorpark College and Ventura College does. I chose these universities because students ask me about some of these schools' programs and majors. For example, currently I have students that ask me about University of Hawaii's nursing and dental hygiene programs. Also, a couple of our student athletes transferred to the University of Hawaii pre-pandemic. Unfortunately, our college does not have tracking system that will tell us where our students transfer out-of-state and that is a challenge. Presently, we have about an overall 25% transfer rate and we typically have about 80-100 out-of-state transfers.

Once I complete my sabbatical, aside from submitting a formal written report of my experience given to the Sabbatical Committee and my counseling colleagues including University Transfer Center Coordinator. I am planning on putting together a PowerPoint presentation of my findings to then present to our counselors at a Counseling In-Service Meeting. My sabbatical report will also serve as a training tool for our eleven new counselors that were hired this year. With the knowledge on the best counseling practices obtained from this sabbatical, my ultimate goal is to use these skills to ensure that our transfer students have a seamless transfer experience and increase our transfer rates at Oxnard College.