

ARTICLE 22
SABBATICALS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

22.1 Sabbaticals.

(a) Policy. Sabbaticals are granted to increase an employee's value to the University through opportunities for research, writing, professional renewal, further education or other experiences of professional value. While such leaves may be provided in relation to an employee's years of service, they are not primarily a reward for service.

(b) Types of Sabbaticals.

(1) Competitive Sabbaticals: Each year, each college shall make available at least one (1) sabbatical, either at full pay for one (1) semester or at three-fourths pay for one (1) academic year, for each thirty (30) tenured and tenure-earning employees, subject to the conditions of this Article. Standard rounding techniques shall be used to determine the total number of competitive sabbaticals to be made available in each college. (e.g. A college with 44 tenured or tenure-earning employees shall make 1 competitive sabbatical available. A college with 45 tenured or tenure-earning employees shall make 2 competitive sabbaticals available.) Each year, each college shall make available at least one sabbatical.

(2) Non-Competitive Sabbaticals: Each college shall make available to each employee whose application meets the policy requirements noted above, and whose application has been recommended by the college committee and granted by the dean a sabbatical for two (2) semesters (i.e., one (1) academic year) at half pay, subject to the conditions of this Article.

(c) Eligibility for Sabbaticals.

(1) Full-time tenured employees with at least six (6) years of full-time continuous service with UCF shall be eligible for sabbaticals.

(2) No paid or unpaid leave(s) or family and medical, parental, administrative, or military leave(s) will be considered a break in continuous employment.

(3) An employee who is compensated through a contract or grant may receive a sabbatical only if the contract or grant allows a sabbatical and the employee meets all other eligibility requirements.

(4) Eligible employees shall be notified annually regarding eligibility requirements and application deadlines.

(d) Sabbatical Availability & Eligibility of Employees Not in a College.

(1) For the purposes of Section 22.1, "college" shall also mean the group of tenured and tenure-earning employees whose primary assignments are in an institute, center, or other non-college unit.

(2) These employees shall be grouped together for purposes of calculating the number of available sabbaticals and for purposes of ranking employees' applications. Sabbatical applications for these employees will be reviewed and ranked by the University Research Council, whose rankings will be finally reviewed by the president or president's representative. In all other respects, the application and selection process for these employees shall follow the provisions of Section 22.1(e)

(e) Application and Selection.

(1) Applications for sabbaticals shall be submitted in accordance with college procedures.

(2) Each application shall include a two-page statement describing the program and activities to be followed while on sabbatical; the expected increase in value of the employee to the University, the college and the employee's academic discipline; specific results anticipated from the leave; any anticipated supplementary income; and a statement that the applicant agrees to comply with the conditions of the sabbatical program as described in Section 22.1(f).

(3) The employee's immediate supervisor, e.g., the chair, shall be given a copy of the application when it is submitted for review by the college committee.

(4) A college committee shall be elected by and from the tenured and tenure-earning unit faculty. The committee shall equitably represent the departments/units of eligible employees.

(5) Employees who indicate they plan to apply for the leave are not eligible to serve on the committee.

(6) A committee chairperson shall be elected by and from the college sabbatical committee.

(7) The college committee shall review sabbatical applications and shall submit a ranked list of recommended employees to the dean or dean's representative.

(8) In ranking the applicants, committee members shall consider the merits of the proposal and the benefits of the proposed program to the employee, the University, the college and the profession; and the length of service since previous sabbatical. In ranking the applicants, committee members shall not disadvantage an applicant due to his/her academic discipline.

(9) Absent a legitimate business reason other than staffing or fiscal considerations, the dean or dean's representative shall make sabbatical appointments from the list and consult with the committee prior to an appointment that does not follow the committee's list. In the event that the dean or dean's representative decides not to make a sabbatical appointment to an employee on the list, he or she shall consult with the affected employee. If staffing or fiscal considerations preclude a sabbatical from being granted, the employee shall be provided the sabbatical the following year, or at a later time as agreed to by the employee and the college. The period of postponement shall be credited for eligibility for a subsequent sabbatical.

(f) Terms of Sabbatical Program.

(1) The employee must return to the University for at least one (1) academic year following participation in the program. If the employee fails to return to the University for at least one academic year following participation in the program, salary received during his/her participation in the program must be repaid to the University.

(2) Within thirty (30) days after returning from a sabbatical, the employee must provide a brief written report to the college dean's office that relates accomplishments during the sabbatical to the proposal submitted for that leave.

(3) Employees shall be eligible for another sabbatical after six (6)

years of continuous service at UCF are completed following the end date of the previous sabbatical.

(4) University contributions normally made to retirement and Social Security programs shall be continued during the sabbatical leave on a basis proportional to the salary received.

(5) University contributions normally made to employee insurance programs and any other employee benefit programs shall be continued during the sabbatical.

(6) Eligible employees shall continue to accrue annual and sick leave on a full-time basis during the sabbatical leave.

(7) While on leave, an employee shall be permitted to receive funds for travel and living expenses, and other sabbatical-related expenses, from sources other than the University, such as fellowships, grants-in-aid, and contracts and grants, to assist in accomplishing the purposes of the sabbatical. Receipt of funds for such purposes shall not result in reduction of the employee's University salary. Grants for such financial assistance from other sources may, but need not, be administered through the University. If financial assistance is received in the form of salary, the University salary may be reduced by the amount necessary to bring the total income of the sabbatical period to a level equal to the employee's current year salary rate. Employment unrelated to the purpose of the sabbatical leave is governed by the provisions of Article 19.

22.2 Professional Development Leave.

(a) Policy. Professional development leaves are granted to increase an employee's value to the University through opportunities for research, writing, professional renewal, further education, or other experiences of professional value. While such leaves may be provided in relation to an employee's years of service, they are not primarily a reward for service.

(b) Types of Professional Development Leave. Each year, the University will make available at least one (1) professional development leave either at full pay for one (1) semester or term or at three-fourths pay for one (1) academic year, for each thirty (30) employees who are not tenured or tenure-earning, subject to the conditions set forth below.

(c) Eligibility for Professional Development Leave.

(1) Employees with six (6) or more years of full-time, continuous service with UCF shall be eligible for professional development leaves, except those employees who are serving in tenure-earning or tenured positions.

(2) No paid or unpaid leave(s) or family and medical, parental, administrative, or military leave(s) will be considered a break in continuous employment.

(3) An employee who is compensated through a contract or grant may receive a professional development leave only if the contract or grant allows for such leaves and the employee meets all other eligibility requirements.

(4) Eligible employees shall be notified annually regarding eligibility requirements and application deadlines.

(d) Application and Selection.

(1) Application for professional development leave shall contain an appropriate outline of the project or work to be accomplished during the leave.

(2) The employee's immediate supervisor shall be given a copy of the application when it is submitted for review by the University Professional Development Leaves committee.

(3) A University Professional Development Leaves committee of at least five (5) members shall be elected by and from the employees eligible for professional development leave. The committee shall equitably represent the units of eligible employees.

(4) Employees who indicate they plan to apply for the leave are not eligible to serve on the committee.

(5) A committee chairperson shall be elected by and from the University Professional Development Leaves committee.

(6) The University committee shall review professional development leave applications and shall submit a ranked list of recommended employees to the president or president's representative.

(7) In ranking the applicants, committee members shall consider the merits of the proposal; the benefits of the proposed program to the employee, the University, the college/unit, and the job function of which the employee is a part; and length of service since previous professional development leave. In ranking the applicants, committee members shall not disadvantage an applicant due to the academic discipline, function, or profession of the applicant.

(8) Absent a legitimate business reason other than staffing or fiscal considerations, the president or president's representative shall make professional development leave appointments from the list and consult with the committee prior to an appointment that does not follow the committee's list. In the event that the president or president's representative decides not to make a sabbatical appointment to an employee on the list, he or she shall consult with the affected employee.

(9) No more than one (1) employee for each fifteen (15) employees in each department or unit need be granted professional development leave for the same semester.

(10) Leaves shall be granted contingent upon the availability of staff and unit funds. If staffing or fiscal considerations preclude a professional development leave from being granted, the employee shall be provided the professional development leave the following year, or at a later time as agreed to by the employee and the college/unit. The period of postponement shall be credited for eligibility for a subsequent professional development leave.

(e) Terms of Professional Development Leave.

(1) The employee must return to University employment for at least one (1) academic year following the conclusion of such leave.

(2) An employee who fails to return to the University for at least one (1) academic year following professional development leave must return the salary received during his/her professional development leave to the University.

(3) An employee who fails to spend the time as stated in the application shall reimburse the University for the salary received during such leave.

(4) Within thirty (30) days after returning from a professional development leave, the employee must provide a brief written report to the Faculty Relations Office that relates accomplishments during the professional development leave to the proposal submitted for that leave.

(5) Employees shall be eligible for another professional development leave after six (6) years of continuous service at UCF are completed following the end date of the previous professional development leave.

(6) University contributions normally made to retirement and Social Security programs shall be continued during the professional development leave on a basis proportional to the salary received.

(7) University contributions normally made to employee insurance programs and any other employee benefit programs shall be continued during the professional development leave.

(8) Eligible employees shall continue to accrue annual and sick leave on a full-time basis during the professional development leave.

(9) While on leave, an employee shall be permitted to receive funds for travel and living expenses, and other professional development leave-related expenses, from sources other than the University, such as fellowships, grants-in-aid, and contracts and grants, to assist in accomplishing the purposes of the professional development leave. Receipt of funds for such purposes shall not result in reduction of the employee's University salary. Grants for such financial assistance from other sources may, but need not, be administered through the University. If financial assistance is received in the form of salary, the University salary may be reduced by the amount necessary to bring the total income of the professional development leave period to a level comparable to the employee's current year salary rate. Employment unrelated to the purpose of the professional development leave is governed by the provisions of Article 19.

22.3 Other Study Leave.

(a) Job-Required. An employee required to take academic course work as part of assigned duties shall not be required to charge time spent attending classes during the work day to accrued leave.

(b) Job-Related. An employee shall be permitted to attend up to six (6) credits of course work per semester during work, provided that:

(1) The course work is directly related to the employee's professional responsibilities;

(2) The supervisor determines that the absence will not interfere with the proper operation of the work unit;

(3) The supervisor believes that completion of the course work would improve the productivity of the department or function of which the employee is a part; and

(4) The employee’s work schedule can be adjusted to accommodate such job-related study without reduction in the total number of work hours required per pay period.

22.4 Retraining. The University may, at its discretion, provide opportunities for retraining of employees when it is in the University’s best interests. Such opportunities may be provided to employees who are reassigned or laid off, or in other appropriate circumstances. These retraining opportunities may include enrollment in tuition-free courses under the provisions of Article 24 and Sabbaticals or Professional Development Leaves under this Article.