

Part I

Sabbatical Leave Application Signature Page

Name: Herschel Stern **Department:** Social Science

Application Submission Date: Sept. 17, 2015

Full-time Hire Date (semester and year): Fall 1989

Semester and year of last sabbatical leave
(or 'NA' if you have never taken a sabbatical leave): Fall 2006

Period of sabbatical leave requested:

- Academic School Year: 2016-17
- Check (X) the length of Sabbatical Leave:
☒ One semester (indicate semester of preference: Fall 2016),
Or ☐ One-year at 50% compensation (do not include unbanking),
Or ☐ Variable (approval of Superintendent/President required prior to submission of application).

Date of proposed return to full-time service (if unbanking): _____

Prior to submitting your application, perform the following steps:

Step 1: Notify your Department Chairperson (or equivalent) of your intent to request a sabbatical leave, giving him/her the opportunity to consider staffing, budgets, previous evaluations and other issues.	Initials of applicant: HS	Date: Sept. 10, 2015
Step 2: Notify your Dean (or equivalent) of your intent to request a sabbatical leave, giving him/her the opportunity to consider staffing, budgets, previous evaluations and other issues.	Initials of applicant: HS	Date: Sept. 10, 2015
Step 3: Notify your Vice President (or equivalent) of your intent to request a sabbatical leave, giving him/her the opportunity to consider staffing, budgets, previous evaluations, SLO assessment calendar, and other issues.	Initials of applicant: HS	Date: Sept. 10, 2015
Step 4: Submit application & application (hard copy and electronic copy) to SLC Administrative Secretary prior to deadline. SLC will review and make recommendations for revisions.		

I understand that I must have six years of service prior to and between each sabbatical leave and certify that the foregoing is correct and that I will complete the requisite number of hours (576) in self-directed and/or academic studies:

Signature: _____

/applicant should not write below this line/

Original signatures are required on hard copy:

APPROVALS

Title	Approved (Yes/No)	Signature	Date
SLC Chair			
AS President			
Superintendent/ President			
Board of Trustees President			

Part II

Abstract of Sabbatical Leave Application

APPLICANT'S NAME: Herschel Stern

DEPARTMENT: Social Sciences

CHECK (X) THE TYPE OF SABBATICAL LEAVE: **Advanced Academic Studies,**
or X Self-directed studies (may partially include academic studies).

(Select Advanced Academic Studies only if all 12 semester/ 18 quarter units are upper division/ graduate credit. Otherwise, choose Self-directed studies.)

ABSTRACT

In the box below, clearly state the purpose(s) of the proposed sabbatical leave (try to keep the abstract 200 words or less).

The purposes of the sabbatical leave are to develop a deeper understanding of pedagogical possibilities in two separate geography courses and to create specific materials for use in these courses. The first course is Physical Geography Laboratory. I will look at recent technological changes and pedagogical developments in the field to understand how to better achieve the objectives and student learning outcomes of the course. My primary outcome will be to create four to twelve reproducible lab exercises. The second course is World Geography. I have recently changed how I teach this course from using a traditional textbook to a much greater focus on current events and interactivity in the classroom by using a news magazine instead. As my primary outcome, I intend to develop course materials such as maps, concept articles and data sources that will provide a more systematic background for this approach than the commercial materials currently available that I assign for such purposes.

Parts III & IV

Sabbatical Leave Application

(Use the following format for Parts III & IV to prepare these sections as described below.)

III. Identification of Objectives, Description of Proposed Activities & Documentation

Objective #1:

a. My objective: Research recent technological changes and pedagogical developments in the teaching of Physical Geography Laboratory.

b. How I plan to accomplish my objective and anticipated outcome: I will investigate the variety of lab manuals and digital resources currently available in the field. I will also consult with colleagues that teach physical geography laboratory classes at other colleges such as San Diego State University and Grossmont College, as well as colleagues that teach such classes in cognate disciplines at MiraCosta, such as Oceanography or Geology. The outcome of this will be a deeper understanding of how I can restructure lab exercises for my class at MiraCosta.

c. Documentation and estimation of time spent on my activity: I will log my time spent on the activity. I expect this to take at least 108 hours. I will also provide a list of people and resources consulted.

Objective #2:

a. My objective: Review the current laboratory equipment available at MiraCosta and investigate the acquisition of replacement equipment.

b. How I plan to accomplish my objective and anticipated outcome: Once I have completed Objective #1, I will be able to determine whether equipment we currently use should be replaced and the types of new equipment that are desirable, as well as the financial feasibility and most appropriate way of making such changes. The outcome will be a prioritized list of instructional equipment.

c. Documentation and estimation of time spent on my activity: I will log my time spent on the activity. I expect this to take 50 hours. The list will be included in the documentation.

Objective #3:

a. My objective: Create reproducible lab exercises.

b. How I plan to accomplish my objective and anticipated outcome: I will author four to twelve lab exercises of my own based on my findings in Objectives 1 and 2. The

outcome will be a series of lab exercises. I will maintain intellectual property rights to materials I produce as per MCC AP3715.

c. Documentation and estimation of time spent on my activity: I will log my time spent on the activity. I expect this to take at least 130 hours. I will include selected excerpts of the materials I produce.

Objective #4:

a. My objective: Review commercial resources such as books, websites and other digital resources, available to support a current events focus in World Geography.

b. How I plan to accomplish my objective and anticipated outcome: I will explore a broader range of materials than I had the opportunity to do when I first instituted a current events focus in the course. The outcome of this may be a decision to have my students purchase a commercial product. If this decision is made, it may cut down the time I spend focusing on this course in Objective #5 and thereby increase the amount of time I spend on Physical Geography Laboratory in Objectives 1 and 3.

c. Documentation and estimation of time spent on my activity: I will log my time spent on the activity. I expect this to take 50 hours.

Objective #5:

a. My objective: Develop a collection of map and reading materials that will support a current events focus in World Geography.

b. How I plan to accomplish my objective and anticipated outcome: This will primarily involve internet research to assemble articles, images and links to relevant resources. It may involve authoring some materials as well. If so, I will maintain intellectual property rights to materials I produce as per MCC AP3715. The outcome of this will be a digital resource to which I can refer students and out of which I can construct assignments.

c. Documentation and estimation of time spent on my activity: I will log my time spent on the activity. I expect this to take 238 hours. I will include selected excerpts from the materials I collect or create.

Total Estimate of Hours for all objectives (minimum of 576 hours) = 576

IV. Explanation of Contribution to District

A. Explanation of how my activities will contribute to my professional development:

The variety of pedagogical approaches and the sheer amount of information related to geography are still expanding rapidly, as they have been doing ever since the onset of the digital age. The activities conducted during this sabbatical leave will deepen and make more current my understanding and skills as both an instructor and a geographer. The two courses I will focus on are ripe for this. I have recently come back to teaching Physical Geography Laboratory for the first time in many years and I want to know where the leading edge is and adjust my teaching accordingly. Regarding the World Geography course, I am particularly excited to broaden my current events approach because my students are excited by it.

B. Explanation of the anticipated short- and/or long-term benefits of your project on the following groups: students, department, college, and/or community. Include specific information on SLOs and/or PSLOs.

The principal beneficiaries of my sabbatical leave project will be my students. Physical Geography Laboratory students will get lab experiences that are aligned with the most current trends and will help them to better achieve the objectives and student learning outcomes of the course, particularly: 1. Read, interpret and compare topographic maps, and 3. Compare and analyze landforms in terms of their underlying geomorphological processes. World Geography students will get an even more solid grounding in the geographic background to current events that will also help them to better achieve the objectives and student learning outcomes of the course, particularly: 1. Use maps as information resources and analytical tools, and 2. Employ a spatial perspective to analyze the interconnections between places at a variety of scales. The department will benefit particularly through my deeper ability to assist and evaluate part-time faculty teaching these courses. Of course, if the students and the department benefit, so too does the college and the community.