

**ARTICLE 22****SABBATICALS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM****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 sabbaticals may be provided in relation to an employee's years of service, they are not primarily a reward for service longevity.

(b) Types of Sabbaticals.

(1) Type I Sabbaticals: Each year, each college shall make available at least one Type I sabbatical, either at full pay for one semester [Type IA] or one at three-fourths pay for one academic year [Type IB], for each twenty tenured and tenure-earning employees, subject to the conditions of this Article. Standard rounding techniques shall be used to determine the total number of Type I sabbaticals to be made available in each college. (e.g., a college with 29 tenured or tenure-earning employees shall make one Type I sabbatical available. A college with 30 tenured or tenure-earning employees shall make two Type I sabbaticals available.) Colleges with fewer than twenty tenured and tenure-earning employees shall make available at least one such sabbatical every other academic year.

(2) Type II Sabbaticals: Each college shall make a Type II sabbatical available to each employee whose application has been ranked/recommended by the college committee but was not awarded a Type I sabbatical. This Type II sabbatical is a sabbatical for up to two semesters (i.e., up to one academic year) at half pay, subject to the conditions of this Article, and granted by the dean.

(c) Sabbatical Eligibility.

(1) Full-time tenured employees with at least five academic years of full-time continuous service at UCF shall be eligible to apply for a sabbatical that would take place in the following academic year. (For example, a full-time tenured employee who starts their employment at UCF at the beginning of the 2024-25 academic year, and is continuously employed, may submit a sabbatical application during the 2029-30 academic year for a sabbatical that would take place in the 2030-31 academic year.)

(2) Applicants for sabbaticals must be tenured at the time their applications are submitted. (For example, a full-time tenure-earning employee who starts their employment at UCF at the beginning of the 2024-25 academic year may be tenured at the start of the 2030-31 academic year and submit a sabbatical application in 2030-31. Their sabbatical would take place in the 2031-32 academic year.)

(3) Employees must work at least five full academic years (i.e., a fall semester followed by a spring semester) or the equivalent and be tenured before they are eligible to submit a sabbatical application.

(4) Full-time employees shall be eligible to apply for their next sabbatical during the sixth year of continuous service at UCF after the end of the academic year during which the previous sabbatical, professional development program appointment (formerly called professional development leave), or administrative professional development leave was taken. (For example, a tenured employee who takes a sabbatical in the 2025-26 academic year and is continuously employed may submit another sabbatical application in the 2031-32 academic year for a sabbatical that would take place in the 2032-33 academic year.)

(5) No paid or unpaid family and medical, parental, administrative, military, or other authorized leave(s) shall be considered a break in continuous employment.

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48 (6) Employees shall be notified annually regarding eligibility requirements and  
49 application deadlines.

50 (d) Application and Selection.

51 (1) Applications for sabbaticals shall be submitted in accordance with college  
52 deadlines.

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

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

60 (4) A college committee shall be elected by and from the tenured unit employees.  
61 The committee shall equitably represent the departments or units of eligible employees.

62 (5) Employees who indicate they plan to apply for a sabbatical are not eligible to  
63 serve on the committee.

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

66 (7) The college committee shall review sabbatical applications. Only those  
67 applications that are deemed worthy of a sabbatical shall be ranked and submitted to the  
68 dean or dean's representative. In ranking the applications worthy of a sabbatical, committee  
69 members shall consider the merits of the proposal and the benefits of the proposed  
70 program to the employee, the University, the college and the profession, and the length of  
71 service since previous sabbatical. Committee members shall not disadvantage an applicant  
72 due to their academic discipline.

73 (8) Absent a legitimate business reason other than staffing or fiscal considerations,  
74 the dean or dean's representative shall make sabbatical appointments from the ranked list  
75 and consult with the committee prior to an appointment that does not follow the committee's  
76 list. If staffing or fiscal considerations preclude a sabbatical from being granted, the  
77 employee shall be provided the sabbatical the following academic year, or at a later time as  
78 agreed to by the employee and the college dean. In the event that the dean or dean's  
79 representative decides not to make a sabbatical appointment to an employee on the list,  
80 they shall consult with the affected employee. ~~If staffing or fiscal considerations preclude a~~  
81 ~~sabbatical from being granted, the employee shall be provided the sabbatical the following~~  
82 ~~academic year, or at a later time as agreed to by the employee and the college.~~ The  
83 postponement of a sabbatical by the university does not result in any postponement of a  
84 subsequent sabbatical application by the employee.

85 (9) In the event of an exceptional opportunity for a tenured employee to participate in  
86 a prestigious academic award/activity for which deadlines prevent application during the  
87 normal application process, the dean may award a sabbatical outside of the above defined  
88 process. All employee eligibility requirements must be met and all sabbatical terms defined  
89 below apply.

90 (e) Terms of Sabbatical Program.

91 (1) The employee must return to the University for at least one academic year  
92 following participation in the program. If the employee fails to return to the University for at  
93 least two consecutive semesters, fall and spring, in the academic year following  
94 participation in the program, all salary and fringe benefits received during their participation  
95 in the program must be repaid to the University within 30 days of resignation or job  
96 abandonment. If the employee makes little to no effort to complete the project described in

97 the application, the employee shall receive an “Unsatisfactory” overall annual evaluation  
98 and will be ineligible to apply for a sabbatical for ten years.

99 (2) If there are circumstances that arise where the employee wishes or needs to  
100 request to change the terms of the sabbatical, including cancelation or postponement, from  
101 what was proposed, any revisions to the proposal must be documented in writing and  
102 submitted to the employee’s supervisor as soon as practicable. The supervisor and dean  
103 must approve the revised sabbatical proposal before the work may proceed. An employee  
104 may make such a request only one time to change the terms of an approved sabbatical.

105 (3) Within thirty days after the beginning of the spring semester (for a fall-only  
106 sabbatical) or when annual reports are due (for a spring-only or fall/spring sabbatical), the  
107 employee must provide a brief written report to the college dean’s office and their  
108 department or unit that relates accomplishments during the sabbatical to the proposal  
109 submitted for that sabbatical.

110 (4) An annual evaluation shall be conducted for each employee whose assignment  
111 included a sabbatical. The overall evaluation shall be weighted between time on sabbatical  
112 and time on regular duties. Their time on sabbatical shall be evaluated based on their  
113 accomplishments made in light of their sabbatical proposal and ensuing circumstances.  
114 Their time on regular duties, if any, shall be evaluated based on the department or unit’s  
115 Annual Evaluation Standards & Procedures.

116 (5) University contributions normally made to retirement and Social Security  
117 programs shall be continued during the sabbatical period on a basis proportional to the  
118 salary received.

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

121 (7) Eligible employees on sabbatical shall continue to accrue **leave on a** full-time  
122 basis.

123 (8) While on sabbatical, an employee must disclose and shall be permitted to  
124 receive funds for travel and living expenses, and other sabbatical-related expenses, from  
125 sources other than the University, such as fellowships, grants-in-aid, and contracts and  
126 grants, to assist in accomplishing the purposes of the sabbatical. Receipt of funds for such  
127 purposes shall not result in reduction of the employee’s University salary. Grants for such  
128 financial assistance from other sources may, but need not, be administered through the  
129 University. If financial assistance is received in the form of salary, the University salary may  
130 be reduced by the amount necessary to bring the total income of the sabbatical period to a  
131 level equal to the employee’s current year salary rate. Employment unrelated to the purpose  
132 of the sabbatical is governed by the provisions of the Conflict of Interest or  
133 Commitment/Outside Activity Article. No additional compensation from UCF E&G sources is  
134 allowable.

## 136 22.2 Professional Development Program (PDP).

137 (a) Policy. Professional development program (PDP) appointments are granted to  
138 increase an employee’s value to the University through opportunities for research, writing,  
139 professional renewal, further education, or other experiences of professional value. While  
140 PDPs may be provided in relation to an employee’s years of service, they are not primarily a  
141 reward for service longevity.

142 (b) Professional Development Program Appointment Availability. Each year, the  
143 University will make available at least one PDP appointment at full pay for one semester or

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144 term or at three-fourths pay for one academic year, for each thirty employees who are not  
145 tenured or tenure-earning, subject to the conditions set forth below.

146 (c) Eligibility for Professional Development Program Appointment. Tenured and tenure-  
147 earning faculty are not eligible to apply for PDPs. Tenured employees should apply for  
148 sabbaticals in accordance with Section 22.1 of this agreement. Only 12-month employees  
149 may apply for a PDP appointment during the summer term.

150 (1) Non-tenured, non-tenure-earning employees who have completed five or more  
151 academic years of full-time, continuous non-OPS service with UCF shall be eligible to apply  
152 for PDP appointments.

153 (a) First-time applicants. Employees must work at least five full academic years  
154 (i.e., a fall semester followed by a spring semester) or the equivalent before they are eligible  
155 to submit a PDP application.

156 (b) Full-time non-tenured, non-tenure-earning employees shall be eligible to  
157 apply for their next PDP during the sixth year of continuous service at UCF after the end of  
158 the academic year during which the previous PDP was completed. As an example, an  
159 employee whose PDP ended either August 7, 2026, December 23, 2026, or May 7, 2027  
160 would be eligible to apply during the 2032-33 PDP application period for a PDP to take  
161 place in the 2033-34 academic year.

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

164 (3) An employee who is compensated through a non-E&G funding source, including  
165 a contract, or grant, or auxiliary, may receive a PDP appointment only if the non-E&G  
166 funding source contract or grant allows participation in such programs and provides the  
167 funding for the PDP appointment, and the employee meets all other eligibility requirements.

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

170 (d) Application and Selection.

171 (1) Applications for a PDP appointment shall contain an appropriate outline of the  
172 project or work to be accomplished during the proposed PDP appointment.

173 (2) Each application shall include a two-page statement describing the program and  
174 activities to be followed while on the PDP appointment; the expected increase in value of  
175 the employee to the University and unit; specific results anticipated from the proposed PDP  
176 appointment; any anticipated supplementary income; and a statement that the applicant  
177 agrees to comply with the conditions of the PDP. PDP proposals must articulate how the  
178 planned activity relates to and serves the mission and goals for the department/unit and  
179 college.

180 (3) The employee's immediate supervisor, e.g., the chair, and their dean, director, or  
181 unit head shall be given a copy of the application by the applicant when it is submitted for  
182 review by the University PDP Committee.

183 (4) A University PDP Committee of at least five members shall be elected by and  
184 from the employees eligible for PDP appointments.

185 (5) Employees who indicate they plan to apply for a PDP appointment are not  
186 eligible to serve on the committee.

187 (6) A committee chairperson shall be elected by and from the University PDP  
188 Committee.

189 (7) The University committee shall review PDP applications and shall submit a  
190 ranked list of only recommended employees to the University's representative.

191 a. Only those applications that are deemed worthy of a PDP appointment shall  
192 be ranked and submitted to the University's representative.

193 b. In ranking the applicants, committee members shall consider the merits of the  
 194 proposal; the benefits of the proposed program to the employee, the University, the  
 195 college/unit, and the job function of which the employee is a part; and length of service  
 196 since a previous PDP appointment. Committee members shall not disadvantage an  
 197 applicant due to the academic discipline, function, or profession of the applicant.

198 (8) ~~The University's representative shall ask the corresponding college dean or~~  
 199 ~~division vice president to affirm or deny the merit of each application ranked by the~~  
 200 ~~University Committee.~~

201 (9) Absent a legitimate business reason other than staffing or fiscal considerations,  
 202 the University's representative shall award PDP appointments from the ranked list of  
 203 meritorious PDP applications and consult with the committee prior to an appointment that  
 204 does not follow the committee's list. In the event that the University's representative decides  
 205 not to offer a PDP appointment to an employee on the list, they shall consult with the  
 206 affected employee.

207 (109) No more than one employee for each fifteen employees in each department,  
 208 college, or unit need be granted a PDP appointment for the same semester.

209 (1149) PDP appointments shall be granted contingent upon the availability of staff  
 210 and unit funds. If staffing or fiscal considerations preclude a PDP appointment from being  
 211 granted, the employee shall be provided the PDP appointment the following academic year,  
 212 or at a later time as agreed to by the employee and the college dean/division vice  
 213 president college/unit. The postponement of a PDP appointment by the university does not  
 214 result in any postponement of a subsequent PDP application by the employee.

215 (e) Terms of PDP Appointments.

216 (1) The employee must return to University employment for at least one academic  
 217 year following participation in that program. If the employee fails to return to the University  
 218 for at least two consecutive semesters, fall and spring, in the academic year following  
 219 participation in the program, all salary and fringe benefits received during their participation  
 220 in the program must be repaid to the University within 30 days of resignation or job  
 221 abandonment. If the employee makes little to no effort to complete the project described in  
 222 the application, the employee shall receive an "Unsatisfactory" overall annual evaluation  
 223 and will be ineligible to apply for a PDP appointment for ten years.

224 (2) If there are circumstances that arise where the employee wishes or needs to  
 225 request to change the terms of the PDP appointment, including cancelation or  
 226 postponement, from what was proposed, any revisions to the proposal must be documented  
 227 in writing and submitted to the employee's supervisor as soon as practicable. The  
 228 supervisor and dean or unit leader must approve the revised PDP proposal before the work  
 229 may proceed. An employee may make such a request only one time to change the terms of  
 230 an approved PDP assignment.

231 (3) An employee who fails to spend the time as stated in the application or revision  
 232 as approved by the supervisor and dean shall reimburse the University for all salary and  
 233 fringe benefits received during the PDP period within 30 days following the scheduled  
 234 completion of the PDP appointment.

235 (4) Within thirty days after the end of the semester or summer term following the  
 236 conclusion of the PDP, the employee must provide a brief written report to their department  
 237 or unit that relates accomplishments during the PDP appointment to the proposal submitted  
 238 for that PDP appointment.

239 (5) An annual evaluation shall be conducted for each employee whose assignment  
 240 included a PDP appointment. The overall evaluation shall be weighted between time on  
 241 PDP appointment and time on regular duties. Their time on PDP appointment shall be

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Commented [CR2]: See previous comment.

Commented [CR3]: Clarifying that "college/unit" has always been intended to mean dean or VP.

Commented [CR4]: Intended to be consistent with 22.1 and application cycle.

Commented [CR5]: Specifies and clarifies number of employee-initiated changes in PDP terms.

242 evaluated based on their accomplishments made in light of their PDP proposal and ensuing  
243 circumstances. Their time on regular duties, if any, shall be evaluated based on the  
244 department or unit's Annual Evaluation Standards & Procedures.

245 (6) University contributions normally made to retirement and Social Security  
246 programs shall be continued during the PDP period on a basis proportional to the salary  
247 received.

248 (7) University contributions normally made to employee insurance programs and any  
249 other employee benefit programs shall be continued during the PDP period.

250 (8) Eligible employees on a PDP appointment shall continue to accrue time off/leave  
251 on a full-time basis.

252 (9) While on a PDP appointment, an employee must disclose and shall be permitted  
253 to receive funds for travel and living expenses, and other PDP-related expenses, from  
254 sources other than the University, such as fellowships, grants-in-aid, and contracts and  
255 grants, to assist in accomplishing the purposes of the PDP appointment. Receipt of funds  
256 for such purposes shall not result in reduction of the employee's University salary. Grants  
257 for such financial assistance from other sources may, but need not, be administered  
258 through the University. If financial assistance is received in the form of salary, the University  
259 salary may be reduced by the amount necessary to bring the total income of the PDP period  
260 to a level comparable to the employee's current year salary rate. Employment unrelated to  
261 the purpose of the PDP appointment is governed by the provisions of the Conflict of Interest  
262 or Commitment/Outside Activity Article. No additional compensation from UCF E&G  
263 sources is allowable.

### 264 **22.3 Other Study Leave.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

277 (c) Retraining. The University may, at its discretion, provide opportunities for retraining  
278 of employees when it is in the University's best interests. Such opportunities may be  
279 provided to employees who are reassigned, have received notice of layoff, or in other  
280 appropriate circumstances.