

**Collin County Community College District
APPLICATION FOR SABBATICAL LEAVE**

Instructions

Please complete this application by responding to all items. Attach requested documentation (in the order requested) and secure the appropriate signatures prior to submitting the application to the chair of the Sabbatical Leave Committee. **Please submit the original and 10 copies.**

Name Lisa Mellott "Elizabeth Mellott" CWID 110740773
Title Professor of Photography Division Fine Arts

Have you ever been granted a sabbatical? No If yes: Date: _____

Please provide a brief description of your previous sabbatical project:

Sabbatical Leave Period Being Requested

Dates: Beginning Date January 2016 Ending Date May 2016

Length: One semester [] Two semesters [] Other _____

Applicant's Agreement

ABSTRACT

Please give a summary description of the project and its significance in a language that can be readily understood by persons in areas of expertise other than your own. **PLEASE DO NOT EXCEED SPACE PROVIDED BELOW.**
Photography as an art form and academic discipline is rooted in technology and must continuously grow alongside the metamorphoses of that technology. In line with the 2016 Collin College Strategic Plan, I propose a sabbatical that will research the inclusion and extent of new digital technology in photography programs with the goals of implementing new digital technology into photography courses, creating contemporary methodology in the classroom, establishing university transferable courses, and preparing articulation agreements. I know the importance of updated transferable courses and the benefit of articulation agreements to serve students in guidance towards degree completion. I will initiate the sabbatical research meeting with Collin College administrators in which I will collect data and refine the research criteria. I will proceed to conduct meetings with area university and college professors in order to interview, evaluate, and document area college and university photography departments' designs with particular interest in new digital technology in their courses and programs. To conclude the research, I will meet with working fine art and commercial professionals to research the use of new digital technology in the work field. I will then propose detailed plans to implement new digital technology into Collin College photography courses and establish articulation agreements. This sabbatical is designed to ensure the Collin College photography program is not only concurrent with area institutions but is also a leading educational program, serving students with contemporary techniques and avenues for degree completion.

If granted a sabbatical leave by Collin County Community College District (Collin College), I agree to return to Collin College for one full year upon completion of the sabbatical leave. I further agree to abide by the Sabbatical Leave Contract, and Sabbatical Leave Policies and Guidelines.

Applicant: Elizabeth Mellott Date: Dec 9, 2014

Verification of Eligibility

(This section should be completed by the Dean/Director/Supervisor after verifying the eligibility of the applicant with Human Resources.)

Collin College employee, Elizabeth Mellott is is not* eligible to be considered by the Sabbatical Committee for sabbatical leave.

*Not eligible due to:

- Less than five (5) years of service
- Currently in non-exempt position
- Prior sabbatical within last five (5) years
- On Sabbatical Committee
- Other _____

Dean/Director/Supervisor: Steve Miller Date: 12/11/2014

Approval Path

Recommended Not recommended

Justification: This opportunity will allow Elizabeth the ability to analyze the use of digital technology in the classroom.

Dean/Director/Supervisor: Steve Miller Date: 12/11/2014

Recommended Not recommended

Justification: _____

Sabbatical Committee Chair: _____ Date: _____

Recommended Not recommended

Justification: _____

Vice President/Provost: _____ Date: _____

Recommended Not recommended

Justification: _____

Senior Vice President: _____ Date: _____

Recommended Not recommended

Justification: _____

District President: _____ Date: _____

Board of Trustees: Approved Not Approved Date: _____

Dates of Approved Sabbatical Leave:

Beginning Date: _____ Ending Date: _____

Sabbatical Research 2015, Elizabeth Mellott Proposal

Photography as an art form and academic discipline is rooted in technology and must continuously grow alongside the metamorphoses of that technology. Historically the process of creating a photograph has changed with each new development, such as roll film, color processing, and now with digital technology. The quandary of new digital technology has brought forth questions of new media, image capture, complexities and simplicities of cameras, and the mixture of traditional photographic processes with new digital processes. I propose a sabbatical that will research the inclusion and extent of new digital technology in photography programs with the goals of implementing new digital technology into Collin College photography courses, creating contemporary methodology in the classroom, establishing university transferable courses, and preparing articulation agreements. The sabbatical research is in alignment with the 2016 Collin College Strategic Plan preparing students for the current photography work force, focusing on Collin core values, nurturing a positive relationship between Collin College and area universities and creating avenues for degree completion. As the photography department's discipline lead, academic coach, photography department advisor and photography professor, I experience the importance of updated transferable courses and the benefit of articulation agreements to serve students in guidance towards degree completion. Collin College Photography students have one of two goals after completing their studies at Collin College: to transfer to a four-year university to obtain a Bachelor's degree in photography, or to begin a career as a photographer. The Collin College Photography Department focuses on both directions with the strategic plan to create curriculum that is both current in all areas of photography and is transferable. Digital technology is changing at a rapid pace and therefore affecting many areas of the photography program, including equipment, software, labs, and methodology. As a professor I attend numerous lectures, symposiums and exhibitions each year with the goal of staying current in the field. Yet, to complete thorough research, it is imperative to meet with area university photography professors to research their designs and approaches to these changes. A sabbatical would allow me the time to conduct a thorough research, and to create updated methodology that will prepare students to transfer to a photography program as a junior. Once a transferable contemporary program is established, I can begin the process to establish articulation agreements with area universities. In 2006, two of my photography colleagues established an articulation agreement with Texas A&M Commerce University, and the following year I established an agreement with Texas Woman's University. With changes not only in digital technology but also the recent changes in the Texas core, both of these established articulation agreements became obsolete. In the Fall of 2014, I began the process to update articulation agreements with both Texas Woman's University and Texas A&M Commerce University, and spoke with the University of Texas at Dallas, the University of Texas at Arlington, and the University of North Texas about creating new articulation agreements, yet I have not been successful in completing agreements due to time constraints. In order to complete the goal to implement new digital technology into Collin College photography courses, create contemporary methodology in the classroom, establish university transferable courses, and prepare articulation agreements, it is imperative to have an allotted amount of time

to dedicate to the research and meetings that are necessary. I will initiate the sabbatical research meeting with Collin College administrators in which I will collect data and refine the research criteria. I will proceed to conduct meetings with area university and college professors in order to interview, evaluate, and document area college and university photography departments' designs with particular interest in new digital technology in their courses and programs. To conclude the research, I will meet with working fine art and commercial professionals to research the use of new digital technology in the work field. I will then propose detailed plans to implement new digital technology into Collin College photography courses and establish articulation agreements. Data collected from the sabbatical research will be used not only for classroom methodology but also for planning program growth across campuses and budget proposals. This sabbatical is designed to ensure the Collin College photography program is not only concurrent with area institutions but is also a leading educational program, serving students with contemporary photography techniques and avenues for degree completion.

Time Line

Month 1: The first month I will schedule meetings with Tom Martin, Kathleen Fenton and Collin College's Articulation and Transfer Office. When meeting with Tom Martin, I will collect enrollment information. When meeting with Mrs. Fenton, I will collect information on completers and discuss transferable courses. When meeting with Collin College's Articulation and Transfer Office, I will collect information pertaining to the protocol used for articulation agreements, collect suggested personnel contacts at each institution, and fine tune the research questionnaire. When creating the questionnaire, I will request input from faculty, Kathleen Fenton, and Dean Cooksey. I will continue throughout the month visiting area universities to research lab spaces and conduct meetings with professors. When viewing photography lab spaces, I will observe digital labs, studios, traditional labs, alternative labs, and equipment. While meeting with professors, I will view student artwork and complete a questionnaire focusing on new digital technology in the courses and photography program as a whole. I will also begin the conversation about transferability of courses and articulation agreements. I will begin meetings with universities in the first month, and I anticipate additional time will be needed throughout the sabbatical to conduct follow up meetings, communicate with university photography professors and the university articulation office, and establish criteria for articulation agreements.

Week 1

- Tom Martin, Associate Vice President of Research and Institutional Effectiveness, Collin College, Plano, Texas
- Kathleen Fenton, Associate Dean of Research and Institutional Effectiveness Collin College, Plano, Texas
- Collin College Articulation and Transfer Office, Collin College, Plano, Texas
- Finalize questionnaire and data collection charts

Week 2

- Susan Grant, Professor of Photography, Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas
- Dornith Doherty, Professor of Photography, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas

Week 3

- Leigh Merrill, Professor of Photography, Texas A&M Commerce, Commerce, Texas

Week 4

- Marilyn Waligore, Professor of Photography, University of Texas at Dallas, Irving, Texas
- Kenda North, Professor of Photography, University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, Texas

Month 2: The second month I will visit area community colleges, in which I will both research lab spaces and conduct meetings with professors. When viewing photography lab spaces, I will observe digital labs, studios, traditional labs, alternative labs, and equipment. While meeting with professors I will view student artwork and complete a questionnaire focusing on new digital technology in the courses and photography program as a whole. The second month I will also continue progress on articulation agreements with universities.

Week 1

- Richard Doherty, Professor of Photography, Tarrant County College, Hurst, Texas

Week 2

- Kate Jenkins, Professor of Photography, Northlake College, Irving, Texas

Week 3

- Wayne Loucas, Professor of Photography, Richland College, Richland, Texas

Month 3: The third month I will visit working professionals in the fine art realm and in the commercial field. Through these meetings I will research the technical demands and expectations for professional photographers. During the month I will continue progress on articulation agreements with universities.

Week 1

- Jordon Roth, Director RO2 Art Gallery, Dallas, Texas. RO2 Art is a Dallas based gallery with three locations in Dallas County. RO2 Art exhibits contemporary artists, upcoming photographers and new media artists.

Week 2

- Gayle Reeves, Editor *Fort. Worth Weekly* magazine, Fort. Worth, Texas. Gayle Reeves is an editor that hires and assigns photographers for the magazine. Ms. Reeves has been working with photojournalists and the Fort Worth Weekly for over fifteen years and has experienced the change in photography with new technology.

Month 4: The fourth month, I will compile data, cross reference research findings, conduct follow up questions, design an overview of what was learned, and prepare a report with recommendations for inclusion of new digital technology in photography courses, inclusion of new digital technology in the photography program, and proposals for articulation agreements between Collin College photography department and area Universities. The final report will be prepared for dissemination with colleagues and the dean.

Bibliography

Bautista, Susan Smith. 2014. *Museums in the Digital Age: Changing Meanings of Place, Community, and Culture*. Lanham, Maryland: Altamira Press.

Benjamin, Walter. 2008. *The Work of Art in the Age of its Technological Reproducibility and other Writings on Media*. London, England: Harvard University Press.

Krensky, Beth. 2008. *Engaging Classrooms and Communities Through Art: A Guide to designing and implementing Community-Based Art Education*. Lanham, Maryland: Altamira Press.

La Grange, Ashley. 2005. *Basic Critical Theory for Photographers*. Burlington: Elsevier/Focal Press.

Lipkin, Jonathan. 2005. *Photography Reborn Image Making in the Digital Era*. New York, NY: Harry N Abrams Inc.

Marien, Mary W. 2002. *Photography: A Cultural History*. Upper River Saddle, N.J.: Prentice Hall.

Peres, Michael R. 2007. *The Focal Encyclopedia of Photography: Digital Imaging, Theory and Applications, History and Science*. Boston: Elsevier/Focal Press.

Perich, Shannon Thomas. 2011. *The Changing Face of Portrait Photography; From Daguerreotype to Digital*. Washington DC. National Museum of American History.

Taylor, Grant D. 2014. *When the Machine Made Art: The Troubled History of Computer Art*. New York, NY: Bloomsbury Academic.

Resources

Collin College Articulation and Transfer Links
<http://transferu.collin.edu>

Texas A&M University-Commerce Articulation and Transfer Links
www.tamuc.edu/.../transferAdmission
www.tamuc.edu/.../photography.aspx

Texas Woman's University Articulation and Transfer Links
www.twu.edu/admissions/transfer.asp
www.twu.edu/visual-arts/photography.asp

University of North Texas Articulation and Transfer Links
<http://registrar.unt.edu/transfer-guides>
<https://www.transferology.com/school/unt>
<http://art.unt.edu/studio-art/photography>

University of Texas at Arlington Articulation and Transfer Links

www.uta.edu/admissions/transfers

www.uta.edu/art/index.php/advising/degree_plans

www.uta.edu/art/index.php/undergrad/photography

University of Texas at Dallas

www.utdallas.edu/transferservices

Sample Questionnaire for professors

Digital Technology

1. What barriers do your students face with new digital technology equipment?
2. What skills do you expect students to have when they complete a beginning digital photography class?
3. What new digital technology skills do you expect students to have when transferring in from Collin College?

Labs

1. How does your lab incorporate new digital technology?
2. What equipment do you use?
3. What software do you use?
4. How often do you update software?
5. How do students create final work?

New Media

1. To what extent is new media introduced to a beginning digital photography class?

Image Capture

1. Do you include video capture in a beginning digital photography class?
2. If yes please answer A & B:
 - A. Which software program do you use?
 - B. What is the level of video capture equipment do you expect students to master in a beginning digital photography class?
3. Do you include smart phone capture in a beginning digital photography class?
4. If yes please answer A & B:
 - A. To what extent do you include smart phone capture?
 - B. Do you require post process application, image correction and print techniques?

Complexity of cameras

1. What level of camera equipment do you expect students to master in a beginning digital photography?
2. What level of camera equipment do you expect students to own in a beginning digital photography class?
3. What level of camera equipment would you recommend Collin College students know in order to transfer to your program?

Mixture of traditional photographic processes with new digital processes

1. What extent of traditional/digital combination process is included in a beginning digital photography class?

Sample Questionnaire for fine art professionals

1. Is there a level of new digital technology that is considered too amateur for exhibition (for example smart phone capture)?
2. For artists working in video capture, should they be prepared to supply display monitors? Are galleries equipping themselves for this format?
3. Have you noticed any limitations for artists working with new digital technology when looking for representation?
4. How are gallery/museum representatives discussing permanence of digital work with clients? Is permanence and archival properties a concern?
5. How are collectors (private and museum) working with video art files?
6. What skills do you consider lacking in beginning photographers?

Sample Questionnaire for commercial photography professionals

1. Are all camera formats being accepted for commercial photography work?
2. What new digital technology skills do you feel are necessary for photographers working in the commercial photography field?
3. What skills do you consider lacking in beginning photographers?
4. How can beginning photographers be best prepared for the competitive field of commercial photography?
5. What new digital technology equipment should photographers know?

Sample Date Collection Chart & Photography Department Improvement Plan

Individual charts will be created for the following areas:

- New Digital Technology Equipment for students**
- Lab Spaces (digital, traditional, alternative and studio)**
- New Digital Technology Software Programs for students**
- Classroom Methodology pertaining to new digital technology**

Institution	Data	Improvement Proposal
TWU		
UNT		
A&M		
UTD		
UTA		
TCC		
Northlake		
Richland		
RO2 Art		
Ft Worth Weekly		