

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 Tonya McMillion

CWID 100044817

Title Discipline Lead

Division Video Production

Have you ever been granted a sabbatical? N If yes: Dates of Prior Sabbatical(s): _____

Please provide a brief description of your previous sabbatical project:

Sabbatical Leave Period Being Requested

Dates: Beginning Date August 2023

Ending Date December 2023

Length: One semester Two semesters Other _____

Applicant's Agreement

ABSTRACT

Please give a summary description of the project and its significance in improving teaching and learning at Collin College. Please use language that can be readily understood by persons in areas of expertise other than your own. **PLEASE DO NOT EXCEED SPACE PROVIDED BELOW.**

As the Discipline Lead of the Video Production program, it is important to constantly update my knowledge of the entertainment and production industry. My goal for this sabbatical is to develop my television writing, my video editing skills and to earn a certificate in TV and Film industry essentials from NYU's Tisch School of Arts.

This sabbatical will afford me time to learn the latest technological advances in the entertainment industry and to delve into the state-of-the-art processes I can implement into the Video Production curriculum. This acquired knowledge will allow our students to learn the latest innovative developments in our field.

A. Development Plan

Enrolling in the New York Film Academy's (NYFA) Television Pilot online course will improve my TV writing skills. Currently, our screenwriting course explores narrative writing for commercials and movies. My goal is to expand the course to include writing for either sitcoms or dramas. This TV Pilot class will give me the information I need to increase the scope of the class.

In addition, to enrolling in the Television course, I will take the NYFA's 4-week online digital editing course using Adobe Premiere to improve my digital video editing skills. Nearly all the courses I teach in an academic year have at least one class dedicated to editing. It is essential that I am educated in the latest techniques in this software. Technology changes and advances very quickly in video production.

The Video Production program offers students a complete education in the entertainment industry's preproduction, production, and postproduction processes. To improve my knowledge of the production process, I plan to enroll in New York University's (NYU) Tisch School of Arts TV and Film Essentials certificate program. The course covers five topics: film fundamentals, television fundamentals, understanding the production process, the production business, and marketing and distribution.

Enrolling and completing all three of these courses will permit me to enrich my professional development and support my need to update and refresh my technological skills in the entertainment industry.

Objective 01: Professional Enrichment – Study NYU's Film and TV Industry Essentials – pursuing certification directly related to my position at Collin.

Method of Procedure: Attending New York University's (NYU) Tisch School of Arts offers Film and TV online course certification program. According to the program guide, "this online course is organized to show the range of roles necessary to create films, television, and emerging media formats. A sequence of activities and assignments builds students' skills in and understanding of the basics of making film and television from every angle, including funding, scripts, directing, production, and marketing." The certificate consists of five modules (see appendix).

Rationale and Significance: This certificate will help me support instructors in subjects I do not usually teach, such as producing, media business, and sound design. I also need to continue my education in the entertainment industry to bring the latest innovations to the Video Production curriculum and specifically to our students.

Objective 02: Professional Enrichment – Enroll in New York Film Academy's (NYFA) 4-Week Online Digital Editing Adobe Premiere Course – pursuing advanced education/conduct research in online student services and identifying strategies for improvement in online service delivery.

Method of Procedure: The New York Film Academy (NYFA) offers a four-week editing course. According to the NYFA catalog, “The Online Digital Editing workshop is designed to serve the needs of students from a wide array of backgrounds. Students will edit various projects over the course. In daily meetings, students are instructed on critical skills such as starting a project, making cuts, post-production workflow, sound design, media management, basic effects, and other advanced concepts.”

Rationale and Significance: Most classes I teach include at least one lesson or workshop on editing using Adobe Premiere Pro. I also teach an entire semester class on editing and solely use Creative Cloud Applications, which include Adobe Premiere Pro.

Relationship to Previous or Related Work: The Film/Video Editing class is a required course I teach in the Video Production AAS and Certificate programs.

Objective 03: Professional Enrichment - Enroll in the New York Film Academy’s 4-week Online Screenwriting - Television Pilot Course - *pursuing advanced education.*

Method of Procedure: According to the NYFA course catalog, “The writing course will prepare the emerging writer for every phase of TV Storytelling; from developing a concept, building characters, and pitching their ideas to crafting an outline and writing the teaser and first act of the teleplay (Half-Hour Sitcom or One-Hour Drama). Topics covered in this course include, but are not limited to, the anatomy of the sitcom, building the one-hour drama, and the differences between network and cable shows.”

Rationale and Significance: The video production program offers a screenwriting course that explores narrative writing in movies and short films. I want to expand the class and give our students a chance to create TV shows. This course will help me grow the screenwriting course and broaden our students’ industry skills.

Relationship to Previous or Related Work: The Video Production program has a TV studio where students can shoot TV shows. In the fall of 2023, we will offer a TV Workshop class designed to allow students to write, produce and edit TV shows. This online class workshop will give me the tools to guide and support students in their creative process.

Strategic Goals: The sabbatical will help me support the strategic goal of creating and implementing comprehensive, integrated pathways to support student transitions from student to an employee by:

- Increasing students’ technical understanding to ensure their successful transition to the entertainment industry.
- Developing hands-on experience with industry standard software that creates a more employable graduate.
- Fostering students’ skills in understanding, drafting, evaluating, and analyzing television stories which will enhance the arsenal of their industry skill set.

B. Timeline

Course	Timeline
NYU Film and TV Industry Essentials	August – December 2023
New York Film Academy's Online Screenwriting – Television Pilot Course	August – September 2023 Sessions: One class subject each day, divided into two 1.5-hour segments with a break in between.
New York Film Academy's Online Digital Editing Adobe Premiere Pro Course	September – October 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 x 2 Hours of class per day (4 hours total) • Times of Classes: 12 – 2pm ET and 230p – 430p ET • 4 Weeks = 80 hours of Class Time • Workshops are held daily with a live instructor, Monday through Friday.

C. Bibliography

Adobe Premiere Pro (Computer Software). (2022). Retrieved from <https://adobe.com>

Calvisi, Daniel. *STORY MAPS: TV Drama: The Structure of the One-Hour Television Pilot*. 1st ed., Act Four Screenplays, 2016.

Chamberlin, Jill. *The Nutshell Technique: Crack the Secret of Successful Screenwriting*. Illustrated, University of Texas Press, 2016.

Harris, Charles. *Jaws in Space: Powerful Pitching for Film and TV Screenwriters (Creative Essentials)*. Creative Essentials, 2017.

Honthaner, Eve Light. *The Complete Film Production Handbook*. Amsterdam, Netherlands, Amsterdam UP, 2010.

Hunter, Lew. *Lew Hunter's Screenwriting 434: The Industry's Premier Teacher Reveals the Secrets of the Successful Screenplay*. TarcherPerigee, 2004.

Jacey, Helen. *The Woman in the Story: Writing Memorable Female Characters*. 2nd ed., Michael Wiese Productions, 2017.

Johnson, Hunter Claudia. *Crafting Short Screenplays That Connect*. 5th ed., Routledge, 2020

Lumet, Sidney. *Making Movies*. Zaltbommel, Netherlands, Van Haren Publishing, 1996.

King, Stephen, et al. *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*. Simon and Schuster Audio, 2000.

Mamet, David. *On Directing Film*. Reprint, Penguin Books, 1992.

Martin, Reed. *The Reel Truth: Everything You Didn't Know You Need to Know About Making an Independent Film*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009.

Snyder, Blake. *Save the Cat! Writes for TV*. Save the Cat Press, 2021

Vachon, Christine, and David Edelstein. *Shooting to Kill*. HarperCollins, 1998.

Miller, Kam. *The Hero Succeeds: The Character-Driven Guide to Writing Your TV Pilot*. 1.0 ed., High and Low Media, 2016.

Reading List

NOTE: This reading list is required for the courses and therefore I also included the readings in the bibliography section.

Calvisi, Daniel. *STORY MAPS: TV Drama: The Structure of the One-Hour Television Pilot*. 1st ed., Act Four Screenplays, 2016.

Chamberlin, Jill. *The Nutshell Technique: Crack the Secret of Successful Screenwriting*. Illustrated, University of Texas Press, 2016.

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Miller, Kam. *The Hero Succeeds: The Character-Driven Guide to Writing Your TV Pilot*. 1.0 ed., High and Low Media, 2016.

Serravallo, Jennifer. *Connecting With Students Online: Strategies for Remote Teaching and Learning*. Heinemann Educational Books, 2020.

Vachon, Christine, and David Edelstein. *Shooting to Kill*. HarperCollins, 1998.

D. Resources

Credential Reimbursement (If I do not receive the reimbursement I will self-fund my sabbatical).