

Position Description

Instructional Assistant Professor and/or Assistant Professor of the Practice (2 Positions available in total)

Department of Entomology, Texas A&M University

Justification: The Bachelor of Science in Forensic and Investigative Sciences (BS-FIVS) degree program, which has a Forensic Education Program Accreditation Commission (FEPAC) accredited science track, has experienced dramatic increases in the incoming freshman class for the past three years. Changes to the curriculum, course offerings, and programmatic support have resulted in substantial improvements in student retention within the program. The net result is that the number of students in the program has more than doubled over that timeframe and will now require the majority of FIVS courses to be offered in both the fall and spring semesters, instead of the current single annual offering. Coupled with the loss of tenure-track faculty historically teaching courses for this major, the Department of Entomology needs to substantially increase its instructional capacity in the forensic and investigative sciences to meet this demand. Due to the diversity of courses and topics that are offered in the BS-FIVS program, these instructional needs could be met by individuals with a traditional academic background and career pathway, or by individuals with significant professional experience as a practitioner in the forensic and investigative sciences, hence the two available titles of Instructional Assistant Professor and Assistant Professor of the Practice, respectively, are offered in this faculty search.

We seek two well-rounded teaching-centric individuals with broad experience across the forensic sciences. Courses currently available to teach include subject material in general forensic sciences, photography, microscopy, impression evidence, crime scene investigation, digital forensics, controlled substances, and forensic biology, chemistry, entomology, genetics, and toxicology. There is also the potential for new elective course development to meet future professional and student needs that align with a candidate's area of specialization.

Position Titles: Instructional Assistant Professor, Assistant Professor of the Practice

Appointment: These are non-tenured Academic Professional Track (APT) faculty positions with job expectations in Teaching and Service with approximately a 90% and 10% distribution of effort, respectively; however, the appointment may change in accordance with departmental needs. Initial appointments for starting Assistant APT faculty are for 1-3 years, with the possibility of a 5-year extension based on performance and departmental needs. These appointments can be renewed. On an annual basis, the APT faculty positions are for 9 months, with potential teaching and service activities that can provide partial summer salary support. The positions will be based in College Station, TX.

General Duties and Responsibilities:

The faculty members will have primary responsibility for preparing, delivering, and assessing the courses to which they are assigned as the instructor of record. A 90% teaching appointment in the Department of Entomology is defined by the Department as teaching ~27 fixed-credit hours over two years. To fulfill this appointment, two to three ~3 credit classes would be taught each fall and spring semester. Assignment of courses is done by the Department Head in consultation with the Associate Department Head for Academic Programs.

Teaching also involves mentoring of undergraduate students and is expected of all faculty. Department, College, University, and Professional service appropriate to an individual's talents and skills are required of all faculty.

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Salary: Salary will be commensurate with the incumbent's qualifications and experience. A generous benefits package accompanies all faculty positions with respect to access to health care, sick leave, and retirement benefits (see: <http://employees.tamu.edu/benefits>).

Administrative Relationships: Supervision will be provided by the Department Head of Entomology, and ultimately the Vice Chancellor and Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Each faculty member is expected to exhibit collegiality to all faculty, staff, students, clientele groups, and local administrators. Faculty are expected to cooperate and collaborate with faculty as appropriate for the successful execution of their general duties and responsibilities in support of the Department's mission, goals, and code of conduct.

Qualifications: For appointments as Instructional Assistant Professor, applicants are required to have a doctoral degree, preferably in a closely related science discipline. For appointments as Assistant Professor of the Practice, applicants are required to have, at the minimum, an earned master's level degree, or at least 18 graduate credit hours in the teaching discipline. Alternatively, for the Assistant Professor of the Practice title, applicants with a bachelor's degree and significant professional experience will meet minimum requirements.

Desired qualifications include experience in teaching at the undergraduate or graduate level and experience in mentoring students. The successful candidate should have excellent written and oral communication skills.

Closing Date: Review of applications will begin on 01 May 2024 and continue until a suitable candidate is identified. Applications are submitted through Interfolio DI#24-135080-02-APT (<http://apply.interfolio.com/142557>):

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About the University: Texas A&M University, the only institution in the state to hold Land, Sea, and Space Grant status, is a Tier I research university that is committed to strengthening its diversity and has been designated as a Hispanic-Serving Institution. Enrollment at TAMU is approximately 77,000 students; the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences includes 15 departments and 360 faculty.

About the Community: Texas A&M University is in College Station (<https://visit.cstx.gov/>), TX, which combined with the twin city of Bryan (<https://www.destinationbryan.com>), forms a metropolitan community of approximately 273,000 people with high-quality amenities and a low cost of living. Cities such as Austin, Dallas-Ft. Worth, San Antonio, and Houston are within a comfortable 2–3-hour drive time of College Station. In addition to excellent healthcare, and recreational services, the community affords a rich variety of cultural activities typical of a major university environment, including museums, music, art, and theatre.

Application Process. Applications must include 1) a cover letter outlining your interest in the position, qualifications, and experience; 2) a statement of your teaching experiences; student mentorship experience, and philosophy; 3) a complete CV; and 4) names and contact information for three professional references whom we may contact for letters of recommendation (and any individuals on a do not contact list). Please provide a complete mailing address, email, daytime phone number, and a brief statement of how each reference knows the candidate.

For Texas A&M faculty resources, please visit <https://facultyaffairs.tamu.edu/resources/index.html>

Visit <http://entomology.tamu.edu> for more information about the department.

Texas A&M University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action/Veterans/Disability Employer committed to diversity. Texas A&M University is aware that attracting and retaining exceptional faculty often depends on meeting the needs of two careers and having policies that contribute to work-life balance. For more information, visit <https://facultyaffairs.tamu.edu/resources/dual-career-program.html> and <https://livingwell.tamu.edu/>.