



THE BEACON

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

University of Massachusetts Amherst

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Or go to the School of Education home page and click on The Beacon icon.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year

Research Assistantship

Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration

One 10 hr/week graduate research assistantship is available for the spring 2012 semester.

Qualifications: The ideal candidate will have a background in psychometrics, statistics and mathematical modeling of educational assessment data. The applicant must also have knowledge of classical test theory and item response theory, and experience working in educational assessment.

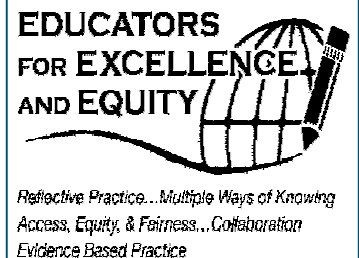
Responsibilities include: Conducting multivariate statistical analyses; equating analyses; simulating data; editing technical reports; writing computer code for psychometric activities such as item calibration, score scale linking, and population invariance studies; performing literature reviews on equating, scaling, standard setting, and score reporting; attending project meetings; and co-authoring research reports. All candidates should have extensive knowledge of multidimensional scaling, plausible values methodology, test construction, and test validation research.

To apply, please contact Dr. Jennifer Randall (413)545-0227 (jrandall@educ.umass.edu).

The Beacon will not be published during the week of December 26-30.

The Beacon Deadline is FRIDAY

- Please submit general news and announcements to: dms@educ.umass.edu by 5:00 P.M. on Friday for inclusion in the following issue. All assistantship notices will run for two issues.
- Please submit notices of examinations and formation of dissertation committees to Linda Guthrie. These types of announcements will run for one week.



School of Education ✧ 813 N. Pleasant Street, Amherst MA 01003

Research Assistantships

Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies NSF Noyce Project Research Assistants—Mathematics Education

Two 10 hour/week research assistant positions for Spring 2012.

Faculty members in the Mathematics, Science, and Learning Technology division have begun a six-year, \$4.5 million project partially funded by the National Science Foundation. The project is looking to hire two exceptionally qualified research assistants with expertise in secondary mathematics education and experience working in secondary schools.

Responsibilities include working closely with the research team on all aspects of the project, including designing, implementing, and researching learning environments for in-service and pre-service teaching. Additional responsibilities may include but are not limited to, conducting lesson observations using a research protocol, facilitating professional learning community sessions with mathematics teachers, interviewing project participants, collecting and analyzing qualitative and quantitative data, conducting literature searches, writing for publication, and general logistical operations associated with this large scale project.

Qualifications: Doctoral status in the MSLT doctoral concentration. Background in mathematics teaching at the middle/high school level. A successful candidate will demonstrate proficiency with dynamic technological tools for teaching and learning mathematics as well as qualitative and quantitative research tools such as SAS, SPSS, NVivo, or Transana.

To apply: Send cover letter, resume, and two letters of recommendation to Dr. Sandra Madden at smadden@educ.umass.edu. Application deadline: December 27, 2011. /

Research Assistantship

Department of Student Development

One 10 hour/week graduate research assistantship is available for the Spring 2012 semester.

Responsibilities include: Management and dissemination of forms and materials for a mixed-methods research study, interviewing subjects, managing data sets, and supporting the research project.

Qualifications include: Experience working on mixed-methods research projects, including data gathering and data management skills and interviewing skills. Ability to manage large data sets and use SPSS and/or NVIVO is preferred.

To apply, please send a brief letter of application and your resume to Dr. Carey Dimmitt at cdimmitt@educ.umass.edu. Please use the term "Research Assistant" in the subject line of the email. //

Teaching Assistantship

Department of Student Development

One 10 hour/week teaching assistantship is available for Spring 2012 for EDUC 293A.

Responsibilities include: Maintaining class materials in SPARK, grading student papers, managing grading through SPARK, coordinating discussion groups, and general assistance in the course.

Qualifications required include: Teaching experience at any level, computer skills (excel and data management) and strong organizational skills.

To apply, please contact: Dr. Carey Dimmitt at cdimmitt@educ.umass.edu. Please use the term "EDUC 293A TA" in the subject line of the email. //

Teaching Assistantship

Department of Student Development

One 10 hour/week graduate teaching assistantship is available for the Spring 2012 semester to support the teaching of clinical classes EDUC 698 and EDUC 701 for the School Counselor Program.

Responsibilities include: Supervising school counseling students in their pre-practicum sites (under the supervision of a faculty member); managing clinical training technology such as videotaping and recording equipment; developing, supporting, and coordinating school counseling practicum sites; supporting supervising practitioners; completing documentation of student practicum supervision involvement; and other duties as assigned.

Qualifications required include: The ideal candidate will be have experience as a school counselor or student personnel support professional with experience working in K-12 schools. The candidate must have excellent written and oral communication skills and excellent organizational skills. He or she must have the ability to work with faculty members, school counselors, school administrators, the licensing office, and graduate students in the school counseling program. An appreciation of diversity and multi-cultural values in educational contexts is also required and previous supervisory experience is preferred.

To apply, please send a brief letter of application and your resume, with names and contact information for at least two references, to Dr. Carey Dimmitt at cdimmitt@educ.umass.edu. Please use the term "School Counseling TA" in the subject line of the email. //

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

ROBERT COOK January 19, 2012, 11:30 a.m., Room 163, Hills South.
Chairperson: Dr. Lisa Keller.

Teaching Assistantship

Department of Student Development

One 10 hour/week teaching assistantship is available for spring 2012 for EDUC 305. EDUC 305 is designed to provide students with an understanding of the major historical and contemporary theories of human development and learning and their educational implications.

Responsibilities include: Maintaining class materials in SPARK, managing grading both online and in database, grading papers, and general assistance to the instructor throughout the course.

Qualifications include: Excellent data management computer skills and strong organizational skills, familiarity with Educational Psychology, strong writing skills.

To apply, please email: Dr. Carey Dimmitt, at cdimmitt@educ.umass.edu, with the subject line of the email to read "EDUC 305 spring." //

Assistantship

Department of Student Development

One 10 hour/week graduate assistant position for Spring 2012.

Responsibilities include: assisting faculty member with related activities for the Teacher Collaboration and Instructional Improvement Project (TCIIP). Support will include the following: 1. Inquiry support - school-based qualitative/quantitative data collection, including observations, interviews and focus groups; participation in periodic instructional rounds and school meetings 2. Writing support - compilation of literature/sources, editing and proofreading manuscripts for publication with a focus on topics of language and cultural diversity and teacher collaboration.

Qualifications: A qualified candidate will possess knowledge on issues of English as a second language, teacher professional development, research and organizational skills, and ability to work independently. Candidate must have strong skills in reviewing electronic sources and collecting and organizing qualitative data. Knowledge of Excel 2007 and familiarity with diverse resource listing styles including APA required.

To apply: Send letter of interest and resume to Dr. Rebecca Woodland, Rebecca.Woodland@educ.umass.edu

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Faculty, students, staff & alumni share what they are doing

The Institute for Educational Sciences (IES) What Works Clearinghouse announced that the kindergarten early literacy program recently published by Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies' associate professor **Claire Hamilton**, (Hamilton & Schwanflugel, 2011, PAVEd for Success) meets WWC evidence standards as having a positive impact on kindergarten students expressive vocabulary based on an independent randomized controlled trial funded by IES. <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/QuickReviewSum.aspx?sid=172>



The IES WW Clearinghouse was "created in 2002 to be a central and trusted source of scientific evidence for what works in education" in an effort to help educators "identify research with credible and reliable evidence to use in making informed decisions."

Rich Lapan, professor, Department of Student Development, has been named to a new task force formed by the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to address career readiness. The Integrating College and Career Readiness Task Force, comprising local business, education and community leaders, is charged with helping all students become ready for post-secondary education and viable career pathways. It will be responsible for developing recommendations for better integrating college and career readiness in to K-12 education. The task force will meet five times over the next six months. In June 2012, the group will present its report to the Board with recommendations around the adoption of a clear, measurable definition of career readiness, identifying "power" standards (knowledge and skills) inherent in a core career development program, identifying indicators of career readiness, and identifying and documenting successful policies and programs that provide students with multiple pathway options to integrate knowledge and skills for career readiness and readiness for postsecondary education.



Theresa Austin, professor, Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies, and graduate students **Keiko Konoeda** and **Siwen Zhang**, Language, Literacy, and Culture concentration presented 60-minute session at the 2011 Annual Conference of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages held in Denver, Nov. 18-20. The team addressed the question of how to adjust instruction in world languages for learners who have grown-up with learning in the digital age.

Austin's session answered questions such as: Who are the Millennials? What are social and academic purposes for communications in L2? How do I take advantage of new literacies for teaching world languages? What are benefits/ challenges? Konoeda presented examples on Japanese language learning using video and wiki biographies, newspapers, and podcasting columns. Zhang presented examples on Chinese language learning using documentary and micro-blogging. The session included instructional goals, steps, and programmatic considerations.

Please send items to dms@educ.umass.edu

FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

JENNA M. COPELL Proposed Dissertation Title: "An argument-based approach to evaluating the validity of MCAS scores as an indicator of teacher effectiveness." **Statement of the Problem:** The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education recently approved the use of MCA scores as a significant indicator of teacher effectiveness. There is no evidence that this is a valid interpretation of MCAS scores. Research into public school teachers' use of the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks will provide evidence that either strengthens or weakens the argument that MCAS scores are a valid indicator of teacher effectiveness.

Chairperson: Dr. Lisa Keller.

APRIL H. STROUD Proposed Dissertation Title: "A Mixed-Methods Investigation of Participation and Non-Participation Among Students Who Have Formally Expressed Intent to Study Abroad." **Statement of the Problem:** Despite public support of study abroad for its importance to U.S. competitiveness in the global economy, a multitude of research on the potential positive outcomes from participants, pending federal legislation that would essentially mandate U.S. colleges and universities to expand and diversify participation and a majority of college-bound students planning to participate, study abroad continues to be an activity in which only a small percentage of undergraduates participate. This mixed-methods study of undergraduate students who actively expressed intent to study abroad will explore if study abroad non-participants differ in any meaningful way from participants.

Chairperson: Dr. Elizabeth A. Williams.

Attention: All Graduate Students

Graduate student Advising Guidelines and forms for Master's, CAGS & Doctoral students are available and can now be completed online. After they are signed by both the student and faculty member(s), they can then be submitted to Linda Guthrie in the Graduate Program Office, 123 Furcolo, or by email (lguthrie@educ.umass.edu). They are available at the following URL: http://www.umass.edu/education/academics/advising_guidelines.shtml

KAPPA DELTA PI International Honor Society in Education

Interested in joining this spring 2012?

KDP is one of the largest and most prestigious educational honor societies in the U.S., and we have an active UMass Amherst chapter.

Criteria for acceptance— undergraduate students: Minimum of 45 completed semester hours; at least 12 of these credit hours must be at UMass Amherst; commitment to the field of education; minimum 3.4 grade point average

Criteria for acceptance— graduate students—Minimum of 12 semester hours, commitment to the field of education, minimum 3.4 grade point average.

For information: Google "KDP UMass" or contact Robert Maloy at rwm@educ.umass.edu or Ruth-Ellen Verock-O'Laughlin at ruth-ellen@educ.umass.edu

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
ON CAMPUS GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP VACANCY NOTICE
CAMPUS WIDE ANNOUNCEMENT

INTERNSHIP: Student's academic discipline must relate to job duties to qualify for assistantship waivers and benefits

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Priority Deadline December 15, 2012 (Applications will continue to be accepted until the position is filled.)

Job Description (no clerical duties permitted): The individual will serve as a Research Associate for Assessment, gaining experience in applied assessment and evaluation by assisting members of the professional staff in the implementation of assessment and curriculum reform activities for the campus.

The duties of this position are varied (reflecting numerous aspects of assessment research) including some combination of the following: assist in the development of surveys and other data collection instruments, coordinate the administration of data collection instruments and assessment evidence (surveys, course evaluations, syllabi, student work, etc.), code and analyze data, and develop reports and other publications. In addition, the individual will support programming efforts related to the University's General Education reform initiative (including scheduling meetings, working with faculty participants, designing and supporting workshops and other programming) and assist staff and faculty in their assessment activities, providing other analytical and coordinating support (e.g., data clean-up, graphical presentation, web development, etc.), on an as needed basis.

Experience Required: Experience with, or exposure to, quantitative research methods (knowledge of SPSS preferred). Teaching experience helpful. Also helpful is an interest in academic assessment/evaluation and undergraduate education/curricular reform. Experience and comfort with technology (e.g., spreadsheet development, publication software, etc.) is preferred.

Dates of Appointment – From January To June 2012r (with possibility of renewal)

HOW TO APPLY: Submit Resume with cover letter

DEPT. NAME: Academic Planning & Assessment CONTACT PERSON: Dr. Martha L. A. Stassen

BLGD. ADDRESS: 232 Whitmore Administration Bldg. mstassen@acad.umass.edu

Send this copy to: Student Employment Office, 243 Whitmore

Students: how to submit information for announcements

Students must submit proper forms for announcements about Formation of Dissertation Committees (D-6), Announcements of Final Oral Examinations (D-8) and Comprehensive Examinations (D-4) to Linda Guthrie in 123 Furcolo Hall, Office of Academic Affairs.

Linda will submit the items to the Beacon for publication