RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP
Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies
NSF Noyce Project Research Assistant—Mathematics Education

10 hr/week research assistant position for Spring 2014.

The NSF Noyce project is looking to hire an exceptionally qualified research assistant with expertise in secondary mathematics education and experience working in secondary schools.

Responsibilities include working closely with the research team on multiple 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 and general logistical operations associated with this large scale project.

Qualifications: Graduate status in the MSLT concentration (doctoral or uniquely qualified master’s students). Background in mathematics teaching at the middle/high school level.

To apply: Send cover letter and resume and 2 letters of recommendation to Dr. Sandy Madden at smadden@educ.umass.edu

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

CATHERINE ROSSI January 16 and 17, 2014, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Room 367 Hills South.
Chairperson: Dr. Sara Whitcomb

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 in two issues.
- Please submit notices of examinations and formation of dissertation committees to Kristin Tyler at ktyler@educ.umass.edu. These types of announcements will run for one week.

http://www.umass.edu/education/news/beacon
FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE


Statement of the Problem: After school programs (ASPs) in the United States are serving an increasing segment of the school-aged population, though current research remains mixed on the evidence of the impact that after school programs have on participating students. ASPs experience high rates of staff turnover and limited training in behavior management and creating positive climate. Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a promising technique for fostering positive school climate and supporting behavior management though there has been limited research exploring the use of PBIS strategies beyond the traditional classroom setting. By providing ASP staff with specific techniques to aid their management of challenging student behaviors and ways of preventing these behaviors from surfacing staff will strengthen their own professional development and their capacity to positively affect student behaviors and community culture.

Chairperson: Dr. Sara Whitcomb

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP
Department of Educational Policy, Research, and Administration

One 10 hr/week research assistantship is available for Spring 2014.

Responsibilities include: The student will assist the Psychometric Methods (PM) coordinator in conducting a curriculum review of the PM courses as well as analyzing trends in graduate student admissions for the Master’s and doctoral programs.

Qualifications include: All applicants must have a background in psychometrics as well as knowledge of curriculum review around psychometric methods including classical test theory, item response theory, multidimensional scaling, test construction, and test validation research.

To apply, please contact Craig Wells at cswells@educ.umass.edu.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP
Department of Educational Policy, Research, and Administration

One 10 hr/week research assistantship is available for Spring 2014.

Responsibilities include: The student will work with the Springfield Public School Data Manager and Psychometric Methods faculty in conducting empirical analyses of large-scale assessments and creating a plan for measuring growth.

Qualifications include: All applicants must have a background in psychometrics, statistics and mathematical modeling of educational assessment data. All candidates must also have knowledge of classical test theory, item response theory, multidimensional scaling, test construction, test validation research and experience working in educational assessment.

To apply, please contact Craig Wells cswells@educ.umass.edu.
GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP
Department of Educational Policy, Research & Administration

A 20 hr/week assistantship for Spring 2014.

Responsibilities: The Inclusive Universities project is a collaborative project between UMASS Amherst and Pune University, India. The research assistant will assist the PI and Co-PI with research and data analysis on access and equity at Pune University and in Indian higher education more generally. The RA will be required to compile annotated bibliographies of written and visual media, assist with design and maintenance of the project website, and assist with related research and coordination activities.

Qualifications: Admission to a doctoral program in the College of Education with a focus on international and comparative education. Excellent writing and communication skills; proficiency in Powerpoint and Excel; demonstrated ability to work collaboratively and professionally; understanding of diversity and social justice issues in India and familiarity with the Indian university context. Ability to communicate in Hindi and/or Marathi will be considered.

Applicants should submit letter of interest, resume, and contact information for two references to project PI Dr. Sangeeta Kamat at skamat@educ.umass.edu. Application deadline: Friday, January 10, 2014 by 5:00 PM.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP
Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies
NSF Noyce Project Research Assistant—Science Education

10 hr/week research assistant position for Spring 2014.

The NSF Noyce project is looking to hire an exceptionally qualified research assistant with expertise in secondary science 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 science teachers, interviewing project participants, collecting and analyzing qualitative and quantitative data and general logistical operations associated with this large scale project.

Qualifications: Doctoral status in the MSLT doctoral concentration. Background in science teaching at the middle/high school level.

To apply: Send cover letter and resume and 2 letters of recommendation to Dr. Kathleen Davis at kdavis@educ.umass.edu
From the Graduate School

International Teaching Assistants Screening Test of Spoken English

The SPEAK test is a screening test for spoken English communication skills. The SPEAK test for first-time international teaching assistants (ITAs) for spring semester 2014 will be administered during the week of January 19. Students who took the test previously and scored 45 but did not participate in Communication Instruction classes should also take the test. It is also recommended that students who are not currently in a TA/TO position but may be in the future take the test. RAs and other international graduate students may also take the test and participate in small group Communication Instruction classes on a space-available basis. Priority for participation in the classes will be given to currently funded TAs and to those with the greatest need.

Under a new policy, students are exempt from taking the SPEAK test if they satisfy one of the following criteria:

- TOEFL exemption at admission. This appears as "TOEFL Exempt" in the student's SPIRE record. (The list of reasons for exemption appears under the FAQ "Can the TOEFL requirement be waived?" at http://www.umass.edu/gradschool/admissions/faq.)
- A score of 26 or higher on the Speaking section of the TOEFL iBT at the time of admission. The SPIRE record shows the Speaking section score.
- A score of 8.0 or higher on the Speaking section of the IELTS. IELTS scores are not currently broken down in SPIRE, but the Speaking section score is available from Graduate Admissions. (Very few applicants report IELTS scores.)

If a student satisfies any of these criteria, then neither he/she need to do anything; the SPEAK test requirement is waived and the student can go straight into the classroom. Requests for waiver of the SPEAK test requirement for any other reason should come from faculty and should be addressed to jmccarthy@grad.umass.edu.

The purpose of the SPEAK test is to identify any potential difficulties ITAs may have in understanding spoken English or in being understood in the undergraduate classroom. A score of 50 or above is required to pass the test.

Students who do not pass the test are encouraged to attend the English Communication Instruction classes offered by the Graduate School through the Center for Language, Speech and Hearing. The classes are offered throughout the year. At the end of each semester, students are re-evaluated and those who do not meet the criteria are allowed to continue in the Communication Instruction classes for additional semesters.

Progress reports for students currently enrolled in English Communication Instruction classes will be sent to Graduate Program Directors at the end of the spring semester. The report will indicate each student's current functional level and the SPEAK Test equivalent score. It is not necessary for these students to retake the SPEAK Test.

Students will need to sign up for the test outside Room 518, Goodell Building. A sample test may be obtained at the time of sign-up on the bulletin board outside in Room 518, Goodell Building or from Lori Baronas in 518 Goodell. All testing will be held at 358 North Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA. The test will take approximately 1 hour.

A schedule for the screening test is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>January 21, 2014</td>
<td>1:00 – 4:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>January 22, 2014</td>
<td>10:00 – 4:00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

If you have any questions, or need any additional information, please contact Lori Baronas at 545-5278 or Lori Laughren at lviglian@comdis.umass.edu.