Project Assistantship
Department of Student Development

10 hour/week project assistant for fall 2015.

Responsibilities include: assist the department with national accreditation reports; provide support gathering and analyzing department data; assist in planning in department meetings; support department strategic planning and other college and university-wide initiatives; any other duties as assigned.

Qualifications include: excellent written and oral communications skills; excellent organizational skills; ability to work with various campus constituencies including faculty members, administrators, and students. Priority will be given to doctoral students.

To apply, please send a resume to Judy Pierce at judithpierce@umass.edu.
Teaching Assistantship
Department of Student Development

One 10 hour/week teaching assistantship is available for the fall 2015 semester. The position will entail supporting the school psychology program’s Field Practicum experiences course EDUC 698Q.

Responsibilities may include: Communicating with school-based personnel to help arrange field placements, assisting with course preparation and leading course discussions, coaching graduate students in the implementation of new testing and evaluation procedures, providing feedback on students’ written work and assisting in the evaluation of students’ performance, assisting with the documentation of clinical training and gathering data necessary to meet accreditation requirements.

Qualifications include: Candidates must have successfully completed EDUC 708 and EDUC 705. He or she must have excellent written and oral communication skills; be able to work with various campus constituencies including faculty members, administrators, and students, as well as foster and maintain excellent relationships with school-based professionals in the community; have an appreciation of diversity and multicultural values as they related to educational contexts. Additionally the ideal candidate must have strong organizational, time management skills, and be able to complete projects independently. Preference will be given to doctoral students.

To apply, please send a brief letter of application and your resume to Judy Pierce judithpierce@umass.edu. Please put EDUC 698Q GA in the subject line of your email.

---

The Beacon. Deadline is FRIDAY.

- **Deadline for submissions is 5:00 P.M. Friday for inclusion in the following week’s issue.**

- All assistantship notices will run in two issues. For information about preparing assistantship notices refer to the Faculty Resources pages (How to Write a Beacon Announcement) of our web site. www.umass.edu/education

- 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.

- Please submit announcements about departmental or concentration-related conferences, workshops, events and activities of interest to students to dms@educ.umass.edu.

Do it the right way: for information about Beacon announcements http://www.umass.edu/education/faculty-staff/faculty-resources
International Teaching Assistants
Screening Test of Spoken English - fall 2015

The SPEAK test is a screening test for spoken English communication skills. The SPEAK test for first-time international teaching assistants (ITAs) for fall semester 2015 will be administered during the week of September 13. Students who took the test previously and scored 45 but did not participate in Communication Instruction classes should also take the test. We also recommend this test for students who are not currently in a TA/TO position but may be in the future. 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.

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.)

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 reevaluated 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 fall semester. The report will indicate each student’s current functional level and the SPEAK Test equivalent score.

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.
**RESEARCH ASSISTANT**
Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

One 10 hour/week research assistantship is available for fall 2015.

This position will support research on Secondary English language arts (ELA) teacher preparation and development, as well as on ELA curriculum and instruction designed to serve linguistically and culturally diverse students in urban contexts.

Responsibilities include: conducting literature reviews; participating/attending UMass College of Education English methods (pedagogy) courses, attending site visits to local secondary English language arts classrooms; co-facilitating presentations and discussions for teacher candidates in the English methods courses; attending research team meetings; writing for conference presentations and publications; and assisting with the overall project.

Qualifications include: experience working with pre- and in-service secondary English language arts teachers, teacher professional development, experience working with culturally and linguistically diverse youth across educational contexts; strong writing and oral communication skills; ability to use digital audio/video equipment; willingness to travel to Amherst, Holyoke, and/or Springfield. Additionally, the ideal candidate must have strong organizational and time management skills, and be able to complete research tasks independently. Previous research experience or familiarity with qualitative methodology is preferred. Applicant must complete CITI training.

Priority given to doctoral students. Position contingent upon funding.
To apply, please send a brief cover letter and CV/resume to Keisha Green at klgreen@umass.edu.

---

**RESEARCH ASSISTANT**
Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

One 10 hour/week research assistantship is available for fall 2015. This position will support research on how current English language arts teachers, working within the Common Core framework, are enacting culturally relevant pedagogy.

Responsibilities include: conducting literature reviews; site visits to Springfield secondary English language arts (ELA) classrooms; co-facilitating professional development for ELA teachers; attending research team meetings; writing for conference presentations and publications; and assisting with the overall project.

Qualifications include: background in curriculum reform, experience working with secondary English language arts teachers, teacher professional development, experience working with culturally and linguistically diverse youth across educational contexts; strong writing and oral communication skills; ability to use digital audio/video equipment; willingness to travel to Springfield. Additionally, the ideal candidate must have strong organizational and time management skills, and be able to complete research tasks independently. Previous research experience or familiarity with qualitative methodology is preferred. Applicant must complete CITI training.

Priority given to doctoral students. Position contingent upon funding.
To apply, please send a brief cover letter and CV/resume to Keisha Green at klgreen@umass.edu.
Research Assistantship
Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies
Urban Education

One 10 hour/week graduate assistantship is available for fall 2015. This position will support a youth participatory action research (YPAR) project examining the development of ethnic studies courses and related issues identified by high school students in Holyoke, Massachusetts.

Responsibilities include: conducting literature reviews; attending school site programming and visits; co-facilitating presentations and discussions for high school students related to educational and social issues as well as research skills/methods; collecting and archiving data, including audio and video; attending research team meetings; writing for conference presentations and publications; and assisting with the overall project.

Qualifications include: experience working with youth across educational contexts; familiarity with Holyoke school district; ability to create supportive environments for students of color to become researchers of their own schools and communities; strong writing and oral communication skills; ability to use digital audio/video equipment; ability to travel to Holyoke by car. Additionally, the ideal candidate must have strong organizational and time management skills, and be able to complete research tasks independently. Previous research experience or familiarity with qualitative methodology is preferred. Applicant must complete CITI training.

Priority given to doctoral students. Position contingent upon funding.

To apply, please send a CV to Dr. Antonio Martinez at antoniom@umass.edu, Dr. Korina Jocson at kjocson@umass.edu, and Dr. Jason Irizary at jirizarry@umass.edu
PROJECT ASSISTANTSHIP
Department of Educational Policy, Research, and Administration

10 hours/week project assistantship, fall 2015, for the education leadership concentration coordinator.

**Description:** Works with the educational leadership concentration coordinator on the timely submission of academic course scheduling and requests for other data; assists in planning concentration meetings; take notes at those meetings; supports strategic planning and other College- and University-wide initiatives; any other duties as assigned.

**Qualifications:** Excellent written and oral communications skills; excellent organizational skills; excellent skills in Word, Excel, and other software; strong library and internet research skills; ability to work with various campus constituencies including faculty members, administrators, and students. Priority will be given to doctoral students.

To apply, please send a resume and one-page letter of interest to: Rebecca Woodland, c/o Judy Pierce at judithpierce@umass.edu. In the subject line of the email, please note “Ed Leadership PA position”.

---

**Fall 2015 Tuition Waiver for Externships - Deadline 9/9/15**

The **deadline** to submit complete fall 2015 externship forms and documents to Kristin Tyler in the Office of Academic Affairs (Furcolo 130) is **9/9/15**.

In all requests for approval of externship waivers, please see the Graduate School Externship Policy and Procedures link below for the Appendix A and Appendix B forms (forms must be typed and original ink signatures are required).

Submit the following to Kristin Tyler:

**Appendix A:**
- Top section with date, student name and student ID number must be typed and all signatures must be signed originals in ink (not digital/electronic)
- Employment Verification Form signed by the student, student’s supervisor, and Human Resource Contact

**Appendix B:**
- All information on this form must be typed, handwritten forms will not be accepted, and all signatures must be signed originals in ink (not digital/electronic)
- Request for Tuition Waiver for Externships signed by student’s advisor and Department Chair (this form must be typed this form; a handwritten Appendix B will not be accepted)

**Agency letter** on official employer / external agency letterhead, signed by the student and student’s supervisor, detailing student’s job description and a description of the supervision student receives

**Graduate School link:**
http://www.umass.edu/gradschool/funding-support/graduate-assistantship-office/externship-policy-procedures

Questions about externships should be directed to Kristin Tyler at ktyler@educ.umass.edu
Thursday, September 3rd - 12:00-1:30pm
804-808 Campus Center
**NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Info Session**
Co-sponsored by the Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR). Fall is fast approaching and with it comes the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) application deadlines. A three year award that provides an annual stipend of over $32,000, the GRFP is one of the most prestigious awards for early-career graduate students. This event features a panel of faculty members and UMASS GRFP recipients to share tips for crafting competitive proposals, offer insight on what reviewers look for, and outline UMASS resources available to you as you prepare your application. This event is highly recommended for first and second year graduate students. Please join us and bring your questions--a pizza lunch is provided! **Pre-registration** required.

Thursday, September 10th - 12:00-1:30pm
917 Campus Center
**NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Info Session**
Co-sponsored by the Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR). Fall is fast approaching and with it comes the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) application deadlines. A three year award that provides an annual stipend of over $32,000, the GRFP is one of the most prestigious awards for early-career graduate students. This event features a panel of faculty members and UMASS GRFP recipients to share tips for crafting competitive proposals, offer insight on what reviewers look for, and outline UMASS resources available to you as you prepare your application. This event is highly recommended for first and second year graduate students. Please join us and bring your questions--a pizza lunch is provided! **Pre-registration** required.

https://www.umass.edu/gradschool/office-of-professional-development

**BARBECUE THIS FRIDAY—You’re invited**

The Graduate Student Orientation barbecue is this Friday, September 4 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on the Integrative Learning Center lawn. Approximately 600 first-year students are expected to attend, and the Graduate School hopes you will join the festivities.

A full Orientation schedule can be found here: [https://www.umass.edu/gradschool/student-orientation](https://www.umass.edu/gradschool/student-orientation).
PROJECT ASSISTANTSHIP
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration

10 hour/week project assistantship available for fall 2015 to work with the EPRA department chair.

Responsibilities include: works with the department chair in planning the annual cycle of academic matters; works with the concentration coordinators on the timely submission of academic course scheduling, student census information, and requests for other data; assists in planning department meetings, take notes at those meetings; gathers data to support strategic planning at the department level and other College- and University-wide initiatives; conducts research on academic trends such as course enrollments, course offering trends; other duties as assigned.

Qualifications include: excellent written and oral communications skills; excellent organizational skills; advanced skills in Word, Excel, PowerPoint and other software; advanced skills in library and internet research; advanced skills in graphic representation of data; ability to work with various College constituencies including faculty members, administrators, and students

Priority will be given to doctoral students. Position contingent upon funding.

To apply, please send a resume and a one-page letter outlining your qualifications to Gretchen B. Rossman at gretchen@educ.umass.edu.

Graduate Assistantship
Department of Student Development—Social Justice Education

One 10 hour/week graduate assistantship for fall 2015.

Responsibilities: Supporting research activities related to youth studies and media culture: conducting literature reviews, collecting/organizing research data using digital tools, coordinating a lecture series and community engagement forums, monitoring and updating a weblog, attending research meetings, and assisting with the faculty’s overall project.

Qualifications: Prior experience working with minoritized youth in city schools; excellent interpersonal skills; ability to work with professionals in the scholarly community; familiarity with office software and digital media platforms. The ideal candidate must have strong organizational/time management skills and be able to complete tasks independently. Doctoral student preferred; applicant must complete CITI training.

To apply, please send CV/resume to Dr. Korina Jocson at kjocson@umass.edu.