GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP - Ethnography Study
Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

10 hr/week graduate assistantship for SPRING 2014.

Responsibilities: Conduct ethnographic interviews; transcribe interviews; conduct library research on neighborhoods, demographics, school district policies, and reform initiatives; assist grant-writing efforts.

Qualifications: Experience and training in ethnographic or qualitative methods; excellent scholarly writing ability; academic knowledge of issues pertaining to diversity and equity in urban public schools; ability to use library and online database research tools; ability to work independently, follow through on commitments, and meet deadlines. Additional preferred qualifications include a familiarity with the schools, neighborhoods, and communities of Springfield; background in participatory action research methods and/or community organizing.

Applicants should submit letter of interest and CV to: Kysa Nygreen knygreen@educ.umass.edu. Please write “RA Application” in the subject line.

**RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP** – Small Group Learning, NSF-funded research project
Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

Several 10 hour/week research assistantship positions available for Spring 2014.

**Responsibilities** include: The student will primarily work in a research project on small group learning in high school science. S/he will assist with development of science inquiry and engineering design tasks, development and maintenance of the project website, literature review on collaborative small groups in STEM disciplines, review of quantitative and qualitative instruments for data collection, and writing for conference presentations and publications.

**Qualifications** include: The ideal candidate will have a background in a STEM discipline, strong writing, organizational, and time management skills. The ability to work collaboratively as well as independently is required. Knowledge of science education literature is necessary and teaching experiences in K-12 science are preferable. Knowledge of quantitative and qualitative research methods and engineering design particularly is desirable. The online training program called Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) for human subject investigators will need to be completed prior to hiring. For information see: [http://www.umass.edu/research/training-and-education](http://www.umass.edu/research/training-and-education)

To apply, please send a letter of application, your resume or C.V., and two references to Dr. Martina Nieswandt, mnieswan@educ.umass.edu.

Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.

---

**GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP** – MA Department of Education
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
Center for Educational Assessment

10-20 hours/week beginning 12/8/13.

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

**Responsibilities include:** Conducting multivariate statistical analyses; equating analyses; simulating data; editing technical reports; entering items into html database, attending project meetings; 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; and co-authoring research reports.

To apply, please contact Dr. Stephen G. Sireci, (413)545-0564 (Sireci@acad.umass.edu).
GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP — edCount
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
Center for Educational Assessment

10-20 hours/week, beginning 12/8/13.

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

Responsibilities include: Conducting multivariate statistical analyses; equating analyses; simulating data; editing technical reports; entering items into html database, attending project meetings; 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; and co-authoring research reports.

To apply, please contact Dr. Stephen G. Sireci, (413) 545-0564 Sireci@acad.umass.edu.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP
Department of Educational Policy, Research, and Administration

One part-time (10 hour/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.

Announcing the M.Ed. in Educational Leadership
Designed for individuals seeking to develop contemporary leadership skills for PreK-12 educational settings. Interested educators include aspiring and current teachers, teacher leaders, department chairs, school counselors, school psychologists, special educators and others who may find themselves in positions which require professional development or skills in collaborative leadership. Read more on our website.
http://www.umass.edu/education/departments/epra/ed_leadership
RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP  – Small Group Learning,  NSF-funded research project
Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

This position is only available for incoming science education doctoral students starting fall 2014 in the Mathematics, Science, Learning and Technology concentration

20 hr/week research assistantship positions starting Fall 2014. Funding through the NSF grant is available for two years. Additional funding may be available within the Department or the College. The position is renewable by semester.

Responsibilities include: The student will primarily work in a research project on small group learning in high school science. S/he will assist with interdisciplinary literature reviews on small group learning in STEM disciplines, quantitative and qualitative data collection in high schools and data analysis, writing for conference presentations and publications, and presenting with the PI and Co-PI at national conferences.

Preferred qualifications: Teaching experiences in middle and/or high school science; disciplinary background in biology or physical science; strong interest and experience in science education research; Spanish language ability; strong interpersonal and communicative skills; and a high sense of responsibility.

Required qualifications: Admission to a doctoral program in the College of Education, University of Massachusetts Amherst; excellent communication skills; ability to work in school settings and as a member of a team. The online training program called Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) for human subject investigators will need to be completed prior to hiring. For information see: http://www.umass.edu/research/training-and-education

Requirements: Admission to the doctoral program in the Mathematics, Science and Learning Technology concentration within the Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies. Procedures and requirements of application can be found at: http://www.umass.edu/gradschool/admissions

If interested, please submit a one-page letter of interest and a one-page resume to Drs. Martina Nieswandt (mnieswan@educ.umass.edu) and Elizabeth H. McEneaney emcean@educ.umass.edu.

Deadline for application is January 3, 2014.

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP  – Measured Progress
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
Center for Educational Assessment

10-20 hr/week, beginning 12/8/13.
Qualifications: All applicants must have a background in psychometrics, statistics and mathematical modeling of educational assessment data, experience working in educational assessment, and working knowledge of classical test theory and item response theory. All candidates should have extensive knowledge of multidimensional scaling, plausible values methodology, test construction, and test validation research.

Responsibilities include: Conducting equating analyses; conducting multivariate statistical analyses simulating data; editing technical reports; entering items into html database, attending project meetings; 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; and co-authoring research reports.

To apply, please contact Dr. Ronald K. Hambleton, (413) 545-0262 rkh@educ.umass.edu.
GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP — USAID
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
Center for Educational Assessment

10-20 hr/week beginning 1/12/2014.

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

Responsibilities include: Conducting multivariate statistical analyses; equating analyses; simulating data; editing technical reports; entering items into html database, attending project meetings; 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; and co-authoring research reports.

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

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP — Educational Testing Service
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
Center for Educational Assessment

10-20 hr/week, beginning 1/12/2014.

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

Responsibilities include: Conducting multivariate statistical analyses; equating analyses; simulating data; editing technical reports; attending project meetings; 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; and co-authoring research reports.

To apply, please contact Dr. Stephen G. Sireci, (413)545-0564 (Sireci@acad.umass.edu).
GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
Center for Educational Assessment

10 hr/week, beginning 1/12/2014.

Qualifications: All applicants must have a background in psychometrics, statistics and mathematical modeling of educational assessment data, experience working in educational assessment, and working knowledge of research design, classical test theory and item response theory.

Responsibilities include: Providing consultation with regard to statistical and psychometric analyses; providing assistance regarding statistical software such as SPSS, SAS, LISREL and MPLUS; providing advice on research design and instrument construction; and coordinating consulting schedules and statistical workshops. Assisting faculty and students as needed.

To apply, please contact Dr. Craig S. Wells, (413) 577-1726 or cswells@educ.umass.edu

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
TEACHING ASSOCIATE
Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies
Mathematics, Science and Learning Technology concentration

10 hr/week teaching associate position for the spring 2014 semester. The teaching associate will teach EDUC 592A – Teaching and Learning with Open Educational Resources, a course offered through the Learning Media and Technology master’s program. The qualified candidate will have successfully completed his or her comprehensive exams. The course is a master’s level seminar that will be taught in a blended fashion. Preference will be given to doctoral students focusing on the learning technology strand of the MSLT doctorate who have prior teaching experience.

Interested candidates should send their CV to Dr. Sullivan (fsullivan@educ.umass.edu) by January 7, 2014.

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

Please Share The Beacon

If you receive the Beacon weekly, please send it to your listservs so that all students, staff, faculty and friends of the College have an opportunity to read it.
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.**  

---

**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.  

*Continued on next page*
Grad School, cont’d

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>
</tr>
</thead>
<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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you are a faculty member, please let the Graduate School know approximately how many students from your department will be participating in the screening test during the incoming Spring 2014 semester. Send the information to Lori Baronas in the Graduate Dean’s Office at 518 Goodell, baronas@grad.umass.edu or 545-5278. Please respond by December 13, 2013. 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.

Enjoy winter break!