Position Announcement: Information Technology Program Director

The Information Technology Program at UMass Amherst offers undergraduate students from any discipline an interdisciplinary minor in Information Technology (IT). Moreover, it partners with other groups on campus to promote a spectrum of IT education opportunities and perspectives, so that each student may develop IT proficiencies in a manner that best fits the student’s interests and needs. The program and its approach to “IT Across the Curriculum” (ITAC) have been highly successful and have earned widespread recognition since the program was begun conditionally in 2002. In 2007, the Faculty Senate established the program officially under the Office of the Provost and since 2021 it has been part of University Without Walls, under the supervision of the Associate Provost for Interdisciplinary Studies.

Currently, 80 to 100 new students enroll in the IT Minor each year, and over 100 courses from 32 departments comprise its curriculum. The enrolled students represent 72 departmental majors from across our campus. In 2010, the IT Program introduced and hosted the Information & Communication Technology Summit as an annual event. (The ICT Summit has been deferred due to the pandemic.) Additionally, one of the program’s projects, the Computer Competency Certification (CCC), is nearing completion to allow wider distribution and availability.

The IT Program is poised for even greater growth and success and now seeks a tenured UMass Amherst faculty member or Senior Lecturer to serve part-time as Program Director with an initial term of three years, beginning Jan 1, 2023, with the possibility of reappointment.

Position Description

Primary responsibilities are to oversee all functions of the Information Technology Program and the undergraduate IT Minor, and to advance the goals set by IT Program Steering Committee. The IT Director’s duties will therefore include program vision and leadership, general administrative responsibilities, communication with Deans and Department Heads and their faculty to maintain strong campus-wide commitment to the program, advocacy and partnership on campus for ITAC, and outreach/advancement with the Massachusetts business community and other educational institutions.

Other specific tasks include managing the program budget and part-time program administrator; collaborating with the program’s Assistant Director and Advisor; chairing the program’s Steering/Curriculum Committee; advising some students directly to understand students’ interests and experiences; recruiting students to the minor, including reaching those underrepresented in IT; and providing oversight to initiatives of the program. The Director will also communicate with relevant programs and offices on all issues related to IT education at UMass Amherst, work with the program’s administrative assistant to track students and maintain and evaluate student data, seek external funding and opportunities for healthy growth, serve on appropriate campus-wide committees, and further develop the campus, regional, and national reputation of the program.

Experience: Two of the hallmarks of the IT Program are its interdisciplinary approach to IT across the curriculum and its appeal to a wide range of students. Candidates with a track record of using IT in their
specific disciplines will be favorably regarded, as will candidates with a good understanding of the factors that influence women and under-represented minorities to participate in information technology related fields. The program is also well-positioned to attract external funding from leading companies, and experience with development/advancement would be attractive to the search committee.

Applicants who are tenured faculty or Senior Lecturers with prior administrative experience are strongly preferred. This is a part-time position. Compensation includes teaching release, which will be negotiated with the successful applicant’s department, and a summer stipend.

Applications

Preference will be given to applications received by **November 1, 2022**. Candidates should submit a cover letter stating their interest in the position and their vision for the program, along with their curriculum vitae to: IT-search@umass.edu.

The University of Massachusetts Amherst is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Women and members of minority groups are encouraged to apply.