

Summer Field Experience (SFE) – Teaching Assistant (TA)

Job Descriptions

NRES 405 – Plant Identification

Desired qualifications

- Knowledge of all plants on the SFE plant list and ability to correctly identify them and distinguish them from other plants not on the SFE list
- Ability to work alone and in groups
- Familiarity with dichotomous keys and ability to teach others in their use
Knowledge of botanical terminology
- Ability to guide students on plant walks and answer questions they might have
- Knowledge of plant habitats and locations where SFE Plant species can be found

Preferred qualifications

- Plant taxonomy and successful completion of SFE Plant ID course

Job duties

- Assist in collecting, organizing, and maintaining plants for the Plant Room
- Co-lead evening plant walks with Plant Course Instructor
- Assist with setting up and taking down of self-guided plant walks and the plant exams
- Assist with grading of weekly quizzes and final exam
- Develop new ways of teaching plants in different environments
- Other duties as assigned by Plant Course Instructor

WLDL 340 – Field Experience in Wildlife Management Techniques

- Organize equipment needed for each day ahead of time and ensure it's ready to collect for each lab activity. Pack crew bags, keep track of equipment signed out
- Prepare any needed datasheets
- Be able to identify the plants on the class plant list
- Know the scientific and common names of the plants on the class plant list
- Be willing to teach, quiz, and practice plant identification with the class throughout the week
- Be available to the professor and the crews both in the classroom and out in the field
- Make certain that all equipment is properly cleaned (i.e. Sherman traps) and in proper working order before the practical exam begins
- Gather appropriate plant specimens for the weekly plant quiz
- Be willing to humanely trap live animals
- Assist set-up of the practical exam at the end of each week
- Proctor practical exam at the end of each week
- Assist with grading as needed
- Monitor all small mammals and herpetofauna captures in a comprehensive Excel sheet for IACUC purposes

For 319/Soil 359 – Land Surveying/Soil Conservation and Watershed Inventory Techniques

- Organize equipment needed for each day ahead of time and ensure it's ready to collect for each lab activity. Pack crew bags, keep track of equipment signed out
- Move between classes to help when the professor requests it
- Know the plant lists for both classes
- Assist with teaching the plants to students through plant walks, practice quizzes, or other creative activities like trivia or scavenger hunts.
- Gather plants for both classes, set up the plant quizzes each week.
- Assist set up of the practical exam for one of the classes at the end of each week

For 320 – Field Experience in Forest Measurement

- Organize equipment needed for each day ahead of time and ensure it's ready to collect for each lab activity. Pack crew bags, keep track of equipment signed out
- Know the plant list (common and scientific) and where to find the plants
- Develop ways to teach the plants on your list, whether fun activities or just consistently practicing, going on plant walks during or after class, etc.
- Familiarize yourself with the forest measurements equipment, be able to assist students
- Accompany the class for lab activities when needed. Know the lab activities
- Gather plants for the class, set up the plant quiz each week

SOIL 360 – Field Experience in Soil Inventory Methods

- Organize equipment needed for each day ahead of time and ensure it's ready to collect for each lab activity. Pack crew bags, keep track of equipment signed out
- Make sure returned equipment is in good order at the end of the day
- Know (or become knowledgeable of) the plant list for SOIL 360
- Know how to use or become knowledgeable in how to use a Kotar Forest Habitat Type Guide
- Assist in the field with instruction and/or equipment use
- Assist with teaching soil terminology and/or plants to students through plant walks, practice quizzes, or other creative activities like trivia or scavenger hunts
- Assist in and/or collect soil and plant samples for use in the classroom
- Gather and/or assist gathering plants and soil samples for quizzes each week
- Assist set up of the practical exam
- Proctor the practical exam

WATR 380 – Field Experience in Aquatic Ecosystem Evaluation

- Organize and load equipment needed for the field day (Barge shocker, Generator, D nets, Kick nets, Beach seine, Buckets, Secchi Disks, Eckman Dredge, Water Quality equipment)
- Organize the classroom materials at the beginning of each week:
 - Field Guides
 - Habitat Quality equipment
 - Aquatic Invert Collection Materials (washing out specimen vials at the end of each week)
- Maintain a live specimen plant collection of all aquatic plants on Water's plant list. This includes collecting plants from field and changing out specimens when they start to deteriorate.
- Know how to identify all aquatic plants on list and be able to teach students tricks for ID and scientific names
- Hook up boat trailers and launch boats on Lake Days
- Keep equipment organized and clean throughout the week, along with chemically treating waders, boats, and other equipment for aquatic invasives in between field sites.
- Assist faculty instructor in teaching certain field techniques while in the field
- Be a resource for students when there are questions on certain exercises
- Assist with practical exam at the end of each week