Department Name: Department of Education

Description of Opportunity

Position duration – These positions are for 19 hours/week for 10 months (AY).

Position description:
The Montana State University Department of Education was awarded a three-year grant to incorporate the Growth and Enhancement of Montana Students (GEMS) dataset throughout the curriculum to address continuous improvement on multiple levels, including K-12 practice, current teacher, and administrator professional development; teacher educator preparation; school leader graduate preparation; and educational research training. The GEMS data, available through the Student Longitudinal Data System, provides educators and students with data to investigate educational practice with the goal of improving educational outcomes.

GEMS Data Graduate Research Assistant Positions (3)

A. Work alongside GEMS Data Coordinator to develop curriculum for implementation of GEMS data in undergraduate and graduate courses.
   I. Research best practices in utilizing state-wide data in educator preparation, school leader, and research methods curricula.
   II. Develop curriculum materials for instructors.
   III. Assist with GEMS data activities in undergraduate and graduate courses.

B. Work on the research projects with the investigators and learn vital skills in the areas of research development.
   I. Utilize GEMS database for statistical analysis.
   II. Research pressing issues in K-16 education in Montana and nationally.
   III. Assist in building capacity for the next generation of teacher educators and researchers in the state of Montana.

C. Work with GEMS Data Coordinator to incorporate GEMS data for continuous improvement of MSU TEP and School Leader programs.

Field-based skill development description –
Graduate Research Assistants will incorporate educational research in practice. GRAs will incorporate GEMS data in the classroom, in research projects with faculty, and throughout the department as they focus on systems of continuous improvement.

Transferable/portable skill development description –
This position will help the GRA develop of curriculum, presentations and trainings, research and data analysis skills, organization and leadership of projects, critical thinking and problem solving skills, program management, and interpersonal skills.
Preferred skills/qualifications –
- Passion for working with data
- Understanding of basic statistics
- Ability to use statistical software such as SPSS, SAS, STATA, HLM, or R
- Desire to assist with continuous improvement
- Strong organizational skills
- Oral, written, and/or nonverbal communication skills
- Ability to work independently and as a team

Benefits of the GRA
- Stipend: $1230 per month over a 10-month period, August 1 to May 31.
- There may be optional summer employment opportunities with the Department of Education.
- The appointment is for no more than 19 hours/week.
- In-state tuition remission up to 6 credits are available/term for successful candidates.

To apply for a position, please submit the following to Sarah Schmitt-Wilson at Montana State University Department of Education [sarah.schmitt@montana.edu] by February 15:
1. Current résumé or CV
2. Contact information for two professional references
3. Letter of interest for this position

Application review will continue until all positions are filled.

In addition, you will be expected to meet all of the Graduate School Qualifications:
- Full-time, degree-seeking graduate student accepted into a graduate program in the Department of Education at MSU
- Maintain term enrollment of a minimum of 6 credits
- Cumulative, and program of study GPA must be 3.0 or better
- Make satisfactory annual progress toward degree achievement