

Biological Sciences Undergraduate Teaching Assistant Fellows Program Fall 2020

The Biological Sciences Program, within the College of Computer, Mathematical and Natural Sciences, will employ Undergraduate Teaching Assistants (UTAs) Fall 2020 in a program designed to develop teaching and communication skills, organization ability, knowledge, and leadership. Each UTA will be supervised by the lab or discussion coordinator for the course they are assigned to, and will be required to perform the duties typically expected of a teaching assistant.

UTA duties will include:

- Attend weekly prep meetings as scheduled by the lab or discussion supervisor (see below for times)
- Attend lectures.
- Teach one lab or discussion section per week (except for BSCI207, see below)
- Adequately prepare for teaching the lab or discussion
- Grade papers & assignments as assigned by the lab or discussion supervisor, or the faculty instructor
- Hold office hours as directed by the lab or discussion supervisor
- Help to proctor lecture exams as needed
- Be available one week prior to the beginning of classes for scheduled TA meetings
- UTA's who have not previously done so will register for and attend a 1-credit weekly seminar course on teaching skills and issues, BSCI279P, which meets on Wednesday 2-3pm (prep UTAs are exempt from this requirement).

New UTAs teaching labs must attend a lab safety training session prior to or during the first week of classes. This work will require 10 - 15 hours per week, depending on the course requirements. The stipend is \$1500.00 for the semester, paid in an hourly wage. Undergraduate students will be hired for only one UTA position in any given semester, but will be allowed to apply for a position in a later semester, assuming their performance is satisfactory.

Interested students fill out the application found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/uta-fall20>

UTA applications are due April 15th, 2020.

Some UTA positions will be awarded before May 15th 2020. However, most positions will be awarded between May 15th and June 15th. Hiring will continue throughout the summer until all positions are filled.

Minimum application requirements:

- Second year student
- Overall GPA of 3.0 or higher (preference given to students with GPA 3.5 or above)
- Have taken the course they wish to TA at UMCP and earned a grade of B or higher.
 - Students with AP credit for a course will have completed the next higher level course with a grade of B or higher
 - For the non-majors courses a UTA will have earned a grade of B or higher in either BSCI160 or BSCI170, taken at UMCP.
- Sufficient time free for the UTA position
 - At least one 3-hour block of time available to teach a 2 or 3 hour lab or discussion
 - Time free to attend lectures for course
 - Time free to attend prep meeting. Prep meeting times are provided below.
 - Time to attend the 1-hour per week teaching skills seminar course (new UTAs only). The teaching seminar course will be held: Wed 2-3 pm (prep-lab UTAs are exempt from this requirement)

The courses available for UTAs and the typical prep meeting times for each course are listed below. UTA positions will be filled based on staffing needs and applicant backgrounds and preferences.

BSCI135 Amazing Green: Plants that Transformed the World I-Series. An interactive way to learn about plants and science, focusing on how plants have changed human history, the biology of their growth, and the science behind their use. Non-majors general education.

Prep meeting: Friday afternoon

BSCI160/161 Principles of Ecology and Evolution. Basic principles of biology with special emphasis on ecological and evolutionary biology.

Prep meeting: likely Friday 2 – 5pm

BSCI170/171 Principles of Molecular and Cellular Biology. Basic principles of biology with special emphasis on cellular and molecular biology.

Prep meetings: Friday 2 - 5pm

BSCI189I Race, Genomics and Human Evolutionary History. Fundamental concepts in chemical, cellular, genetic, molecular, & evolutionary biology required to understand human biological diversity, its origins, & its implications for concepts of "race," non- majors general education.

Prep meeting: Thursday 4 - 6pm

BSCI201 Human Anatomy and Physiology I. Anatomy and physiology of the skeletal, muscular, neural, endocrine, and sensory systems.

Prep meetings: Friday 1 - 3pm

BSCI202 Human Anatomy and Physiology II. Anatomy and physiology of the cardiovascular, respiratory, immune, digestive, urinary and reproductive systems.

Prep meetings: Friday 11am - 1pm

BSCI207 Principles of Biology III – Organismal Biology. The diversity, structure and function of organisms as understood from the perspective of their common physicochemical principles and unique evolutionary histories.

Prep meeting time TBA

BSCI222 Principles of Genetics. Principles and mechanisms of heredity and gene expression.

Prep meetings: Friday 12 - 1pm

BSCI330 Cell Biology and Physiology. Biochemical and physiological mechanisms underlying cellular function. Properties of cells which make life possible and mechanisms by which cells provide energy, reproduce, and regulate and integrate with each other and their environment.

Prep meetings: Friday 12 - 2pm

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Questions? Contact Dr. Francisca Saavedra, saavedra@umd.edu