

## **Biological Sciences Undergraduate Teaching Assistant Fellows Program Fall 2021**

The Biological Sciences Program, within the College of Computer, Mathematical and Natural Sciences, will employ Undergraduate Teaching Assistants (UTAs) Fall 2021 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 (lab/discussion UTAs)
- Adequately prepare for teaching
- Grade papers & assignments as assigned by the lab or discussion supervisor, or the faculty instructor
- Hold office hours
- 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 Tuesdays 3 pm

New UTAs teaching labs must attend a lab safety training session prior to or during the first week of classes. This work will require an average of 10 hours per week, depending on the course requirements. The stipend is \$1,762.5 for the semester, paid in an hourly wage.

### UTA applications are due April 15th, 2021.

Some UTA positions will be awarded before May 15<sup>th</sup> 2021. However, most positions will be awarded between May 15<sup>th</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup>. Hiring will continue throughout the summer until all positions are filled.

### Minimum application requirements:

- Second year student
- Overall GPA of 3.0 or higher
- 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 (lab/discussion UTAs)
  - 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 on Tuesdays 3 pm

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

*BSCI150 Beyond Race: Human Biological Diversity.* Provides the scientific evidence for rejecting race as a biological concept. The course covers basic biology, human evolution, human phylogenetics, and a critique of race as an explanation of human traits. Non- majors, general education.

Prep meeting: Thursday 4 - 6pm

*BSC1160 Principles of Ecology and Evolution.* Basic principles of biology with special emphasis on ecological and evolutionary biology.

Prep meeting: TBA

*BSC1161 Principles of Ecology and Evolution Lab.* Basic laboratory principles of biology with special emphasis on ecological and evolutionary biology.

Prep meeting: likely Friday 2 - 4pm

*BSC1170 Principles of Molecular and Cellular Biology.* Basic principles of biology with special emphasis on cellular and molecular biology.

Prep meetings: TBA

*BSC1171 Principles of Molecular and Cellular Biology Lab.* Basic laboratory principles of biology with special emphasis on cellular and molecular biology.

Prep meetings: Friday 2 - 5pm

*BSC1201 Human Anatomy and Physiology I.* Anatomy and physiology of the skeletal, muscular, neural, endocrine, and sensory systems.

Prep meetings: Friday 1 - 3pm

*BSC1202 Human Anatomy and Physiology II.* Anatomy and physiology of the cardiovascular, respiratory, immune, digestive, urinary and reproductive systems.

Prep meetings: Friday 11am - 1pm

*BSC1207 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

*BSC1222 Principles of Genetics.* Principles and mechanisms of heredity and gene expression.

Prep meetings: Friday 12 - 1pm

*BSC1223 General Microbiology.* Fundamental concepts in morphology, physiology, genetics, immunology, ecology, and pathogenic microbiology.

Prep meetings: TBA

*BSC1330 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 4-5:30pm

*BSC1410 Molecular Genetics.* An advanced genetics course emphasizing the molecular basis of gene structure and function in the context of modern approaches to the genetics of humans and model organisms.

Prep meetings: TBA

*BSC1441 Mammalian Physiology Laboratory.* Laboratory exercises in experimental mammalian physiology.

Prep meetings: TBA

**Interested students fill out the application found here:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/uta-fall21>

Questions? Contact Dr. Francisca Saavedra, [saavedra@umd.edu](mailto:saavedra@umd.edu)