

JOB DESCRIPTION

Position: Special Education Graduate Teaching Assistants for STEM STARS (2 positions)

Department: Special Education Assisting in introductory math and biology courses

Position Start Date: January 11, 2010

Rate: \$3837.50/semester plus $\frac{3}{4}$ tuition with an additional one month summer stipend)

Reports To: Stella Helvie, PhD. Asst. Professor of Special Education

SUMMARY: The National Science foundation funded STEM STARS Project (grant number 0929281) targets introductory-level STEM courses (Math 100, Math 140, Biol 110 and Biol211) as springboards for increased enrollment and retention of students with disabilities in STEM fields. This project adopts an integrative approach, where diversity is viewed as the norm. STEM STARS implements changes in pedagogy and curriculum that could substantially benefit a diverse population of students "at risk" of academic failure, especially students with disabilities. Using evidence-based strategies, the project advocates the application of universal design for learning and teaching, peer assisted learning, career and internship mentoring, and the use of technology to support the redesign and implementation of targeted STEM courses. Special Education teaching assistants are a critical part of STEM STARS planning and implementation. These teaching assistant positions will begin in the Spring semester 2010 and will continue through May 2011 contingent on full participation and satisfactory performance.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: Teaching Assistants will work with STEM STARS faculty to plan and implement the STEM STARS project in the spring and summer 2010 and will serve as teaching assistants for math and biology beginning in the 2010-11 academic year. **The expectation is that the position will require 15 hrs/wk.**

Specifically teaching assistants will be responsible for:

1. Participating in training. Training sessions will include but is not limited to the following:
 - a. information disability groups and their characteristics
 - b. accessibility services and resources
 - c. validated teaching methods including Universal Design for Learning
2. Attend STEM STARS monthly meeting starting spring semester 2010.
3. Attend math and biology lectures and labs. One assistantship will be for math (Math 100 and Math 140) and the other will be for biology (Biol 110 and Biol211)

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

1. Knowledge and awareness of disability education
2. Knowledge of characteristics of student with disabilities.
3. Students must possess a positive, supportive attitude and be able to work in a team.
4. Students with a strong background in math and/or biology will be given preference
5. Knowledge of Microsoft Office programs (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)

PHYSICAL DEMANDS:

1. Be able to use a computers
2. Must be able to communicate with STEM STARS team and students
3. Must be able perform essential functions of the job

QUALIFICATONS:

1. Must be a current student working on MA in Special Education (planned graduation May 2011 or later).

EDUCATION:

1. Undergraduate degree
2. Experience in math and/or science

EXPERIENCE:

Math, Science or Special Education experience desired, but not required.

If interested, please inquire with Dr. Stella Helvie in the School of Education.

