

POSITION DESCRIPTION

TITLE: **Education Research Specialist - (Full-time, contingent, temporary)**

Collective Bargaining - Ineligible - Contingent

Contingent positions are not eligible to participate in collective bargaining.

JOB SUMMARY:

The Education Research Specialist (Postdoctoral Scholar) will join a National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded, 2.5-year research project focused on improving undergraduate biology education through innovative curricular tools. The postdoctoral scholar will be primarily responsible for conducting qualitative research, including semi-structured interviews with instructors and students, and leading qualitative analysis of interview data. The scholar will also contribute to the production of peer-reviewed publications and conference presentations.

Additional responsibilities may include collaboration on curriculum development and testing, supporting dissemination activities, and contributing to the project's long-term evaluation goals. A background or experience in illustration, drawing, or visual communication is preferred, as the project team is incorporating graphical and game-based elements into biology education research. This position reports to the Principal Investigator, Dr. Abby Beatty, at St. Mary's College of Maryland and works closely with a multi-institutional team of biology education researchers.

While it is preferred that the Education Research Specialist work on campus at St. Mary's College of Maryland to facilitate collaboration and mentoring, remote work options are available for highly qualified candidates.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

(Note: These examples are intended only as illustrations of the various types of work performed in positions allocated to this class. The omission of specific statements of duties does not exclude them from the position if the work is similar, related, or a logical assignment to the position.)

- Responsible for following and applying the policies and procedures as defined in the employee handbook.
- Designs, conducts, and analyzes qualitative interviews with instructors and students nationwide.
- Applies coding frameworks and other qualitative research methodologies to evaluate project data.
- Assists in the development of peer-reviewed manuscripts, reports, and conference presentations.
- Collaborates with faculty, research staff, and students on project activities, including curriculum design and pilot testing.
- Supports dissemination of research findings through academic publications, professional societies, and public-facing outlets such as national and international research conferences.
- Contributes to long-term project planning, including evaluation of broader impacts.

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MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Education: Ph.D. in Biology Education Research, Science Education, Biology, Psychology, or a closely related field. ABD candidates will also be considered.
- Demonstrated experience with qualitative research methods (e.g., semi-structured interviews, qualitative coding, thematic analysis).
- Strong writing skills with a record (or clear potential) of peer-reviewed research output.
- Commitment to advancing undergraduate STEM education and equity in higher education.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively in a multi-institutional team environment.
- Excellent project management and organizational skills.
- Preferred: experience in illustration, drawing, or visual communication to support educational tool development.
- Any combination of acceptable education and experience, which has provided the necessary knowledge and skills to fulfill the requirements of this position, may be considered.