

Faculty Member Contact Information

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Description of the URCA Assistant Position


This posting includes one funded position. In addition, the faculty member may be willing to mentor additional, unfunded students.


How many unfunded students is this professor taking in addition to his/her one funded student? 1

(Students, if the faculty member will have both funded and unfunded students, he or she is free to select which student receives the funding. Funding cannot be split up between multiple students; only one student will receive it.)

Which of the following apply to this position?

This position is **only** open to students who have declared a major in this discipline. **M**

This project deals with social justice issues. 

This project deals with sustainability (green) issues. 

This project deals with human health and wellness issues. 

How many hours per week will your student(s) be required to work in this position? 9

(Minimum is 6 hours per week; typical is 9.)

Will it be possible for your student(s) to earn course credit? Yes No

If yes, in which course? ANTH 483

If yes, for how many credit hours? 3

Location of research/creative activities: SIUE Psychology Department, Alumni Hall

Brief description of the nature of the research/creative activity:

The 2009 archaeology field school excavation conducted by the Anthropology Department took place on a prehistoric archaeological site on the SIUE campus. The excavation recovered artifacts including stone tools and ceramic sherds, and uncovered features such as storage pits. These archaeological materials provide the data for both faculty and student research; moreover, it is the ethical responsibility of the excavation director (Julie Holt) and any agencies sponsoring the excavation (namely, the Anthropology Department and the University) to see that all artifacts and features are properly identified, reported, and curated. Thus, the research spawned by the excavation will extend well beyond the duration of the field school.

Brief description of student responsibilities:

Research assistants will identify artifacts under the tutelage of professional archaeologists. After their identifications have been confirmed, research assistants will create an artifactual data base using Excel and will make summary tables of the data. Research assistants will photograph and/or draw diagnostic artifacts such as projectile points and rim sherds. Finally, they will prepare the artifacts for curation. This research will be conducted in the Anthropology Lab, Peck 0403.

URCA Assistant positions are designed to provide students with *research or creative activities* experience. As such, there should be measurable, appropriate outcome goals. What exactly should your student(s) have learned by the end of this experience?

Research assistants will have learned basic methods of artifact identification, interpretation, and curation. Typically, students chosen for this position will have helped excavate the artifacts by participating in the field school, and will also use the data they have generated as research assistants as the basis for their senior projects. That is: these research assistants will have learned archaeology by doing archaeology, from excavation in the field, to analysis in the lab, to the final product: a written archaeological report. Through this invaluable experience, the students will become archaeologists. The measurable goal will be their senior projects, which will be completed in the spring semester. Note that the senior projects will of course also include library research which the students will complete in their "free" time.

Requirements of Students

If the position(s) require students to be available at certain times each week (as opposed to them being able to set their own hours), please indicate all required days and times:

Weekdays, 9-5

If the location of the research/creative activities involves off campus work, must students provide their own transportation?

Artifact analysis will take place in the Anthropology Lab, Peck 0403. No off campus work is required.

Must students have taken any prerequisite classes? Please list classes and preferred grades:

Ideally, students will have taken ANTH 325 (Archaeological Method and Theory), ANTH 375 (Archaeology Field School), or ANTH 432 (Illinois Prehistory) with a grade of A or B.

Other requirements or notes to applicants:

I would prefer students with experience in identifying artifacts and using Excel.