

### 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?**   3  

(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?** BIOL 493

**If yes, for how many credit hours?** 1-3

**Location of research/creative activities:** Department of Biological Sciences

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

I have two areas of research for which positions are available.

Position 1: The student will measure mammal skeletal elements to test hypotheses of mammal development and evolution.

Position 2: Students will apply principles of demography and population genetics to historic data from Madison and St. Claire counties. This will involve analysis of federal census records.

### **Brief description of student responsibilities:**

Position 1: My student will measure mammal skeletal elements, enter data about skeletal development, and participate in basic data analysis.

Position 2: Participating students will analyze federal census records from Madison and St. Claire counties for multiple decades in the 1800's in order to understand dynamics of early populations in these Illinois counties. Students will learn to apply demographic and population genetic analyses on several statistical packages.

**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?**

Position 1: My student will learn about mammalian skeletal development, basic principles of morphometrics, and analysis of data describing skeletal form. The student may create a poster to present results at a professional conference.

Position 2: Students will learn principles of demography and population genetics, and how these methods can be applied to historic data to understand population dynamics in early Illinois history.

### 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:**

Research times are flexible.

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

N/A

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

Completion of BIOL 220 with a C or better is required. Completion of BIOL 489 or BIOL 240a with a C or better is recommended.

**Other requirements or notes to applicants:**

Please indicate which position you are most interested in.

Note: Funding will be available for position 1.