

FACULTY VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Assistant/Associate Professor of Biology

Department: Biology

Position: Full-time (10-month), tenure-track position with complete benefit package

Salary: Negotiable within the range established in the CBA (\$44,000-\$54,000)

Union Affiliation: MFPE

Posting Date: November 2021

Start Date: August 1, 2022

Description

The Biology Department at the University of Montana Western seeks a broadly trained wildlife ecologist for a tenure-track position at the assistant or associate professor level. The position is open to any area of wildlife ecology; however, we are particularly interested in candidates with a focus on molecular to organismal applied wildlife ecology. We seek applicants who are innovative and passionate about science education and undergraduate research and are excited to work with students from a diverse array of backgrounds. The successful candidate will demonstrate a teaching approach that embraces Montana Western's unique immersion scheduling model, Experience One, in which students take and faculty teach a single course at a time. This model offers an unparalleled opportunity for a talented and creative educator to merge research with undergraduate learning to provide a one-of-a-kind educational experience. Primary teaching responsibilities include courses in introductory cell biology for majors, wildlife ecology and management courses for majors and non-majors, and courses in the candidate's area of expertise. In addition to excellence in teaching, strong preference will be given to candidates whose research interests will uniquely complement the department's existing strengths in alpine and aquatic community and ecosystem ecology, parasitology, microbiology, cell and molecular biology, anatomy, physiology, and botany. A clear sense of dedication and motivation toward serving our thriving campus and student body is expected and will include advising, writing student recommendation letters, providing student research opportunities and significantly contributing to departmental and university service activities. Successful candidates will teach 12 semester credits, which are typically taught during three of four blocks per semester. The fourth block is for conducting required professional development activities, such as departmental and university service activities, research with undergraduate students, attending meetings, or writing grant proposals and research papers. The University of

Montana Western values diversity, so applicants from diverse backgrounds are particularly encouraged to apply.

Qualifications

The successful candidate must have a Ph.D. in biology or ecology or a closely related field with demonstrated expertise in some area of wildlife ecology. They must also be an engaging and dedicated teacher who is committed to student learning and success. Their research interests should be able to accommodate undergraduate students that would like to pursue wildlife ecology research projects. In

addition, the successful candidate will have a demonstrated ability, or strong interest in, experiential learning and innovative undergraduate education. College-level teaching experience is highly preferred.

Application

Application materials should include a letter of interest responding to the position description, a statement of teaching philosophy (≤ 2 pages), a statement of research interests, a curriculum vitae including contact information for at least three professional references, and official or unofficial undergraduate and graduate transcripts. All application materials should be submitted as a SINGLE PDF file. Teaching evaluations may be requested at a later time. Official transcripts will be required at the time of hire. Application materials must be sent to:

Patti Lake
Personnel Officer
The University of Montana Western
710 S. Atlantic Street
Dillon, MT 59725
patricia.lake@umwestern.edu

Inquiries may be made to Dr. Wendy Ridenour at wendy.ridenour@umwestern.edu. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until position is filled.

The University & Dillon Area

The University of Montana Western is a dynamic, innovative, undergraduate university with over 65 full-time faculty and 1,300 students. It is located in Dillon, Montana in the scenic Rocky Mountains and has been awarded numerous top national rankings for delivering high quality, affordable education.

Montana Western is the only public four-year college in the nation offering *Experience One (X1)*, experiential learning delivered on the block schedule. Class sizes are small and students take a single course at a time, three hours each day for 18 days, before moving on to the next course. Each course is four credits and four blocks are offered each semester. The block schedule facilitates field and lab work, undergraduate research, study travel, and interdisciplinary teaching. Montana Western's faculty strongly believe in mentoring and inspiring students and assisting them in the transition from university life to professional careers.

The University of Montana Western is an integral part of the Dillon Community. With a population of 5,000 people, Dillon is known for outstanding public schools, safe environments, recreational opportunities, and an excellent quality of life.

The University of Montana Western is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and encourages applications from qualified women, minorities, veterans and people with disabilities. Qualified candidates may request veterans, or disabilities preference in accordance with state law. Reasonable accommodations are provided in the hiring process for persons with disabilities. Finalists for any position will be subject to a criminal background investigation.