



**REQUEST FOR STUDENT APPLICATIONS
Doctoral STEM Teaching Assistantship
NDSU/UND ONLY**

Issued: July 7, 2021

**Spring 2022 Award Dates: January 1 – May 15, 2022 / Application Due: September 30, 2021
Fall 2022 Award Dates: August 1 – December 15, 2022 / Application Due: February 28, 2022**

Purpose:

The National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded New Discoveries at the Advanced interface of Computation, Engineering, and Science (ND-ACES) cooperative agreement consists of two broad components: 1) Center for Cellular Biointerfaces in Science and Engineering (CCBSE), which consists of three research pillars: materials design, cellular systems, and computational approaches and 2) PROMoting Sustainable Partnerships in Education and Research (PROSPER), which consists of four connected project elements: education and workforce development, broadening participation, partnerships and collaborations, and communication and dissemination. [Click here](#) for more information about the NSF ND-ACES cooperative agreement.

Under ND-ACES, the Doctoral STEM Teaching Assistantship program is designed to: 1) increase NDSU/UND doctoral students' understanding of and experience in undergraduate STEM teaching and 2) provide course release time to the Tribal College/University (TCU), Primarily Undergraduate Institution (PUI), and Master's College/University (MCU) faculty/instructors/CCBSE researchers so that they are able to spend additional time conducting their research. [Click here](#) for a list of TCU, PUI, and MCU faculty/instructors/CCBSE researchers, their CCBSE research pillar assignments, and their campus positions.

Description of the Program:

The Doctoral STEM Teaching Assistantship Program is a semester-long teaching placement (during Spring 2022 or Fall 2022) that will take place at a CCBSE-participating TCU, PUI, or MCU. Under the direction of the faculty/instructor/CCBSE researcher on those campuses, the doctoral students will teach one course determined collaboratively between the doctoral student, the TCU/PUI/MCU faculty/instructor, and the institution.

It is anticipated that a total of four (4) Doctoral STEM Teaching Assistantships will be awarded each year, with two awards made to North Dakota State University (NDSU) students and two awards made to University of North Dakota (UND) students. Each student's assistantship contract will be processed through his/her home institution, with payment processed through a subaward to the receiving institution.

Support will be available for one academic semester (Spring 2022 or Fall 2022).

- An assistantship stipend, not to exceed \$10,000 plus fringe benefits for the semester.
- A reimbursement-based housing allowance, not to exceed \$5,000. Receiving institution must coordinate plans with the ND EPSCoR Business Manager before expenses are incurred, with campus housing used when available.

See additional information below for specifics on connecting with TCU, PUI, and MCU faculty/instructors/CCBSE researchers and securing housing at those locations.

Eligibility Requirements:

Applicants must be:

- Enrolled at NDSU or UND as Ph.D. candidates (and have completed their coursework and passed their comprehensive and/or general exam).
- Majoring in a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) discipline.
- Qualified to teach undergraduate courses in the discipline of the course that they will be required to lead at the TCU, PUI, or MCU.

Applications are highly encouraged from those who attended a TCU, PUI, or MCU during their undergraduate studies.

Application Requirements:

The applicant must submit a two- to three-page single-spaced essay (no smaller than 10 pt. font with 1-inch margins) on the importance of this experience to his/her post-graduation STEM career.

The application must also include:

1. An NSF-style biographical sketch of credentials.
2. Transcript listing credit hours and courses taken.
3. Three letters of endorsement from the:
 - Applicant's major advisor on how the assistantship will be used to further the applicant's professional development and career trajectory. The letter must include a statement that: 1) the student is in good standing academically, 2) has completed his/her doctoral coursework, 3) has passed his/her

- comprehensive and/or general exam, and 4) outlines what courses the student is qualified to teach.
- TCU, PUI, or MCU faculty/instructor/CCBSE researcher whom the applicant will support. The letter must include: 1) the name, academic rank, degree program, and institution of the Ph.D. candidate; 2) the name, title, and institution of the TCU, PUI, or MCU faculty/instructor/CCBSE researcher; 3) the course that the Ph.D. candidate will teach at the TCU, PUI, or MCU; 4) the semester in which the Ph.D. candidate will teach the course; and 5) student plans for housing during that semester, with campus housing being utilized when available.
 - Academic Dean/Vice President/Provost at the TCU, PUI, or MCU indicating that the faculty/instructor/CCBSE researcher will: 1) remain the instructor of record for the course, 2) supervise the doctoral STEM Assistant, and 3) receive release time from that course to perform research on his/her CCBSE project.

Primary Evaluation Criteria:

- Quality of Essay
- Student Credentials (NSF-style biographical sketch and transcript)
- Three (3) Endorsement Letters

The ND-ACES CCBSE co-leads, one of the Education and Workforce Development leads, one of the broadening participation leads, and the CCBSE faculty/ instructors from each of the applicant-chosen institutions will serve as the review panel to evaluate the applications.

Application Submittal Checklist (Submit items in the following order in a single PDF file):

1. **Cover Page.** Available at <https://www.ndepscor.ndus.edu/fileadmin/ndus/ndepscor/STEM/STEMCoverPage.pdf>
2. **Essay.** Described above.
3. **Student's credentials.** Include an NSF-style biographical sketch.
4. **Three (3) Endorsement letters.** Described above.

Electronic Submission: Submit all application materials in a single PDF file to ndepscor@ndus.edu (with a copy to Jean Ostrom-Blonigen, jean.ostrom@ndus.edu) via an email attachment. Please indicate subject line as *"Doctoral STEM Teaching Assistantship Application."*

Applications that do not comply with the above checklist will not be review.

Award Announcements and Additional Information:

Awards are contingent upon availability of ND-ACES project funds from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the State of North Dakota. These assistantships are provided in conjunction with the ND-ACES NSF RII Track-1 cooperative agreement:

- Spring 2022 semester applications are due on or before Noon, September 30, 2021. Awards will be announced on or about November 1, 2021, and funds are expected to be available on or about January 1, 2022. These awards are contingent upon ND-ACES Year 2 project funding.
- Fall 2022 semester applications are due on or before Noon, February 28, 2022. Awards will be announced on or about April 1, 2022, and funds are expected to be available on or about August 1, 2022. These awards are contingent upon ND-ACES Year 3 project funding.

Interested applicants may contact Jean Ostrom-Blonigen at 701-231-7516 or jean.ostrom@ndus.edu for assistance in meeting with a TCU, PUI, and MCU faculty/instructor/CCBSE researcher to learn more about campus-specific assistantships and potential housing arrangements.

Please direct questions to Jean Ostrom-Blonigen, ND EPSCoR State Project Administrator at 231-7516 or jean.ostrom@ndus.edu