



Assistant Teaching Professor

POSITION: Assistant Teaching Professor of Wildlife Ecology and Management

The Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture at Mississippi State University (MSU) invites applications for a full-time, 9-month, non-tenure-track faculty position at the rank of Assistant Teaching Professor in Wildlife Ecology and Management. This position has 100% teaching responsibilities and will focus on undergraduate instruction in applied wildlife conservation, habitat management, and ecological principles. Salary is competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience.

LOCATION: This position is based on the MSU campus in Starkville, Mississippi. Learn more about the College of Forest Resources (CFR), the Forest and Wildlife Research Center (FWRC), and the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture at <https://www.wildlifefisheries.msstate.edu/>

STARTING DATE: Spring-Summer 2026

APPLICATION REVIEW: Begins December 2025; open until filled.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture (WFA) at Mississippi State University (MSU) is seeking a dedicated educator with expertise in wildlife ecology and applied wildlife conservation and habitat management to contribute to our growing undergraduate program. The Bachelor of Science in Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture has six concentrations tailored to prepare students for diverse career opportunities: Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science; Conservation Biology; Wildlife-Agriculture Conservation; Human-Wildlife Interactions; Conservation Law Enforcement; and Wildlife Veterinary Medicine. This position is fully focused on high-quality classroom, laboratory, and field instruction for undergraduates with expectations for scholarship in teaching and learning, (including that which incorporates undergraduate researchers). The successful candidate will:

- Teach lab-based undergraduate courses in applied ecology, conservation principles and management practices, wildlife- and fisheries-related professions, and related subjects of departmental need and candidate's expertise.
- Develop and/or revise course curriculum to reflect current practices in wildlife management and conservation in collaboration with the departmental Curriculum Committee.
- Advise and mentor undergraduate students on course selection, professional experience and careers, graduate education and related aspects of college education.
- Support experiential learning opportunities, including internships and undergraduate research.
- Develop a program of scholarship centered on undergraduate education.
- Engage with state and federal agencies, NGOs, and private landowners to ensure course content aligns with workforce needs and conservation priorities.
- Participate in departmental, college, and university service activities.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology, Conservation Biology, Natural Resources, or a closely related field (ABD candidates will be considered if the degree will be completed by August 15, 2026).
- Experience in applied ecological research or habitat management
- Demonstrated excellence in teaching or strong potential for effective instruction, and mentoring students

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Familiarity with Southeastern U.S. ecosystems and wildlife species.
- Ability to integrate field-based learning and stakeholder engagement into coursework.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES:

- Strong communication and organizational skills.
- Commitment to the development of all students in teaching and mentoring efforts.
- Interest in interdisciplinary collaboration and curriculum innovation.

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENT:

The Southeastern U.S. hosts some of the greatest biodiversity in North America including numerous endangered and threatened species. Mississippi is characterized by diverse terrains including broadleaf forests, oak savannas, prairie grasslands, temperate pine forests and delta wetlands, along with abundant waterways and coastal ecosystems. These rich landscapes provide habitat for hundreds of species of fishes, mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. Mississippi is home to 11 national wildlife refuges, 6 national forests, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Natchez Scenic Trail, multiple national monuments, military parks, battlefields, several US Army Corps of Engineer reservoirs, 25 state parks, the Mississippi River, and 53 Wildlife Management areas. Mississippi State University is ranked

as one of the top research institutions in the United States. The Carnegie Institute has designated MSU as an "R1 – very high research activity" doctoral granting institution. The National Science Foundation has MSU as ranked No. 12 nationally in Agriculture and Natural Resources Conservation research expenditures with more than \$109 million spent annually. The 45-member faculty within the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture leads one of the most productive research programs in the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State University. We are home to the Mississippi USGS Coop Unit of scientists, the Center for Human-Wildlife Conflict, the USDA Wildlife Services National Training Academy and four endowed faculty chairs. The department has a highly collegial and interdisciplinary group of faculty, post-doctoral fellows, and Research and Extension Associates that help make the department one of the premier institutions for applied wildlife, fisheries and aquaculture science in the nation. Annually, the department faculty bring in \$15-20 million in extramural funding. As one of the fastest growing undergraduate programs in the region, our 320+ undergraduate students concentrate in wildlife agriculture science, human-wildlife interactions, conservation biology, wildlife veterinary medicine, conservation law enforcement, and wildlife, fisheries and aquaculture science. The department also mentors over 100 graduate students across a variety of programs, with high job placement following receipt of a graduate degree.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Applications must be submitted online at <https://explore.msujobs.msstate.edu/cw/en-us/job/509845/assistant-teaching-professor> and should include:

1. Cover letter
2. Curriculum vitae
3. A teaching philosophy and accompanying statement that articulate your pedagogical values and instructional methods, with emphasis on alignment with departmental objectives and student achievement.
4. Example syllabus for the undergraduate class, WFA XXXX *Principles of Wildlife Conservation and Management*, a course that supports students in the WFA and Department of Forestry majors.
5. Unofficial transcripts (official transcripts will be required prior to offer)
6. List of 3 references including contact information. Letters of recommendation will be solicited for potential in-person interviews only.

For more information, contact the search committee chair, Dr. Leslie Burger, at leslie.burger@msstate.edu. Job Number 509845

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT:

Mississippi State University is an equal opportunity institution. Discrimination is prohibited in university employment, programs or activities based on race, color, ethnicity, sex, pregnancy, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, or any other status to the extent protected by applicable law.

Questions about equal opportunity programs or compliance should be directed to the Office of Civil Rights Compliance, 231 Famous Maroon Band Street, P.O. 6044, Mississippi State, MS 39762, (662) 325-5839.