





Faculty Member Contact Information

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Contact Info	
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Department	Economics and Finance

1 Funded, 1 Unfunded URCA Assistant

	This position is ONLY open to students who have declared a major in this discipline.	M
X	This project deals with social justice issues.	
	This project deals with sustainability (green) issues.	
	This project deals with human health and wellness issues.	
X	This project deals with community outreach.	
	This mentor's project is interdisciplinary in nature.	I

Are you willing to work with students from outside of your discipline? If yes, which other disciplines?

- Yes, my project is truly interdisciplinary, please also mark me as interested in taking students from these areas: The project requires organizing employer information from the Internet, sending e-mails, and collecting responses. All majors should be able to work on it.

How many hours per week will your student(s) be required to work in this position?
(Minimum is 6 hours per week; typical is 9)

- 9

Will it be possible for your student(s) to earn course credit?

- No

Location of research/creative activities:

- The student works from home and e-mail communication can suffice but the department facilities are available. We may need a meeting every 1 or 2 weeks that can be in person or by Zoom.

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

This study is a part of a larger study which is presently underway. Dr. Vithaythil is presently working with a student assistant on a part of the project and the student is expected to continue.

We study if the university type affects how employers evaluate student applications with similar accomplishments from Research Universities (premier state) versus other State Universities. We hypothesize no difference.

We are presently working with the sample of six university names across the local area to maintain the local community perspective. Response rate on such projects can be low. Therefore, Dr. Vithaythil and I can accommodate another couple of URCA students in the Spring.

Brief description of student responsibilities?

With faculty guidance, the student will develop survey instruments. These will be a set of characteristics-matched CVs with different universities/disciplines to study the research question. Students will visit employment websites and choose the prospective employers based on the criteria they develop with the faculty mentor. They will next e-mail the developed CVs to the employer. Finally, employer response will be tabulated - no response, yes, or no. The preceding work will form a large part of the study. The last part, though small, is important to communicate the results. This will include analyzing the data and reporting the results.

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?

The URCA Assistant will learn the research process given a hypothesis. They will also gain the following practical skills and insights:

1. Writing effective CVs with an eye towards employer needs
2. Varying parameters of interest to minimize confounding factors in survey-based research

3. Learning how to conduct survey-based research
4. Exposure to employer websites and skills in identifying position of interest that will lead to success given the CV, and
5. Organizing and analyzing data with faculty guidance and reporting the results.

Aside from learning the research skills, the student should benefit by learning how to navigate the process of seeking employment.

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:

- N/A

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:

- N/A

Other requirements or notes to applicants:

- None