

Faculty Member Contact Information

Name	Nicholas Guehlstorf
Contact Info	
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Department	Environmental Sciences and Political Science

1 Funded, One Unfunded URCA Assistant

	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.	+
	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

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)

6 to 8

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

Yes ENSC 498, ENSC 499 and possible internship credits in political science 2 maybe 3

Location of research/creative activities:

Science West research space on SIUE campus

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

Within political science, there has been significant growth in the number of people studying environmental policy without using rudimentary case studies, publicly available information, polling data and/or survey investigations. Part of the rapid and significant growth of new environmental policy research is explained by the number of political scientists incorporating social media into their research agendas. This project is about finding innovative "big data" to answer environmental science questions about natural resource management.

Brief description of student responsibilities?

As data science becomes more commonplace in public administration, academics must celebrate the innovation of social scientists. It is my argument that policy analysts today are eager to be treated with the respect that medical scientists get for contributing to health care policy or that engineers who inform development of safety regulations receive. As such, the undergraduate researcher would be hand coding social media posts about environmental policy problems to be run with machine learning techniques.

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?

Yes

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:

The student can set his/her own schedule and will also be able to work alone and remotely. Some work will require a computer with significant processing speeds.

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

Some of the work must be done with me on campus.

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

No prerequisites are needed or required.

Other requirements or notes to applicants:

Strong critical thinking skills, good writing and some math/statistics.