

Basic Information:

Location: Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, 515 E Amite Street, Jackson, MS 39201

Duration (approximate): Start date of January 15th or 22nd with flexible end date, but not to extend beyond May 31, 2024

Compensation: \$15 per hour with maximum hours worked of 375 hours over internship duration. Additionally, up to \$1,500 will be provided to cover travel costs for intern to attend a professional conference, meeting, or development opportunity.

Closing Date for Application: November 19, 2023

Description: The Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) intends to fund a paid internship within the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) for an undergraduate or graduate student from groups currently underrepresented in environmental sciences, marine sciences, engineering, environmental education, or similar disciplines.

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality strives to enhance opportunities that are reflective of an organization that is inclusive, fosters an open and supportive environment, and draws from a variety of perspectives and experiences in order to further the mission and better serve the diverse population of the state of Mississippi. Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality embraces and encourages diversity and provides a multi-faceted learning and working environment.

The mission of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality is to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of present and future generations of Mississippians by conserving and improving our environment and fostering wise economic growth through focused research and responsible regulation.

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality is looking to engage a student to fill an intern opportunity located in Jackson, MS. This intern will primarily assist with our Mississippi Benthic Index of Stream Quality (MBISQ) program; this includes assisting field crews with sampling streams across the state and laboratory work processing samples. This intern will have the opportunity to work on several projects at MDEQ as opportunities arise.

Internship activities may include:

- Collecting water samples at field sites
- Recording water quality and habitat related data
- Processing macroinvertebrate samples in a laboratory
- Assisting with fish kill field response
- Participating in relevant program meetings
- Assisting with the development of water quality reports

Working Conditions:

- Internship work-week schedule will be mutually determined by MDEQ staff and intern but will be tailored to fit current class schedule if still enrolled. Depending on the availability of the intern on a given week, hourly expectations are 10-30 hours per week.
- May be required to work at times other than 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and could include work on holidays, as necessary.
- May be required to perform work outdoors, occasionally in adverse weather conditions

Additional Details/Disclosures: Up to \$1,500 will be provided to cover travel costs for intern to attend a professional conference, meeting, or development opportunity.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Current enrollment as an undergraduate or graduate in an accredited college or university or a recent graduate within the last 6 months.
- Minimum of 18 completed semester credit hours from an accredited college or university at the time of application
- Must have an overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 grade point scale or "Pass" on a Pass/Fail system.
- Preference given to student majoring in biological sciences, chemistry, environmental science, or similar field.

Internships supported the Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA): GOMA, a non-profit organization, is a partnership of the five Gulf States that supports a broad network of federal agencies, academic organizations, businesses, and other non-profits in the Gulf Coast region. The mission of GOMA is to enhance the environmental and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico through increased regional collaboration.

Instructions for applying:

Please include a resume and a brief write-up explaining your interest in this opportunity. Submit these to Melody Chimahusky at mchimahusky@mdeq.ms.gov by November 19, 2023.

Direct any questions about the application to Melody Chimahusky (mchimahusky@mdeq.ms.gov).