

Position Summary:**Title:** Graduate Assistant**Hours per Week:** 20 hours/week**Department:** Sociology**Location:** Portland Gorham LAC Online/Distance**Duration:** Full Academic Year Fall Semester
 Summer Semester Spring Semester**Total Stipend:** \$9,000**Monthly Stipend:** \$1,000**Scholarship Amount:** \$6,000 (in-state) / \$6,000 (out-of-state)**Supervisor Name:** Michelle Vazquez Jacobus**Supervisor Email:** michelle.jacobus@maine.edu**Supervisor Phone:** (207)780-4603**Position Details:****Statement of Job and Essential Functions:**

USM Resilience Pathways: Exploring Maine Migration and Community (Resilience Pathways; the Project) is an interdisciplinary collaborative of USM's Department of Economics and Sociology collaborating with community partners, including The Climate Initiative (TCI), to redress the negative impacts of climate change through community education, organization, advocacy, and action. The Resilience Pathways GA (GA) will function as the overall coordinator of the projects and outreach undertaken over the AY 24-25 academic year. The role will include Project management; coordination of outreach and collaborative community partnerships; coordination of community engagement projects and integration into relevant USM classes; and monitoring and evaluation.

The Resilience Pathways GA will work in partnership with Project faculty to connect the community engagement projects of USM students to the needs and assets of our collaborative partners; to organize community conversations throughout Southern Maine; and to monitor and evaluate the Project's progress over the 2024-25 academic year. The GA will work with Project faculty to organize and structure community engagement projects that aim to redress the disparate impacts of climate change. This will involve maintaining regular contact with Resilience Pathways partners, supporting USM students in their engagement work with the partners, evaluating and assessing the impact of this engagement on students and community organizations, and concertedly adapting the next stages of the initiative. The GA will facilitate cross-cultural and intergenerational conversations and be available as a resource as the students and staff engaged with the project. They will connect the USM Resilience Pathways team with TCI staff and train community partners and USM students in the use of climate change digital tools. The GA will move the Project toward the goal of integrating the information gleaned through the project to practical benefit to our community.

Graduate Assistantship Job Description

Essential Functions

- Work collaboratively with Resilience Pathways faculty, students, and community partners to mutually progress toward Project goals.
- Facilitate meetings between USM students and community organizations; TCI staff, high school students and community members.
- Work with Project faculty to design appropriate community engagement projects and move forward on the Project's goals.
- Facilitate communication between USM students and faculty, as well as partners to develop engagement projects, adapt projects as needed, gather necessary data from the projects, and connect the projects to Resilience Pathway goals;
- Gather and compile data to inform the ongoing work of the Project.
- Identify and collaborate with local youth leaders, USM and high school students; as well as partner organizations throughout Maine and Tribal communities.
- Engage local multicultural communities and youth in participating in Project programming including community conversations, virtual activities, social media events, and community summits.
- Assist with organization of community events and conversations.
- Assist with data collection and assessment.

Supervisory Responsibilities:

None

Budget Responsibilities:

None

Public and Professional Activities Related to Job Performance:

Possibilities for collaborative presentation along with Project team at professional conferences

Internal Contacts:

Related USM/UMS academic departments/programs including SBS, Social Work, Environmental Studies, Public Policy and Management, and Education. USM Offices of ISA, DICI, Career Services, and Sustainability.

External Contacts:

TCI, Greater Portland Immigrant Welcome Center (GPIWC), Catholic Charities, the League of Women voters/Democracy Maine, Portland Empowered, Portland Housing Authority, Catholic Charities, Tree Street Youth, Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition, The State of Maine Office of New Americans, UMS Cooperative Extension, MOFGA, Cultivating Community, Lots to Gardens, as well as local high schools and local farms and agricultural organizations.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Strong organizational skills
- Ability to plan and execute community events with collaborative team

Graduate Assistantship Job Description

- Strong cross-cultural communication or ability to communicate across difference (ideological, generational, cultural, linguistic, etc.)
- Ability to work collaboratively with diverse students, faculty, and staff
- Ability to take initiative and develop leadership: strong interest in creative and innovative activities
- Ability to think creatively about application of practical experience to academic integration
- Ability to represent Resilience Pathways and USM in a professional manner
- Research and data analysis skills
- Flexibility in scheduling to occasionally include occasional evening and/or weekend hours

Required Qualifications:

- Current degree-seeking graduate student at USM or Maine Law
- Enrolled in at least six graduate credits per semester (Fall and Spring)
- Must not be a University of Maine System employee.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Knowledge of and interest in community engagement, diversity, higher education policy and building community capacity
- Experience with cross-cultural communication or communication across difference
- Experience with facilitation of community conversation or educational facilitation
- Technological and IT skills

To Apply:

Submit your resume and cover letter via email to Michelle Vazquez Jacobus (michelle.jacobus@maine.edu).