

Graduate Assistantship Job Description

Position Summary:

Title: Research Assistant

Department: School of Social Work

Hours per Week: 10 hours/week

Location(s): Portland, Online/Distance

Lab (if applicable): N/A

Duration: Fall 2026 semester, Spring 2027 semester

Anticipated Start Date: 8/31/2026

Total Stipend: \$6,000 for master's-level students / \$7,000 for doctoral-level students, paid biweekly

Tuition Waiver: 3 graduate credits during each the Fall 2026 semester, Spring 2027 semester

Supervisor Name: Kimberly Giamportone

Supervisor Email: kimberly.giamportone@maine.edu

Supervisor Phone: 207-780-4297

*** Per [CBA, Art. 38, § 7](#), graduate workers who are on approved remote work arrangement may need to physically come to campus periodically to perform work or attend meetings. Check with the supervisor for any on-campus requirements.*

Other Information:

- The University offers a GA/TA/RA health benefit plan to USM graduate workers through Gallagher Health. Additionally, effective July 1, 2026, workers have access to dental and vision insurance options and voluntary retirement savings plans; USM will not cover these costs.
- Graduate workers are also eligible for resources through the UMS Employee Assistance Program (EAP).

Position Details:

Statement of Job:

This is a research assistant position supporting the scholarship of Dr. Kimberly Giamportone, Associate Professor of Social Work. These projects include a book about field education seminar classes and course development on the topic of promoting civil discourse.

Dr. Giamportone is in the very early stages of a book project focused on social work seminar instruction. As part of this work, the graduate research assistant would assist with identifying relevant journal articles across a range of topic areas and synthesizing the material into ongoing annotated bibliographies based on different subject matter. There will likely also be some smaller projects as the book develops and we move through different chapter development ideas.

Essential Functions:

Literature review for two scholarly projects; Provide synthesis of Information/Annotations; Contribute feedback to course development, bringing a student perspective to course topics, discussion formats, and assignment options.

Supervisory Responsibilities:

None

Graduate Assistantship Job Description

Budget Responsibilities:

None

Public and Professional Activities Related to Job Performance:

None

Internal Contacts:

Kimberly Giamportone, Associate Professor of Social Work

External Contacts:

None

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

Literature review for two scholarly projects; Provide synthesis of Information/Annotations; Contribute feedback to course development, bringing a student perspective to course topics, discussion formats, and assignment options.

Required Qualifications:

- Skilled at finding academic literature and presenting key information
- Must not be a non-student University of Maine System employee.
- The use of a personal computer or laptop IS required for this position. Note: designated [on-campus computer lab workstations](#) are available on a first come, first served basis.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Strength in critical thinking; interest in macro social work and/or developing course materials; comfort with independent work
- Suggested academic programs: Master of Social Work (MSW)

This position shall be covered by the University of Maine System and University of Maine Graduate Workers Union Collective Bargaining Agreement.

To Apply:

Submit your application, including your resume and cover letter, via the [Graduate Assistant Application form linked here](#) by 4/30/2026. In your cover letter, include a self-assessment about how this position relates to your academic program and professional aspirations. Candidates should receive notice of employment decisions by 5/29/2026.

Please direct any questions specific to this position to the supervisor at kimberly.giamportone@maine.edu or 207-780-4297. For general questions about the GA program, or the Graduate Assistant Application form, reach out to the Office of Graduate Studies, usmgradstudies@maine.edu or 207-780-4872.