

MS student assistantship at the University of Georgia to integrate ecological site information and dynamic soil properties

The soil pedology lab at the University of Georgia seeks one MS student interested in soil health, dynamic soil properties, ecological sites, and spatial modeling. This work is part of a larger multi-institution project that will explore the relationship between ecological sites and dynamic soil properties in three unique southeastern ecosystems. The UGA student will focus on scaling dynamic soil properties across the NRCS land resource hierarchy using a variety of existing data (both spatial and non-spatial data). Ideal candidates would combine expertise in data analysis and modeling spatial datasets. Desired start date is January 2, 2019 for the start of the spring 2019 semester. We offer a competitive graduate student salary and significantly reduced tuition.

The student will be based at the University of Georgia in the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences in Athens, GA <http://cropsoil.uga.edu/>. UGA is a Land/Sea Grant institution and is ranked 16th among public universities in the U.S. News & World Report's 2018 edition of America's Best Colleges. Athens is well known for its quality of life in regard to both outdoor and urban activities (<https://www.visitathensga.com/>).

Objective: Primary goals are 1) Use the current structure of soil survey to summarize and scale measured dynamic soil properties from site-level to regional extent in the southeastern U.S. and 2) Facilitate the development of ecological sites, state-and-transition models, and related thresholds for three ecosystems by complimenting concurrent ESD development by the research team using data mining and modeling.

Required qualifications: Completed B.S. in soil science, landscape ecology, rangeland management, geography, agriculture, natural resources, or similar field by start date. A positive attitude and willingness to collaborate with an interdisciplinary team of researchers is required. Ability to complete complex tasks and apply GIS software is required.

Desired qualifications: Experience with databases, spatial modeling, and proficiency with computer software such as R, ArcGIS, Microsoft Access, etc. is highly desirable. Familiarity with dynamic soil properties, soil survey, ecological sites, geographic information science, spatial modeling, remote sensing data and data mining is highly desired. The candidate should also have an interest in predicting soil health parameters critical for evaluations of conservation practices and overall soil function in the southeastern U.S.

To apply: If you are interested in pursuing graduate research in this area, please send a current resume that includes your academic background and research interests to Dr. Matt Levi at matthew.levi@uga.edu by September 5, 2018. The UGA graduate college deadline for spring 2019 applications is November 15, 2018 for domestic applicants and October 15 for international applicants but applicants are encouraged to make contact prior to these dates (<http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/prospective-students/student-information/admissions-bulletin/deadlines/admissions-deadlines/>). Information specific to graduate degree programs offered through the UGA Department of Crop and Soil Sciences can be found here: <http://cropsoil.uga.edu/graduate.html> . The University of Georgia is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation or protected veteran status.