DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Teaching assistants (TA’s) in Biology provide indispensable support for instructional laboratories. Primary responsibilities include:

• preparing materials, reagents and equipment needed to conduct lab exercises
• turning over materials when labs are completed
• assisting faculty with laboratory instruction; for example, attending lab sections to help students learn microscopy, pipetting skills, electrophoresis techniques, etc.

These duties are performed weekly throughout both fall and spring semesters, in support of upper division classes, including Genetics (BIOL 221), Cellular & Molecular Biology (BIOL 320), and Physiology (Bio 335). Assignments may include introductory level labs (BIOL 100, 108, 111, 112 and 213) as needed. TA’s may also be asked to tutor or offer study sections for specific classes, depending on TA experience.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Appropriate qualifications include:

• BS or BA in Biology or similar field
• familiarity with undergraduate biology labs
• knowledge of chemical principles and math competency
• good decision-making skills and self-motivation
• ability to work as part of a team

CONTRIBUTION TO PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

Teaching Assistantships benefit students by providing a basic understanding of the both the science and logistics of running different types of Biology labs. Students gain experience in laboratory exercises, pedagogy, and classroom organization; they work as part of a team to deliver meaningful, hands-on laboratory components of critical courses, and they establish professional relationships with faculty members. The skills they develop will be useful for those who plan to pursue science teaching as a career, and will be translatable to other jobs as well. Faculty-student interactions can lead to strong letters of recommendation or long-term mentoring relationships. Working within the department fosters a sense of community and support with peers that leads to a greater chance of success in the program.

For additional information, including stipend and tuition waiver, please refer to Graduate and Teaching Opportunities page of the RIC website.

TO APPLY:

Please complete:

• application form
• a resume
• a one-page personal statement that describes your reasons for seeking an assistantship, your qualifications and your long-term career goals

Send by email to: Dr. Deborah Britt, Director of Biology Graduate Programs (dbritt@ric.edu). Priority will be given to students in the Biology M.A. Program, but qualified applicants from other graduate programs will be considered.