TEACHING ASSISTANT – BIOLOGY

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
- occasional assistance with classroom or lab instruction; more teaching opportunities can be provided if a student desires to develop that experience

These duties are performed weekly throughout both fall and spring semesters, in support of introductory level labs (BIOL 100, 108, 111, 112 and 213). Assignments may include upper division classes, such as Genetics (BIOL 221), and Cellular & Molecular Biology (BIOL 320), and other lab support when need arises. Teaching Assistants work under the supervision of the Biology Laboratory Coordinator.

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. The students gain experience in experimental techniques, some pedagogy, overall classroom organization, all useful for those who plan to pursue science teaching professionally, or translatable to other types of jobs. Second, they are part of a team effort within the Biology department to offer meaningful hands-on laboratory components of critical courses, and develop relationships with faculty members. These faculty-student interactions can lead to letters of recommendation or more long-term mentoring relationships. Students who work within the department also have more opportunity to interact with other graduate students, and these peer relationships provide a sense of community that offers support and development, leading to a greater chance of success in the program.

Application Process:

Please submit an application form, a resume, and a one-page personal statement that states your reasons for seeking an assistantship, your qualifications and your long term career goals. Send the information via email to Dr. Deborah Britt, Director of Biology Graduate Programs, Rhode Island College (dbrtit@ric.edu). Qualified candidates will be invited for a personal interview. Priority will be given to students enrolled in the Biology M.A. Program, but other qualified applicants will be considered.