

M.S. Assistantship: Detecting and Quantifying Tree Mortality in Bottomland Hardwood Ecosystems

**College of Forestry, Agriculture and Natural Resources,
University of Arkansas at Monticello**

The College of Forestry, Agriculture & Natural Resources at the University of Arkansas at Monticello is seeking applicants for a M.S. Assistantship available beginning August 16, 2021. The assistantship is half time and carries an annual stipend of \$15,000 plus tuition.

Project: Tree mortality is a fundamental process affecting forest stand and landscape dynamics and affecting associated ecosystem services. Forest health monitoring approaches aim to detect and map tree mortality after it occurs. As part of a multi-disciplinary research team, the student will use existing tree inventory data and acquire drone imagery and on-the-ground spectral signatures to develop methodology for identifying tree decline in bottomland hardwood forests. The new student will obtain drone pilot certification as well as several remote sensing and data analysis certificates as he/she/they pursue a thesis project. The student work will be part of a larger funded project and will build on the work currently in progress with opportunities to network and engage with several land management agencies.

Requirements: Applicants must have a 2.7 overall undergraduate GPA or 3.0 GPA in the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate courses and satisfactory GRE scores. A B.S. degree in a natural resources-related field is also required. Applicants must have a valid U.S. driver's license or obtain the same within 60 days of starting employment. Overnight travel is required as well as the ability to work outdoors in all weather conditions.

Location and Facilities: The College of Forestry, Agriculture & Natural Resources is located in Monticello, Arkansas in the southeastern portion of the state. The Arkansas Forest Resources Center is also headquartered here, and is administered by the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. The Arkansas Forest Resources Center is the research and extension arm for forest-based programs within the State. Additionally, the USFS Arkansas Forestry Sciences Lab is located at the School. The School and Center maintain several state-of-the-art laboratories (hydrology, soil, quantitative analysis, silviculture, wildlife ecology & management) available for graduate research and education.

Application & Additional Information: Graduate program and application information can be found at <https://www.uamont.edu/academics/CFANR/grad-degrees.html>. Applicants must be admitted to the University of Arkansas at Monticello and apply to the College of Forestry, Agriculture & Natural Resources before they can be considered for an assistantship. Applicants must submit all GRE scores, official transcripts, a statement of interests, and three letters of recommendation. Please indicate the position number above on all application materials and inquiries. For additional information, please contact:

Contact, **Dr. Mohammad M. Bataineh**, Office: 870-460-1449, Email: bataineh@uamont.edu.

The position is available until a qualified applicant is selected.
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