Faculty Employment Opportunity

Job no: #499426
Work type: Visiting Faculty
Location: Sonoma
Categories: Temporary, Full Time, Visiting Faculty, Unit 3 CFA – California Faculty Association

Department of Physics & Astronomy
(Visiting Faculty) Assistant Professor

Starting August 2021

Our Commitment

Guided by our core values, Sonoma State University offers an exceptional educational experience that fosters intellectual, cognitive, social, and personal growth. As the only member of the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges in California, we are uniquely positioned to foster ethical exploration, civic engagement, social responsibility, and global awareness combined with a solid foundation in an academic discipline. We have a strong commitment to graduating students who have the ability to think critically and communicate effectively in an ever-changing world. The unique campus culture fosters our Seawolf Commitment to integrity, respect, excellence, and responsibility and is integrated into all campus life. We nurture inclusive excellence through a celebration of the rich diversity of our local communities and our interconnected global economy. Members of the University community are expected to work effectively with faculty, staff, and students from diverse ethnic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds. We are fully committed to the rights of students, staff and faculty with disabilities in accordance with applicable state and federal laws. SSU is especially interested in candidates who make contributions to equity and inclusion in the pursuit of excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service.

The University

Sonoma State University’s beautiful 274-acre campus is located in Sonoma County wine country, an hour north of San Francisco. The campus offers the ideal setting for teaching and learning and access to a community of rich cultural, environmental, and recreational opportunities. Founded in 1960, Sonoma State University is one of the 23 campuses of the California State University System. As members of the largest public higher educational system in the nation, we provide accessible, high quality education to more than 9,000 students. Sonoma State University is proud to be a Hispanic Serving Institution committed to achieving the goals of equal opportunity and endeavors to employ faculty and staff reflecting the ethnic and cultural diversity of the region and state.

Faculty Responsibilities

In addition to teaching and scholarship, faculty are expected to engage in service to the department, school, and community. Sonoma State is committed to the Teacher/Scholar model
and places an emphasis on faculty support of undergraduate research. Faculty are also encouraged to participate in our distinctive, high-impact Freshman and Sophomore year programs and to foster our commitment to the CSU Graduation Initiative 2025 through excellent teaching, advising, and mentoring. All faculty are required to have the ability to work effectively in a multicultural environment.

The Department

The Department of Physics & Astronomy provides excellent education to the Sonoma State University student population through a strong undergraduate major program, important support courses, and a robust offering of general education courses. The department is small and collegial. There are currently 5 tenured or tenure-track faculty members, several highly qualified lecturers and a well-renown Education and Public Outreach program. There are approximately 60 majors in the department, and they may pursue one of our degree offerings: a B.S. in Physics, a B.S. in Physics with an Astrophysics Concentration, a B.A. in Physics, or our new B.A. in Physical Science. The Department provides students with a fundamental background in physics and its applications and offers considerable hands-on experience with close student-faculty interaction in classes and required capstone research experiences. The Department prepares graduates for work in a diversity of careers. Our graduates work in industry, in government laboratories, and pursue graduate degrees. They teach in schools, colleges, and universities. They work as scientists, engineers, analysts, programmers, writers, consultants, and run their own businesses. The Department has dedicated teaching laboratories, research laboratories including the Keck Microanalysis Lab, and astronomical observing facilities. The Department is active in University and Community Service, and is connected to the intellectual life of the greater Bay-Area research community through the venerable ‘What Physicists Do’ lecture series. Prospective applicants are encouraged to see the department’s Web page at: http://phys-astro.sonoma.edu

Duties of the Position

The duties of the position fall under the categories of: Teaching; Scholarship, Research and Creative Achievements; and Service. Faculty in the Department of Physics and Astronomy are expected to teach with an assignment each semester of approximately 12 weighted teaching units of lecture and laboratory, and to participate in Departmental service. The successful candidate is expected to teach both in our core introductory physics curriculum and in upper-division major courses. This includes lecture courses and laboratories, and will involve in-person and online instruction. The selected individual will be committed to teaching undergraduates, including the opportunity to supervise undergraduate capstone research projects in physics. The successful candidate is expected to initiate and maintain research activities that involve undergraduate students.

Professional Qualifications

To be recommended for appointment, the candidate must have a Ph.D. in physics or a closely related field. The successful candidate should have a demonstrated ability and desire for undergraduate teaching and be actively involved in research in physics or a related field. Experience with online or hybrid instruction, and a learning management system is desirable. A research plan that can be accomplished within an undergraduate program is required. The
successful candidate must demonstrate they are capable of exemplary teaching of upper-
division and lower-division physics major courses. Prior teaching and/or post-doctoral research
experience is preferred. We are seeking candidates with a demonstrated commitment to
diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Rank and Salary
The rank is Assistant Professor. The salary for this position is: $70,000.

Required* Application Materials

- Cover Letter*
- Curriculum Vitae*
- Statement of Research Interest*
- Diversity Statement*
- Teaching Philosophy*
- Student Evaluations (Optional)
- Three (3) Non-Confidential Letters of Recommendation (Optional)

Official transcripts will be required at the time of hire. Sonoma State University hires only
individuals lawfully authorized to work in the United States. All offers of employment are
contingent upon presentation of documents demonstrating the appointee’s identity and eligibility
to work, in accordance with the provisions of the Immigration Reform and Control Act. A
background check (including a criminal records check) must be completed satisfactorily before
any candidate can be offered a position with the CSU.

Application Deadline
Applications received by April 12, 2021 will be given full consideration. The position will remain
open until filled.

Questions concerning this position may be directed to:
Search Committee Chair: Dr. Scott Severson
Email: seversos@sonoma.edu

Questions concerning the application process may be directed to:
Faculty Affairs Department
Facultysearch@sonoma.edu

The ADA Coordinator is also available (hrleaves@sonoma.edu) to assist individuals with
disabilities in need of accommodation during the hiring process.

Other Information
The university is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. We consider qualified
applicants for employment without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, age,
sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, genetic information, medical condition, disability, marital status, or protected veteran status.

This position is considered a “mandated reporter” under the California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act and is required to comply with the requirements set forth in CSU Executive Order 1083 as a condition of employment.

View Benefits Summary