Department: **Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies**

Working Title: **Research Assistant -** *Scaling AI for Justice – Creating a Replicable Model to Analyze Data on Unjust and Illegal Prison Sentences*

Classification: **Instructional Student Assistant**

Number of Openings: **2**

Pay Rate: **$20/hour (172 hours each)**

Appointment: **5-10**

Expected Dates of Employment: **June 1, 2025 through August 17, 2025**

Deadline to Apply: **June 5, 2025**

Requisition #: CRIM_ISA_SUM

DUTIES OF THE POSITION

Students will work on an AI tool and website for the project - "Using Artificial Intelligence to Track Implementation California's "Second Look" Resentencing Legislation."

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Currently enrolled undergraduate or SSU (ideally through spring 2026).
- Free at weekly meeting time agreed upon by group.
- Completed coursework or demonstrated experience in at least one of the following: Python, data science, machine learning, web development, or AI.
- Experience with Python, relational databases, or front-end development tools (preferred but not required).
- Ability to explain technical concepts clearly to non-technical audiences.
- Initiative and curiosity about learning new tools, frameworks, or contexts.
- Willingness to contribute to interdisciplinary team projects with real-world impact.
- Strong written communication skills.
- Ability to work collaboratively and manage deadlines.
- Demonstrated interest in technology for social justice, criminal justice reform, or data-driven policy advocacy.

HIRING CRITERIA

Student should be prepared to do the following:
- Participate in weekly supervision meetings and collaborative work sessions.
- Back end
  - Review and improve existing Python code, web-app architecture, and documentation.
  - Simplify complex code for accessibility by non-technical users.
  - Software evaluation and programming.

- - Refine queries. Train AI to use natural language to answer. Test algorithms for infection due to bias as a result of data exposure or inferences.
    - Address "hallucination" the risk that an AI will confidently produce a response that is inaccurate or false.
- Frond end
    - Evaluate privacy and data collection options.
    - Finalize user interface and devise methods to collect user data.
    - Refactor and enhance a front-end web interface for querying a relational database.
    - Develop a user-friendly interface for AI-powered data visualization and querying.
- Co-author step-by-step guides and examples for replicating the tool in other jurisdictions.
- Prepare materials for presentations at research symposiums and public showcases.
    - Present the results of work at the SSU Research, Scholarship & Creativity Symposium
    - Submit a 50-100 word abstract of the work accomplished.
- Workflow delegation and design.
- "Consumer" engagement and user testing and input suggestions from users.

HOW TO APPLY

Submit a resume and a 1-page letter (PDF or Word) to henry@sonoma.edu describing how you meet the minimum qualifications and hiring criteria. Please address:

1. What relevant experience do you have (e.g., coding, research, social justice work, or related skills)?
2. Why are you interested in contributing to this project?
3. What relevant coursework, tools, or past projects have prepared you for this role?
4. What is your availability for work (Summer 2025, Fall 2025, Spring 2026, how many hours in each semester, and which semesters)(We typically work 4-5 hours a week, depending on the week and our meeting time)?
    a. 10 Weeks in Summer
    b. 15 Weeks in Fall
    c. 15 Weeks in Spring

HIRING NOTIFICATION

Supervisor will email student.

SUPERVISOR

Caitlin Henry.

OTHER INFORMATION

- The classification, Instructional Student Assistant, is one of three classifications in a collective bargaining unit, Unit 11. Instructional Student Assistants, who must be currently enrolled University students, perform tutoring, grading, or teaching-related duties under the supervision of faculty or professional staff.
- 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.
- 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.
- Successful candidates may be required to do a background check (including a criminal records check) before work in the position can begin.

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