

Michigan State University
Job Specification
Fisheries Seasonal Technician

Date Posted: 5 December 2025

Closing Date: 6 January 2026

Application Review Begins on 7 January 2026

Three to Four positions available, all with the same responsibilities

Job Description

The Black River Streamside Research Facility operated through the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University is hiring four seasonal technicians for the 2026 field season. Technicians will assist in ongoing field and experimental lake sturgeon evolutionary ecology research. Field work will include collection of adult biological and behavioral data and annual census information on the Upper Black River. Technicians will collect physical stream data, conduct larval lake sturgeon and macroinvertebrate drift collections, juvenile lake sturgeon census, and assist with experimental assessment of factors affecting larval mortality and adult reproductive success. Hatchery work will include rearing lake sturgeon from egg, larval, and juvenile life stages using standard aquaculture methodology.

Technicians will be responsible for maintaining adult and larval biological data, hatchery, and water quality data. Technicians may work during daylight and night hours and in inclement weather. Opportunities exist to conduct individual research projects and assist with projects of graduate students and faculty.

Required Qualifications

Applicants should have a background and interest in aquatic ecology and fisheries science and be enrolled in a biological degree program such as fisheries, zoology, natural resources, biology or allied fields. A valid driver's license is required. Successful applicants will demonstrate the ability to perform the essential functions of the job (required to be in the water for long periods of time) with or without accommodations. Applicants should have field experience working in aquatic habitats and be familiar with fisheries sampling methodology and equipment. Applicant should be able to demonstrate abilities to work independently and as part of a team.

Desired Qualifications

Preference will be given to candidate who have experience in field and experimental collection of fish biological data during different life history stages. Additional preference will be given to applicants with fish culture experience and experience using a microscope and with aquatic insect identification. Experience in database management and data analyses software is desirable. Experience in construction and maintenance of equipment is desirable.

Salary

Minimum \$15/hr depending on level of experience. One position will begin in early-April and continue through October 2026. Two 12-week term positions with the possibility of extension through 31 August 2026 available. Forth position is funding dependent. Some flexibility for start and end dates is possible. Selected applicants will be provided housing near the field site in Cheboygan County, MI for the duration of the field season. Necessary field equipment will be provided. Further information regarding the position can be obtained by contacting Douglas Larson at larso147@msu.edu.

Required Application Materials

Cover letter, CV, and names and contact information for references

Apply Here

<https://careers.msu.edu/jobs/professional-aide-in-state-michigan-united-states-bd5aed50-2feb-4d2c-bd8a-8b1e318649ad>

Website for Background

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/fw/>
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