Graduate Research Assistantships in Rural Sociology

The Department of Sociology at Iowa State University has research assistantship opportunities for qualified graduate students. The assistantships will support current research projects in rural sociology and rural criminology, under the supervision of Dr. David Peters. Graduate assistants will be part of interdisciplinary teams from the social and public health sciences. Students will gain experience in data management and statistical modeling, qualitative interviews and case study analysis, and engagement with stakeholders. Successful applicants will have a background in quantitative methods, ability to communicate research results in writing, and a willingness to learn qualitative techniques and apply them in the field. Assistantships are open to any graduate major, but a background in sociology or the social sciences is strongly preferred (evidenced by degrees, coursework, or research).

The positions begin in the spring semester 2022 and are available through 2023, depending on satisfactory performance. The 9-month 0.5 FTE assistantships provide a stipend, full tuition waiver for Ph.D. students, and benefits including health insurance. Summer appointments are available for highly qualified students. Opportunities for professional development are encouraged, including contributing to peer-reviewed publications and presentations at professional meetings. Interested applicants should send a curriculum vita and cover letter describing their interests and qualifications to Dr. David Peters (dpeters@iastate.edu).

Current Research and Extension Projects


- Resiliency and Vulnerability to COVID-19 in Midwestern Rural Communities (NSF) [https://smalltowns.soc.iastate.edu/covid19](https://smalltowns.soc.iastate.edu/covid19)

- Overcoming the Rural Data Deficit to Improve Quality of Life and Community Services in Smart & Connected Small Communities (NSF). [https://ruralshrinksmart.org](https://ruralshrinksmart.org)

- Understanding Opioid Risks in Rural and Micropolitan Communities: Economic Restructuring, Social Disorganization, and Local Responses (USDA-AFRI). [https://ruralopioids.soc.iastate.edu](https://ruralopioids.soc.iastate.edu)

- Iowa Small Towns Project (USDA-AFRI) [https://smalltowns.soc.iastate.edu](https://smalltowns.soc.iastate.edu)