

Au Sable Institute of Environmental Studies

Announcement of Employment Opportunity and Request for New Course Proposals



Rank: Professor, Associate Professor or Assistant Professor (based on experience)

Classification: Faculty, May Session (Great Lakes or Chicago) or Summer Session I or II (Great Lakes)

Duration: Three weeks (May Session) or five weeks (Summer Session) in 2020 with possibility of continuing appointment

About Au Sable

Au Sable Institute, a Christian institute dedicated to inspiring and educating people to serve, protect and restore God's earth (www.ausable.org) accomplishes our mission through various programs, including: a college academic program, an environmental leadership intensive for university students and recent graduates, undergraduate research assistantships for local conservation and restoration projects, place-based environmental education programs for K-12 students, support for graduate students at major research universities, and community and retreat programs for churches and the general public. Our largest program, the college academic program, primarily supports students from our 51 participating Christian colleges and universities, and offers 23 university-level courses each summer at multiple locations in the United States and in Costa Rica and India (www.ausable.org/college). These courses, offered in a 3-week May Session or in two 5-week summer sessions, are intentional in providing field-intensive (>50% or course time outside the classroom) and skills-based experiences through small class sizes (14 students or fewer) that prepare students for careers or further study in environmental vocations. Those teaching at Au Sable typically maintain positions at universities, government agencies, and non-profit organizations across the U.S. and Canada.

Continued Emphasis with Contemporary Changes – New Urban Campus in Chicago

In 2020, Au Sable will continue its traditional emphasis on teaching site-specific, place-based knowledge, skills, and applications of creation care in northern Michigan, Whidbey Island (Washington), Costa Rica and south India. Au Sable is also now expanding its ministry and mission to inspire and educate people to serve, protect and restore God's Earth by taking its efforts into the urban environment with the launch of Au Sable -Chicago in May 2020 in conjunction and cooperation with North Park University. Today, the majority of the world's people, and 80% of US citizens, live in urban environments. The urban setting is where most people have contact with creation, have opportunity to preserve biodiversity, and have a chance to enjoy the life and beauty that God has created. Cities of the world and the United States contain significant elements of biodiversity that are worthy of care and protection. For many people today, the city is also a less threatening environment than a forest, island or international setting, and can be for them a better place to learn about God's good creatures and their care. Recognizing these things, Au Sable is beginning the development of urban-centered creation care courses, starting in Chicago this coming May 2020.

Course Proposals

As we continue to advance and expand the college academic program, we are seeking course proposals from interested faculty and professionals to develop and teach a 4-credit course in their area of expertise for the Institute. We will accept course proposals for new courses that support Au Sable's mission and complements or extends the current course offerings at our campuses (www.ausable.org/college), now to include Chicago. Proposals for courses at the Great Lakes campus appropriate to its setting in northern Michigan as well as proposals for courses in Chicago that utilize the urban setting are especially desired. Possible examples of urban topics in Chicago may include, but are not limited to, urban forestry, urban ecology, urban water ecology, urban development, urban environmental justice, the built environment, urban air quality, or urban climate change.

All course proposals should address the requirements described at the end of this announcement.

Specifically, we currently are accepting proposals for courses to be taught at:

1. Au Sable-Great Lakes (Mancelona, Michigan) **May Session** (May 18-June 5, 2020) – 1 new course anticipated
Summer Session I (June 8-July 10, 2020) or **Summer Session II** (July 13-August 14, 2020) – 1 new course anticipated
2. Au Sable-Chicago (Illinois) **May Session** (May 18-June 5, 2020) – 1 or 2 new courses anticipated

May Session courses are taught five days per week for three weeks. Summer Session courses are taught three days per week for five weeks. Included in the teaching responsibility is the leading of an Integrative Session one day each week, a day in which faculty and students from all classes join together to focus on the application of Christian principles of creation care to specific environmental issues. The faculty member will also participate in and, on occasion, lead Sunday evening vesper worship services for Au Sable faculty, staff and students as the start to the Au Sable week.

Settings

Au Sable-Great Lakes is located in the north woods of Michigan's Lower Peninsula, about 80 miles southwest of the Straits of Mackinac and 40 miles east of Traverse City. The human population is sparse, primarily rural and consists of a base of year-round residents, including several Native American tribal nations, that swells in the summer as vacationers and those with second homes enjoy the abundant natural beauty. Surrounded on three sides by tens of thousands of acres of forests, Au Sable-Great Lakes includes frontage on a 215-acre lake and an adjoining 200 acres of northern hardwoods and conifer forests. Environmental resources in the vicinity of Au Sable-Great Lakes are abundant and diverse. Pristine river systems, including a designated Michigan Natural River – the Jordan; approximately 900 lakes and ponds in the local four-county area, 80 bogs in the local twelve-township area, diverse forest ecosystems, three Great Lakes, various sand dune communities, diverse climatic and topographic features, and diverse flora and fauna contribute to unique educational and research opportunities in this setting. Of particular significance are the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore; Hartwick Pines and Wilderness State Parks; the Lake Skegemog Wildlife Area; the Grass River Natural Area; the Jordan, Manistee, Au Sable, Boardman,

and Rapid Rivers; and the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery. The climate is typical of north-temperate regions, although the Great Lakes temper the extremes.

Au Sable-Chicago is hosted in partnership with North Park University located in Chicago's North Side. Located on the shores of Lake Michigan, Chicago is the nation's third largest city and is divided into 77 community areas, which include more than 200 neighborhoods, all with distinct cultural, ethnic, or religious expression and history. North Park University resides between the Albany Park and North Park community areas. Albany Park includes the neighborhoods of Albany Park, Mayfair, and North Mayfair, as well as Chicago's unofficial "Koreatown." The Chicago metro area is one of the most ethnically diverse, and racially segregated, in the nation. The campus location and easy access to the broader Chicago communities provides for a perfect location to study environmental issues in the urban setting, including environmental justice issues such as the "toxic doughnut" of the Altgeld Gardens housing complex in south Chicago and the South Branch industrial corridor near Little Village. Chicago is also home to more than 600 parks, open spaces and facilities that comprise 8.5% of the city area including 8,800 acres of green space, making it the largest city park manager in the nation. The park area includes 26 miles of Lake Michigan frontage and issues affecting the Great Lakes, such as pollution and invasive species control and prevention, are a focus of environmental efforts in the city. Other notable attractions in Chicago include the Shedd Aquarium, Museum of Science and Industry, Field Museum of Natural History, Millennium Park, Lincoln Park Zoo, and the Lakefront Trail.

Qualifications

PhD in course area or related discipline – Master's or ABD will be considered. Experience and demonstrated effectiveness in undergraduate teaching as well as experience or interest in professional and Christian spiritual mentoring of undergraduate students, along with demonstrated ability to effectively integrate biblical principles of creation care and environmental stewardship in teaching. Peer-reviewed publication in professional journals is desirable.

Salary and Benefits

Salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience. Housing will be provided at each respective campus. Reimbursement for mileage or airfare to and from permanent residence to the host campus is available.

Diversity and Inclusion

Au Sable Institute does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices, or procedures. Au Sable Institute encourages applications from women, minorities and all individuals who will contribute to the diversity and excellence of the Institute.

Application Process

Review of proposals and applications will begin July 22, 2019 and continue until the positions are filled. The proposal/application is completed online and includes submitting: (1) a letter of interest (including a statement of your ability and interest in integrating biblical principles of creation care and environmental

stewardship in the classroom), (2) a curriculum vitae, (3) a detailed course proposal addressing the 12 requirements below, (4) contact information for three professional references, who are able to address teaching effectiveness and scientific expertise, and (5) contact information for one pastoral reference who is able to address Christian commitment and maturity and service to a local church. Additional information, including academic transcripts, may be requested during the review process.

Please [click here to begin the online application process](#).

Course Proposal Requirements

Please include the following information in support of your course proposal.

1. Course title
2. Course description
3. Proposed Campus (Chicago/Great Lakes) and Session (May, SSI, SSII)
4. Course level (100-400) and prerequisites, if applicable
5. Course texts and/or other required materials
6. Course objectives, including:
 - specific course learning outcomes that address knowledge in the discipline
 - specific skills that each student will gain from the course
 - any applicable external recognition that students may receive upon completion of the course (e.g. a professional certification or other demonstration of competency)
7. Two or more examples of daily topics and/or activities that would be a part of the course
8. How will the course serve to fulfill the mission of Au Sable to teach students to serve, protect, and restore God's creation?
9. How will the course clearly and explicitly integrate Christian faith with professional and scientific knowledge and practice of course material?
10. Why will this course appeal to current students and be readily marketable to them? What kinds of backgrounds, goals and aspirations in students will the course draw from and appeal to?
11. How will the course have an especially explicit and engaging field component (>50% of course content), particularly one that can work well in the environment (natural, cultural, or political) of northern lower Michigan or urban Chicago?
12. Description of the need for this course in the biology or environmental curricula at many Christian colleges

Questions regarding the position and submission application materials by references may be made to:

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