Dr. Nicole Pitterson in the Department of Engineering Education would like to hire a graduate research assistant for the spring semester. All questions in reference to this position should be sent to Dr. Pitterson.

**Project description:**
This project is aimed at understanding the decisions made by professors/instructors in introductory engineering courses to use evidence-based instructional practices in their courses. Using a case study approach, we seek investigate what evidence-based practices are used to teach engineering concepts and what are their perceived effectiveness in promoting students’ conceptual understanding. Data will be collected by interviewing engineering faculty and students and conducting a series of classroom observations.

Under Dr. Nicole Pitterson’s supervision, the graduate researcher will be expected to work 20 hours a week and is free to develop a schedule that works best for them. The researcher will meet with Dr. Pitterson for 30 minutes each week at a time that is mutually convenient.

**Typical duties:**
- Preparation of IRB applications for research on human subjects,
- Review of literature, collection of qualitative data in the form of direct classroom observations, faculty, student think aloud and focus group interviews,
- Interview transcription
- Preparation of manuscript suitable for submission to research journals as well as conference papers,
- Preparation of presentations at national conferences
- Development of research grant proposals for submission to funding agencies,
- Completing other administrative activities consistent with being a member of a research team.
**Required qualifications:**

- Formal training in Qualitative Social Science Research Methods
- Research experience with analyzing qualitative data
- Experience with writing research results either as part of research methods course or publishing scholarly work
- Prior experience as a graduate research assistant

**Preferred:**

- Interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education
- Experience with conducting and analyzing data from semi-structured interviews, observation protocols and think aloud interviews
- Experience with thematic analysis
- VT certification to engage with human subjects’ research

Length of position: One semester (Spring 2018, full-time)

Deadline:
Interested students should send their CVs to npitters@vt.edu by 5 pm, **Wednesday December 20th.**

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