



ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC POLICY

Department of Urban & Environmental Policy

POSITION SUMMARY

The Urban & Environmental Policy Department at Occidental College invites applications for a teacher and scholar at the Assistant Professor level in Environmental Justice and Public Policy. The position will begin August 2023.

We invite candidates that support the commitment of the department to social, economic, and environmental justice in their teaching, research, and service. We are interested in candidates whose work focuses on environmental policy and/or law with a focus on environmental justice, and/or how environmental policy intersects with issues of race, class, and geography to shape natural resources use and access (such as water or energy), and climate change related impacts, and whose work explores the use of strategies to promote a greener, more sustainable and livable environment, and a just economy.

This tenure-track appointment will join the department's interdisciplinary curricular and research efforts that integrate urban and environmental studies and policy. Candidates from a wide variety of disciplines are encouraged to apply, including but not limited to environmental studies, natural resources, energy and resources, environmental sciences, Black studies, Chicana and Latina studies, Indigenous studies, geography, sociology, political ecology, political economy, ethnic studies, and law, and urban planning. Priority will be given to candidates whose teaching and research are connected to policy relevant issues, and emphasize the links between environmental issues and racial, economic, and social inequality. We are open to candidates from a variety of methodological approaches, though are especially interested in applied scholars whose work advances environmental justice and has relevance for environmental policy and decision-making, with specific interest in candidates whose work focuses on water, energy, and/or climate. Ideal candidates will also have demonstrated experience helping students evaluate and engage in community-based learning and research that advance efforts to create just and livable communities. Candidates should consider how their work relates to the department and college's location in the Los Angeles area.

Occidental faculty are committed teacher-scholars who bring research and creative discovery to life for students in classrooms, labs, studios, and mentored projects. They teach broadly in the curricula of their departments, advise students, carry out research and creative work, and provide departmental, college-wide, and external service. The primary responsibilities of the selected candidate will include the development and teaching of introductory and core courses in the department, including courses in their area(s) of specialization. We are interested in candidates who will teach some of the following courses: Climate Justice, Environmental Law and Policy, Urbanization and the Environment, Energy and the Economy, and Natural Resource Policy, in addition to Intro to Urban & Environmental Policy and our senior comprehensive research seminar. Candidates will be supported to develop their own courses that will add to our existing curriculum and inspire our students to be applied scholars and agents for social change. There are opportunities for team-teaching with faculty within our department and in other Occidental departments.

The successful candidate will join a strong and growing department that currently has four full-time faculty members as well as affiliated faculty in other departments and practitioners who teach a variety of applied courses, and will help further the college's goals related to community engagement. UEP houses a student-run garden, and students and faculty have led several campus-wide sustainability efforts. We pride ourselves on providing students with robust

opportunities for experiential learning, community-based research, and internships. Our department has helped lead efforts on campus, along with the Center for Community Based Learning, to link the college's academic program with community involvement, including expanding community internships and community-oriented research projects for our students.

The candidate will be responsible for producing scholarship commensurate with the requirements for tenure and will be expected to develop a program of research that engages undergraduate students. Incoming faculty will be expected to contribute to and participate in the life and development of the department, advise students, serve on committees, and participate in the broader college and disciplinary communities.

For a description of our department and its existing courses in our catalog, please visit our departmental website at: <http://www.oxy.edu/uep> and our UEPI website at <http://www.oxy.edu/uepi>.

We seek candidates who will contribute to the diversity and excellence of the academic community through their teaching, research and/or service. *U.S. News* has consistently ranked Occidental as one of the liberal arts colleges most committed to diversity. We rank near the top of very selective liberal arts colleges in terms of the proportion of low-income students with Pell Grants. Situated in the vibrant neighborhoods of Eagle Rock and Highland Park in Northeast Los Angeles allows convenient access to major cultural and natural attractions in the nation's second largest city. The College supports interdisciplinary and multicultural academic programs that provide a talented, engaged, and diverse group of students with an educational experience that prepares them for leadership in a pluralistic world.

QUALIFICATIONS

Required Qualifications

- Demonstrated commitment to and excellence in undergraduate teaching in an urban liberal arts college;
- Ph.D. or terminal degree in their field of specialization or commensurate demonstrated record of research and teaching experience
- ABDs near completion will be considered with the expectation the candidate will complete their doctoral degree within one year of the date of hire.
- We seek candidates who will contribute to the diversity and excellence of the academic community through their teaching, research, and/or service.
- Contribution to community engaged teaching and research, a central priority of the College's strategic plan
- Strong record of scholarly accomplishments appropriate to the level of appointment
- Experience in working collaboratively with colleagues
- Demonstrated potential for effective integration of technology into instruction
- Demonstrated commitment to working effectively with students from minoritized and marginalized social groups
- Ability to balance excellent teaching, scholarship (or creative work), and service
- Demonstrated commitment to the four cornerstones of the mission of the College: excellence, equity, community, and service

Preferred Qualifications

- Ph.D. or terminal degree in their field of specialization
- Demonstrated experience working in environmental policy and advocacy including collaborative work with nonprofit or advocacy organizations, through professional or volunteer activities.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

You must submit a complete application package electronically to be considered. To apply, please send the following required materials to UEPenvironmental@oxy.edu:

- Cover letter of interest that demonstrates a commitment to academic excellence in a diverse liberal arts environment as well as a commitment to our mission of sustainable and just cities. The letter should also include

areas of teaching interest and a statement about how the candidate will support and enhance the College's goal of building a diverse educational environment for all students.

- Curriculum Vitae
- Research Statement
- Teaching Philosophy Statement
- Commitment to Inclusive Excellence

Provide a statement of your perspective on your past and present contributions to and future aspirations for promoting justice, equity, inclusion, and diversity in your professional career. This should include your demonstrated commitment to, past evidence of, and future plans for creating equitable opportunities for learning and mentoring especially for students from marginalized and minoritized groups. The purpose of this statement is to help the department identify candidates who have professional experience, intellectual commitments, and/or willingness to engage in activities that could help the College contribute to its mission in these areas.

- List of three references with relevant contact information (for interview phase)

If you advance to the finalist phase, you will be asked to have each of your three references submit a letter of recommendation. Please have these ready for the referents to submit should you move forward to this phase of the search. Do not submit these letters with your initial application.

Upon receipt of a complete application package, you will receive a preliminary questionnaire. You must complete this questionnaire to move forward in the search process.

Please direct questions to search Chair Bhavna Shamasunder at UEPenvironmental@oxy.edu.

Application Deadline

To be assured full consideration, your application materials must be received by **November 11, 2022**.

The Department and College

The Urban and Environmental Policy Department is unique among liberal arts colleges. Many liberal arts colleges have urban studies, public policy, or environmental studies programs. Occidental's UEP major integrates each of these disciplines into a single interdisciplinary major, one that is uniquely situated in a liberal arts college located in the dynamic city of Los Angeles.

UEP is an interdisciplinary program that has multiple goals for student learning outcomes: critical thinking; writing and speaking skills; recognition and capacity to engage in policy development; knowledge about diverse communities and institutions; and an ability to translate what the students learn into a path for future learning and career development.

Our curriculum includes a heavy emphasis on writing and presentations, a strong focus on original research, including applied and policy-relevant research, community-engaged and client-based projects, and multiple strategies for community engagement, including community engaged research, internship requirements and opportunities in Los Angeles and beyond, and classes geared to providing an understanding of the policy process, with a focus on cities and the process of urbanization.

Oxy's location in urban Los Angeles sets Oxy apart among liberal arts colleges, most located in suburban or rural locations. UEP and the College have centered Oxy's Los Angeles location across the college's curriculum. Our presence in Los Angeles offers the perfect setting for integrating the study of urban and environmental issues.

Finally, the Urban & Environmental Policy Institute (UEPI), our research, policy, and advocacy institute, mirrors our UEP major as a campus-wide center for community engagement, research, and advocacy. Through private foundation and government grants, UEPI has conducted research, engaged in policy analysis, and participated in advocacy efforts that have made a major difference in Los Angeles and around the country for over 25 years. UEPI has a professional research and program staff who develop programs and initiatives in the community that provide opportunities for all Oxy

students to conduct research, study policy, and participate in advocacy. In the past four years more than 350 students from multiple majors across campus have participated in UEPI-funded projects. UEPI staff members bring professional degrees and experience to the classroom and have taught several UEP courses and advised, mentored, and provided research assistance to dozens of Oxy students – both UEP and non-UEP majors.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Occidental is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not unlawfully discriminate against employees or applicants on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, breastfeeding or related medical condition, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, age, marital status, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic characteristic or information, military and veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by state or federal law. Occidental is strongly committed to increasing the diversity of the campus community and the curriculum, and to fostering an inclusive, equitable, and just environment within which students, staff, administrators, and faculty thrive. Candidates who can contribute to this goal through their work are encouraged to identify their strengths and experiences in this area. Individuals advancing the College's strategic equity and justice goals and those from groups that are underrepresented in the field are particularly encouraged to apply.

Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications. A comprehensive benefits package is available that includes: excellent health, dental, life, and retirement benefits; tuition benefits for the employee, spouse, domestic partner, and dependents; additional extras including use of gym facilities and the College Library. For a detailed description of benefits, please visit <https://www.oxy.edu/offices-services/humanresources/benefits-information>.

All qualified applicants will be considered for employment, including those with criminal histories, in a manner consistent with the requirements of applicable state and local laws, including the City of Los Angeles' Fair Chance Initiative for Hiring Ordinance.

Occidental College is committed to working with and providing reasonable accommodations to applicants with qualifying disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation because of a disability for any part of the application or employment process, please contact Human Resources (hr@oxy.edu).

As a condition of hire for a staff position and for appointment to a faculty position, Occidental College requires that all candidates who have received a conditional offer of employment complete an application form (if they have not already done so) and consent to a background check. Satisfactory completion of a background check, along with pre-employment verifications and references are required as a condition of employment, but only as permitted by federal, state, and local law, including the City of Los Angeles Fair Chance Initiative for Hiring Ordinance.