



## VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

### *Computer Science Department*

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#### **POSITION SUMMARY**

Occidental College seeks applicants for a 1-year, full-time Visiting Assistant Professor who will teach four courses (a combined 3/3 load) during the 2021-2022 academic year, starting in August 2021. There is the possibility for renewal in future years.

Occidental College serves a diverse body of students, a diversity which is reflected in the enrollment in computer science courses. Women and persons of color are strongly encouraged to apply. The department has developed a Statement of Values and procedures for enforcing those values to provide an equitable environment for all community members. The statement and procedures will continue to evolve over time, and a current version can be found [here](#). In addition, six of the nine faculty members in the department are part of the initial cohort of Duke University's Cultural Competency in Computing program, a semester-long professional development program to address systemic racism and bias.

#### **SUMMARY OF DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND GOALS**

The Visitor will teach:

- **Both semesters: Fundamentals of Computer Science with lab**

This course serves as the gateway into the computer science major for all students, and introduces students to the basic concepts including variables, branches, loops, and basic object-oriented programming. In addition to lectures, students will have time to practice coding in smaller labs (with half the size of the class), for a total of six hours of instructor time per week. Students should come out of the course able to write simple, but complete, programs of their choosing in both Java and Python, and should also be able to diagnose problems in unfamiliar programs. The Visitor will be provided with complete course materials that they may modify to suit their individual teaching practice.

- **Fall semester: A CSP seminar, co-taught with a current department faculty member**

The CSP (Cultural Studies Program) seminars are required courses for first year students. With the dual goals of acclimatizing students to college and preparing them for college-level writing, these seminars are designed by individual faculty members around a topic in their field of expertise, emphasizing discussion, critical analysis, and intensive instruction in writing. A past computer-science-focused CSP has been on the broad topic of technology and society, which focused on topics such as algorithmic bias, the impact of social networks, and other contemporary topics. The Visitor will co-develop an interdisciplinary CSP with another faculty member on topics related to Human-Computer Interaction (physical and graphical interfaces, haptics, empathy, consent), Artificial Intelligence (computational creativity, natural language processing, facial recognition), Computer Graphics (worldbuilding, character design, artistic applications), Software Development (interactivity, games), Virtual Reality (software or hardware). Additional funding is available for course materials, visitors, and trips through a grant from the Mellon Foundation.

- **Spring semester: An upper division course in an area of the Visitor's choosing**

The visitor will develop this course with input from the department. If the course is among the department's regular offerings, course materials from previous semesters will be provided.

We are especially interested in Visitors with interest in connecting computer science to other fields or non-academic applications. If the Visitor desires, they may also supervise undergraduate students in projects and/or develop other departmental programming related to their interests. Oxy provides support for teaching through our Center for Teaching Excellence.

Non-tenure-track faculty at Oxy are unionized.

## QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants should have a Master's degree in computer science, computer science education, or related fields that intersect computation, with PhD and college-level teaching experience preferred.

## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applicants should submit the following materials to the Chair of Computer Science, Kathryn Leonard, at [compsearch@oxy.edu](mailto:compsearch@oxy.edu), with the subject "Computer Science Visitor Application":

- a curriculum vitae
- statement of teaching interests and experience (maximum two pages)
- research statement that includes information about possible projects for undergraduates
- a list of references

**Review of applications will begin April 25, 2021**, and will continue until the position is filled. References will not be contacted for candidates until interviews are scheduled. Please direct all questions about the position to Kathryn Leonard, [compsearch@oxy.edu](mailto:compsearch@oxy.edu).

*We will consider for employment all qualified Applicants, 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 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. We strongly encourage all underrepresented candidates, especially women and underrepresented persons of color, to apply.*