

Assistant Professor: Polymer Science and Engineering (direct link to application)

Job Summary: The University of Southern Mississippi invites applications for a nine-month tenure-track Assistant Professor position in the School of Polymer Science and Engineering (SPSE) within the College of Arts and Sciences (Hattiesburg Campus) to begin in fall 2021. Applications will be accepted from candidates whose research interests are in any area of contemporary polymer science and engineering, but candidates with expertise in physical polymer chemistry, polymer engineering, or computational modeling/theory are particularly encouraged to apply. In addition to building an independent research platform, this position offers potential to develop collaborations within an NSF-funded state-wide infrastructure program focused on optoelectronic materials, with research focus areas in infrared organic optoelectronics, macromolecular materials with tunable electronic structures, hybrid organic/inorganic interfaces, and materials for bioimaging and sensing.

Primary Duties and Responsibilities

1. Teach undergraduate and graduate courses in polymer science and engineering
2. Build an internationally recognized research program, including mentorship and supervision of graduate and undergraduate student research
3. Secure external funding from private, state, and federal entities to sustain a high level of research and scholarship
4. Contribute to the mission of the school, college, university, and scientific community through professional service
5. Perform other duties as assigned

Minimum Qualifications

1. Earned Ph.D. in polymer science and engineering, chemistry, or a closely related discipline
2. Demonstrated record of intellectual and academic accomplishments evidenced by peer-reviewed publications, professional presentations, and/or grant submissions

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Demonstrated ability to work effectively, collaboratively, and collegially with students, staff, and faculty from diverse backgrounds, programs, and colleges
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Skill sets associated with use and application of common equipment and instrumentation in PSE

Preferred Qualifications: Candidates with postdoctoral research experience who demonstrate strong potential to develop collaborations within SPSE and across other academic disciplines.

Special Instructions to Applicants: Applications must be submitted online at <https://jobs.usm.edu>. Applicants should submit a single PDF document containing a cover letter, curriculum vitae, statement of research plans and a brief statement of teaching philosophy that includes interest in specific core courses in the polymer science and engineering (PSE) graduate and undergraduate curricula. Applicants should arrange for the submission of three reference letters. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. For inquiries about the position or to nominate a candidate, contact the search committee chair Dr. Sarah Morgan (sarah.morgan@usm.edu).

About the School: SPSE comprises faculty members with research programs in optoelectronic materials, composites, biomaterials and bioinspired polymers, materials for energy and sustainability, and coatings and thin films with average annual external funding of ~\$15M over the past three years. SPSE offers state-of-the-art facilities for soft-matter optoelectronics research including newly acquired thin-film device fabrication and characterization equipment, SAX/WAXS laboratory beamline, XPS/UPS spectrometer, magnetic characterization, AC/DC SQUID magnetometer, ESR, cryogenic probe station, and supercomputing capabilities. SPSE is home to ~80 Ph.D. students and ~110 undergraduate students; it offers polymer science and engineering degrees at the B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. levels.

About the University of Southern Mississippi: USM is a comprehensive public research institution delivering transformative programs on campuses in Hattiesburg and Long Beach, at teaching and research sites in central and southern Mississippi, as well as online. Founded in 1910, USM is one of only 130 universities in the nation to earn the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education's "R1: Doctoral Universities - Very high research activity" designation, and its robust research enterprise includes experts in ocean science and engineering, polymer science and engineering, and sport venue safety and security, among others. USM is also one of only 40 institutions in the nation accredited in theatre, art and design, dance and music. As an economic driver, USM generates an annual economic impact of more than \$600 million across the state. USM welcomes a diverse student body of approximately 15,000, representing 71 countries, all 50 states, and every county in Mississippi. USM students have collected four Truman Scholarships and 36 NSF Graduate Research Fellowships, while also leading Mississippi with 24 Goldwater Scholarships, an honor that recognizes the next generation of great research scientists. For more information, visit www.usm.edu.