Assistant Professor (Tenure-Track) or Professor of Practice, Data Science Emphasis

Northern Kentucky University

The Department of Mathematics & Statistics, housed in the College of Arts & Sciences, at Northern Kentucky University invites applications from excellent individuals for a position in statistics, with a focus on data science. The position will begin in August 2022 at either the level of Assistant Professor (tenure-track) or Professor of Practice. The selected candidate will join a team of 9 other statisticians in the department committed to high-quality, rigorous education and research in their field. The department offers Bachelor’s degrees in both mathematics and statistics. In total, there are currently 19 tenured/tenure-track faculty members and 9 full-time lecturers. The university also offers an undergraduate major and minor in data science, which resides in the Department of Computer Science in the College of Informatics. Students majoring in data science complete coursework in data science, statistics, mathematics, computer science, and information technology. The newly hired faculty member will support departmental and university efforts to improve student success across all course levels, as well as initiatives to grow enrollments in the data science, statistics, and mathematics majors.

The department is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion work that impacts our students, faculty and staff. The NSF-funded STEM Ready grant includes a goal of diversifying the STEM majors at NKU through targeted support to improve mathematics placement. Faculty in the department are critical in the development and implementation of this grant initiative. Last year, a subset of department faculty participated in a professional learning community discussing equitable approaches to grading. These conversations have led to numerous changes in grading practices in hopes of addressing inequities in the classroom. Faculty have also successfully authored Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Fellowship proposals, funded by the College of Arts & Sciences. The most recent proposal incorporated a free, online homework platform (WeBWorK) into introductory mathematics coursework to address issues of access to high-cost publisher platforms.

Located seven miles from downtown Cincinnati in an area offering an outstanding quality of life, NKU is a nationally recognized metropolitan university committed to active engagement with the Northern Kentucky/Greater Cincinnati region of nearly two million people. Our institution is built on core values that emphasize multidimensional excellence, learner-centered education, civic engagement, multiculturalism, innovation, collegiality, and collaboration across disciplines and professional fields.

Primary Responsibilities: We seek candidates interested in joining departmental efforts in all of the following ways:

• Teaching a total of 24 contact hours per academic year, with teaching assignments including introductory and upper-division statistics courses as well as data science courses.
• Partnering with faculty in the Departments of Mathematics & Statistics and Computer Science in support of the Data Science degree program, including recruitment/retention efforts, curriculum development and review, and accreditation work.
• Establishing and maintaining an active research program (Assistant Professor position).
• Fulfilling service expectations to the degree program, department, university, and/or community.
• Other duties as assigned.

For information on the department, see http://nku.edu/math and https://youtu.be/VwxAM7ITp2s.

For more information on the Data Science program, see https://nku.edu/academics/informatics/programs/undergraduate/datascience.html.

Required Qualifications

• M.S. in Statistics or related field and a minimum of 5 years’ experience in a position related to Data Science (Professor of Practice).
• Ph.D. in Statistics OR Ph.D. in Data Science with at least 18 hours in graduate-level coursework in statistics by the
time of appointment (Assistant Professor).
• Proficiency in the R programming language, with an ability to integrate R into the undergraduate statistics and
data science curricula.
• Ability to teach the full range of undergraduate statistics courses and the Data Analytics and Visualization course
(DSC 311).
• Demonstrated commitment and/or experience promoting a learning environment that supports the needs of
individuals from diverse backgrounds.

Desired Qualifications
• Experience and/or expertise with data visualization, simulation, additional programming languages, and/or other
statistical methods that add to the breadth of current course offerings.
• Scholarly interests and/or work experience that could foster relationships with local businesses, industries, or
government agencies.
• Interest and/or experience with experiential learning opportunities, such as supervision of undergraduate
research, internships, service-learning, etc.
• Interest and/or experience in the use of high dimensional data analytics.

Application Materials
Interested applicants must submit a letter of application for the position, a curriculum vitae, a statement of teaching
philosophy, unofficial graduate transcripts, and a list of three references with complete contact information. Candidates
applying for the Assistant Professor position must also submit a statement of research interests, including a trajectory
for scholarly work that includes, if possible, the incorporation of undergraduate students.

Additionally, all candidates are expected to submit a personal philosophy on diversity and inclusion and why they are
important in higher education. This statement should provide the candidate’s unique perspective on their past and
present contributions to and future aspirations for promoting diversity and inclusion in their professional/academic
career. Work in this area can span the full mission of the institution, including teaching, scholarly activity, and service. In
line with the University’s Affirmative Action Policy, candidates are not expected to disclose their identity or membership
in the diversity statement or other application documents submitted to the search committee. Demographic
information is solicited through the application process; however, this data is confidential and not provided to the
search committee members.

All application materials should be submitted electronically at https://jobs.nku.edu/postings/11025. Initial review of
applications will begin 11/19/2021 and continue until the position is filled. A criminal background check will be required
before hiring is finalized. Upon hiring, official graduate transcripts with conferred degrees must be submitted to the
Office of the Provost.