

Auburn University

Assistant Professor – Rural Sociologist

The Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology (DAERS) in the College of Agriculture at Auburn University invites applications for a tenure-track assistant professor position in Rural Sociology. The planned start date for the position is **August 2026**. This position is a 9-month tenure-track, appointment at the rank of assistant professor. The allocation of effort of this position is 40% teaching and 60% research.

Requirements: Ph.D. in Rural Sociology or Sociology from an accredited institution at the time employment begins. The successful candidate must show evidence of strong qualitative and quantitative skills, as well as experience conducting agricultural social science research. The applicant must also show documented evidence of the ability to conduct research and to teach. The successful candidate must possess the ability to effectively collaborate with a various group of faculty, staff, and graduate student colleagues across disciplines. The ideal candidate will demonstrate presentation skills for interacting with multiple types of audiences such as academic, student, and stakeholders such as farmers, policy makers, and community organizations. Desired qualifications include: previous teaching experience in rural sociology or sociology; a demonstrated record of securing extramural funding for research and educational programs; and government or industry experience in agricultural research. The successful candidate must meet eligibility requirements for work in the United States at the time the appointment is scheduled to begin and continue working legally for the term of employment.

Research: Research responsibilities will include developing and implementing a nationally recognized research program focused on the human dimensions of agriculture, particularly as it relates to implementation and adaptation of technology (e.g., drones, AI, precision ag, cover crops). The successful candidate is expected to engage in interdisciplinary collaborations across the college's departments, units associated with AAES, and among relevant stakeholders and the Alabama agricultural community. Moreover, their program of research will contribute to a greater understanding of the social dimensions of socio-agricultural systems in Alabama and the southeastern U.S. The successful candidate will transfer the results of their scholarly program through recognized, peer-reviewed, disciplinary and interdisciplinary outlets, as well as technical and outreach publications for relevant clientele. This position will contribute to the University and College's strategic visions through excellence in graduate education, innovative partnerships, community engagement, entrepreneurship, and world-class research efforts.

Teaching: The teaching requirement for this position is three courses per year. Initial course load may include an undergraduate Introduction to Rural Studies and Sociology of Sustainable Agrifood Systems. Other courses may include an introductory issues course or graduate instruction based on departmental needs and the successful candidate's

expertise. The successful candidate will also be expected to contribute to the department's teaching programs through teaching, mentoring, and directing theses and research projects.

To Apply: Candidates should apply directly at the following link

<https://www.auemployment.com/postings/56553> . Please submit the following items

1. Cover letter that addresses teaching philosophy and research plans
2. Current curriculum vitae (CV)
3. Transcripts

When prompted during the on-line process, please provide the names, email addresses and phone numbers for three (3) professional references. Only complete applications will be reviewed. Review of applications will begin December 20, 2025, and may continue until the position is filled. For more information, please contact the search committee chair Dr. Michelle Worosz at mrw0016@auburn.edu .

The Department: The Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology (DAERS) has 18 full-time faculty and over 175 undergraduate and 30 graduate students. It offers an undergraduate degree in Agribusiness and Economics, a MS in Agricultural Economics, a MS in Rural Sociology, and a PhD in Applied Economics. More information can be found at <https://agriculture.auburn.edu/research/aers/>.

The University: The University is a Carnegie R1, land-grant institution organized into twelve academic colleges and schools. Auburn is ranked 40th among public universities in the 2021 U.S. News and World Report. As of 2021, 24,931 undergraduate and 6,595 graduate and professional students were enrolled. There are 1,450 faculty members who offer more than 200 educational programs. The University is nationally recognized for its academic excellence, commitments to community engagement, positive work environment, flourishing student life programs, and beautiful campus. Auburn University is understanding of and sensitive to the family needs of faculty, including dual-career couples. For details, visit the following link:

<http://www.auburn.edu/academic/provost/facultyjobs/>. Resources available to support faculty can be found here: <https://agriculture.auburn.edu/about/faculty-staff-resources/faculty-support/>.

The Community: Auburn residents enjoy a thriving community, and Auburn is recognized as one of the "best small towns in America." In addition to a moderate climate, there is easy access to major cities or to beach and mountain recreational facilities. Situated along the rapidly developing I-85 corridor between Atlanta, Georgia, and Montgomery, Alabama, the combined Auburn-Opelika metropolitan statistical area has a population of over 160,000, with excellent public-school systems and regional medical centers.

Auburn University is an EEO/Vet/Disability Employer.