AQUATIC & WETLAND RESEARCH LABORATORY

ABOUT US

The Aquatic and Wetland Research Laboratory at Iowa State University is a State Certified Lab that monitors the water quality of several systems across the state of Iowa. We partner with various agencies to complete large scale and long-term monitoring projects on lakes, reservoirs, rivers and wetlands. Some of our funding sources include Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Army Corps of Engineers, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and United States Department of Agriculture. Many of the monitoring programs have been around for more than 20 years and the data is used in reports for the Clean Water Act, identifying impaired water bodies and determining the efficacy of restoration efforts.

The lab employs several student technicians to assist with field sample collection and laboratory sample analysis on the monitoring projects. A majority of field collection and sample analysis occurs in the summer months, with some projects continuing year-round.

WHY JOIN OUR TEAM?

- Boost your resume with practical experience in the field of water quality, environmental science and research
- Create a professional network consisting of research staff and technicians
  - Learn from and connect with mentors in water quality
- Practice interpersonal communication skills while collaborating on various research projects
- Improve organizational skills to help you utilize time and resources efficiently
  - Time management, accountability and productivity are highly valued skills!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Student Summer Employment
  - Lab and field positions available
  - Up to 40 hours of work per week, Monday – Friday, May – August
- Student Fall & Spring Semester Employment
  - Lab positions available, project dependent
    - Some projects end by November, some may extend through fall/spring semester
  - Up to 20 hours of work per week
  - Flexible hours to accommodate class schedules
- Recent Graduate Employment (May 2026 or earlier)
  - Lab and field positions available
  - Up to 40 hours of work per week, Monday – Friday, May – October

CONTACT US

Contact Danielle Eads *deads@iastate.edu* for more information or to inquire about available positions.

POSITION DESCRIPTIONS

LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

POSITION DESCRIPTION & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Prepare and analyze water samples following the lab's standard operating procedures
- Log and organize data and observations
- Examples of lab analyses performed: phosphorus, nitrogen, chlorophyll, alkalinity, E. *coli*, suspended solids
- Operation and maintenance of water quality analysis equipment: Spectrophotometers, titrators, fluorometers and more
- Dishes and lab upkeep

FIELD TECHNICIAN *Summer only*

Field technicians must receive approval for a motor vehicle record (MVR) check before operating a University vehicle. Refer to ISU Policy for details: https://www.policy.iastate.edu/policy/vehicle#operating

POSITION DESCRIPTION & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Travel to various sample sites across the state of Iowa to collect water quality samples
  - Lakes, rivers, wetlands, beaches
- Deploy and operate water quality equipment
  - boats, trailers, YSI Sondes, Wisconsin Nets, automated samplers, Secchi disks, water level data loggers, MACE meters, Flow trackers
- Assist with site and equipment maintenance
- Record data and collect samples for laboratory analysis
- Examples of field parameters recorded: pH, conductivity, turbidity, water temperature, Secchi depth, flow rates, precipitation
- Up to 40 hours per week Monday – Friday, the number of hours each day will vary
- **Must be willing to work outdoors in all weather conditions and work long hours**

FIELD SAMPLE DAY DETAILS

- Days typically start early in morning (around 6 am) and last 10 – 12 hours
- Several hours of driving University vehicles between sample sites each day
- Conduct field sample collection in teams of 2
- Number of days in the field can vary from 1 – 5, depending on project assignment

NON-FIELD DAY DETAILS

- Work in the lab to complete equipment maintenance and calibration, dishes, prepare equipment for the next sample event, lab upkeep
- Hours can vary from 4 – 8 hours, depending on project needs
- Number of days in the lab will vary depending on project needs