

# Assistant Professor of Zoo and Conservation Science - 998587

- Environmental Science
- Faculty, tenure track

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**Title:** Assistant Professor of Zoo and Conservation Science - 998587

**Position Number:** 998587

**Unit/Department:** Environmental Science

**FTE:** Full-time, 9 month appointment

**Salary:** Commensurate with Experience

## Department Summary:

Zoo and Conservation Science is one of the fastest-growing majors at Drake. It is housed in the Environmental Science and Sustainability Department, a dynamic department focused on hands-on learning and engagement. We have close partnerships with both Blank Park Zoo and the Ape Initiative, both of which provide internships for our students, as well as research sites, access, and collaborative grant opportunities to our faculty.

Des Moines is the capital of, and largest city in, Iowa, and regularly places high in national rankings of livability and affordability.

## Job Summary:

The Environmental Science and Sustainability Department at Drake University seeks applicants for a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in Zoo & Conservation Science. Candidates with backgrounds in animal behavior, behavioral husbandry and training, endangered species conservation, vertebrate zoology, primatology, or related fields are encouraged to apply. Successful candidates will have experience doing research and / or coordinating student intern projects in an AZA-accredited zoo environment, as well as possess a PhD or be ABD in a related field. The search committee is particularly interested in candidates who, through their research, teaching, and/or service, will contribute to the diversity and excellence of the academic community.

Candidates will teach a 3/3 course load, including courses in animal behavior, ethological methods, endangered species conservation, and zoology courses in their field of expertise. Successful candidates will have experience conducting collaborative research and supervising student internships with a variety of captive species, particularly endangered species. Candidates who can engage undergraduate students in meaningful roles in ongoing research are especially welcome.

## Minimum Qualifications:

A PhD or ABD status in a closely related field is required.

**Preferred Qualifications:**

Candidates must have expertise in the study of animal behavior at a level that will allow them to teach both introductory-level and advanced-level courses.

Candidates must have a professional background that allows them to do research with animals in captive environments.

Preference will be given to applicants that have prior experience working with primates or carnivores in captive environments.

Candidates must bring a diverse perspective to our department.

**Special Instructions to Applicants:**

Qualified candidates should apply online and submit a cover letter that includes a concise statement of teaching philosophy, a concise diversity statement, a curriculum vitae, and the contact information for three professional references electronically. Only complete, electronic submissions will be considered.

Please do not send further materials (recordings, teaching evaluations, publications) at this time. Supplemental documents may be asked requested or required of semi-finalists and finalists. Please direct inquiries to Keith Summerville at [keith.summerville@drake.edu](mailto:keith.summerville@drake.edu).

**Review of Applications Begins:**

Review of applications will begin on November 1, 2024. Applications will be considered until a viable finalist has been identified. Final offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of background and reference checks.

**Have Questions:**

Questions about this position can be directed to the search chair: Keith Summerville, Chair, ENSS. [keith.summerville@drake.edu](mailto:keith.summerville@drake.edu)

Questions about the application process, working at Drake, spouse/partner support, reasonable accommodations, benefits, or additional information about Drake or Des Moines, Iowa may be directed to Drake Human Resources at [jobs@drake.edu](mailto:jobs@drake.edu).

All job offers are contingent upon satisfactory completion of a background check, satisfactory reference checks, and proof of authorization to work in the United States.

**Salary & Benefits:**

Salary is competitive with peer schools and will be commensurate with qualifications and experience of the selected candidate.

At Drake, we are proud to offer our employees, their spouses, and eligible dependents a comprehensive benefits package, which includes a wide range of core benefits, perks,

and discounts. If you are exploring a job with Drake University, we invite you to spend a little time with our digital benefits guide: [Drake Benefits Guide \(Plan Year 2024\)](#).

One of our very popular policies provides a tuition waiver for Drake employees, their spouses, and eligible dependents. Drake also participates in not one, but two tuition exchange programs available to dependent children. You can learn about both the tuition waiver policy and tuition exchange programs here: [Tuition Benefits](#).

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For faculty positions, selection will depend on the receipt of recommendation confirming the candidate's scholarly achievements and teaching abilities and/or on the candidate's satisfactory passing of a teaching demonstration if selected for an on-campus interview. For staff positions, selection will depend upon careful review of each applicant's references, education, and, if applicable, experience.

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### **About Drake:**

[Drake University](#) is recognized as a top private university in the Midwest. Drake is a midsize university in Des Moines, Iowa, with an increasingly diverse student body. We are deeply committed to equity and inclusion and creating a sense of belonging for all members of the campus community—faculty, staff, and students alike. More than 900 faculty and staff are part of the Bulldog pack, a close-knit group of colleagues enthusiastic about preparing students to be global citizens and leaders, challenging assumptions. Drake University is not only an outstanding institution of higher learning, it is also a wonderful place to work. We are enthusiastically committed to welcoming new ideas and people into the fold, and to retaining and rewarding stellar employees. All positions at Drake provide opportunities to contribute to Drake University's core mission of creating an exceptional learning environment that prepares students of all backgrounds for meaningful lives and professional accomplishments.

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### **Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion at Drake:**

At Drake University, we don't just accept differences—we celebrate them, we support them, and we thrive on them for the benefit of our students, our employees, and our community. Drake University is proud to support an equal opportunity, diverse, inclusive, and welcoming workplace. In fact, the celebration of diversity and inclusion are embedded in our [Core Values](#). Learn more about our DEI commitment and efforts [here](#).

We welcome applicants of diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives. If you are a member of a socially or historically underrepresented or marginalized group or you have actively demonstrated a commitment to diversity and inclusion, we strongly encourage you to apply. If you are a member of one of the equity groups identified by applicable law, we encourage you to self-identify, where requested in our online application system.

Drake University is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodations in its services, programs, activities, education, and employment for individuals with

disabilities. If you would benefit from an accommodation at any point in the recruitment process (including using our online application process), please contact Drake Human Resources (ph: 515.271.3133; e: [jobs@drake.edu](mailto:jobs@drake.edu)) and let us know how we can assist you.

At Drake University, we highly value a diverse, inclusive workforce. We are proud to be an equal opportunity employer. We stand firmly against discrimination including on the basis of race, color, national origin, creed, religion, age, disability, sex, pregnancy, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any characteristic protected by law.