Assistant Professor in Product Design
University of Kentucky

Job Title	Assistant Professor in Product Design
Department	8N000:College of Design
Institution	University of Kentucky
	Lexington, Kentucky
Date Posted	Feb. 17, 2020
Application Deadline	Open until filled
Position Start Date	August 15, 2020
Job Categories	Lecturer/Instructor
	Assistant Professor
Academic Field(s)	Design - Product Design
Job Website	http://ukjobs.uky.edu/postings/271282
Apply By Email	

Job Description

The University of Kentucky (UK) and the College of Design invite applications for the first lecturer position in the new Product Design Program. This position provides a unique opportunity for faculty to help shape and influence a new program as the College prepares to move into a state-of-the-art facility. Further, the University of Kentucky was recently recognized on the Forbes list of "Best Employers for Diversity" in 2020. We are committed to increasing the proportion of our faculty from historically underrepresented groups, and we encourage such candidates to apply.

The College of Design is currently poised for significant growth and change, and one of the new key initiatives is a Bachelor of Science in Product Design. The College plans to launch the program, taking its first cohort of students Fall 2020. Under the College's new leadership, we are in the design phase of a new state-of-the-art facility, which will include expanded fabrication labs. The College is acting on the directive to expand design education at the University through the addition of new programs and new faculty lines across the College. The University of Kentucky seeks forward-thinking faculty who can

leverage the College's reputation and strengths alongside existing programs that are also advancing toward an expansive future (architecture, interior design, historic preservation, and urban & environmental design). In Fall of 2022, the Product Design Program, along with the entire college, will occupy the new building. The College of Design has partnered with world-renowned architect and MacArthur Fellow Jeanne Gang for this adaptive reuse project of the Reynolds Building, a 140,000-square-foot former tobacco warehouse. This building was built in 1917 and is located in a growing innovation district on the boundary of city and campus, which includes the School of Art and Visual Studies, the College of Education, and room for future campus development.

Why create a product design program at UK? No institution of higher education in the Commonwealth of Kentucky offers a degree in industrial or product design. And therein lies our advantage: all necessary variables for a successful product design program are already in place at the University of Kentucky. The juxtaposition of the engineering and healthcare colleges ensures our cross-collaboration will make us distinctive in the United States. Our competitive opportunity lies in the current — and growing — demand for specialized product designers. As we launch this new program, the Department of Biomedical Engineering (BME) is also launching a new undergraduate degree that has a design emphasis. Their new curriculum includes several courses from the Product Design curriculum, which creates intrinsic collaboration between the two student cohorts. A near future graduate degree in Product Design will further enhance shared opportunities between the two programs and other programs across campus.

The proposed product design curriculum includes a modular group of courses with variable credit that allows for an intensive, specialized investigation of advanced topics (both at the undergraduate and future graduate level). "Modular" refers to smaller and more flexible units of credit. This nimble subset of the curriculum allows the program to respond to the growing trend of specialization within the profession. The concept allows faculty to develop short courses related to niche or research interests that are beyond the required curriculum. Further, students are able to suggest special topics for deeper dives into contemporary ideas/materials/trends. Module categories include: Design Competencies (e.g., furniture design, packaging, typography, animation, etc.); Design Management (e.g., project budget, team organization, design for manufacturing, etc.); Social Impact & Innovation (e.g., service learning, humanitarian design, community health, etc.); Advanced Materials & Processes (e.g., mobile app development, sensors, Arduino, Raspberry Pi, coding for designers, robotics, smart textiles, VR/AR/AI, etc.); Professional Development (e.g., public speaking, portfolio, web development, etc.); and Healthcare (e.g., healthcare systems (ICU, ER), assistive devices, clinical observation, medical devices, point-of-care instruments, etc.). At the undergraduate level these modules serve to enhance studios and the senior thesis, and/or combine to form future undergraduate certificates.

The position commences on August 15, 2020 and includes an initial two-year contract. Appointment will be in the College of Design unit that most closely matches the candidate's degree and experience.

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Salary is competitive and based on qualifications and experience. In the application, candidates should demonstrate the potential for successful university teaching, an active design portfolio, and collegial participation in service activities.

Interested candidates must complete an online application, including the names of three (3) references, and include the following materials:
1) A letter of intent that addresses the listed qualifications (Cover Letter)
2) Curriculum Vitae
3) Statement of teaching philosophy (Specific Request 1)
4) A PDF file with samples of professional work and student work, or a website address (Specific Request 2)

Review of applications will begin February 26, 2020 and will continue until the position is filled. Questions regarding the position should be directed to Mitzi Vernon, Dean of the College of Design: vernon@uky.edu or Charlotte Leedy, Executive Administrative Assistant: charlotte.leedy@uky.edu or (859) 257-7619?.

For more information about the College of Design and the University of Kentucky, please visit: https://design.uky.edu

Contact Information

Please reference Academickeys in your cover letter when applying for or inquiring about this job announcement.

Contact

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