

# Research Mathematical Statistician

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

## Summary

This employee supports the USDA Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory (FPL).

Selectee must travel 1-2 times per year to FPL in Madison, WI.

This research scientist is responsible for initiating, planning, and conducting research related to statistical methods and techniques.

For additional information about this position, please contact Richard Bergman at [Richard.d.bergman@usda.gov](mailto:Richard.d.bergman@usda.gov) or (608) 469-3546.

## Overview

Accepting applications

### Open & closing dates

🕒 12/05/2022 to 12/19/2022

### Salary

\$66,214 - \$94,373 per year

### Pay scale & grade

GS 11 - 13

### Locations

2 vacancies in the following locations:

📍 Starkville, MS

📍 Princeton, WV

📍 Madison, WI

### Remote job

No

### Telework eligible

Yes—as determined by the agency policy.

### Travel Required

Occasional travel - Occasional overnight travel 2-3 times per year to visit other Forest Service offices or field locations and attend professional meetings or training.

### **Relocation expenses reimbursed**

Yes— You may qualify for reimbursement of relocation expenses in accordance with agency policy.

### **Appointment type**

Permanent -

### **Work schedule**

Full-time -

### **Service**

Competitive

### **Promotion potential**

13

### **Job family (Series)**

[1529 Mathematical Statistics](#)

[\(/Search/Results?j=1529\)]((/Search/Results?j=1529))

### **Supervisory status**

No

### **Security clearance**

[Not Required](#)

[\(/Help/faq/job-announcement/security-clearances/\)]((/Help/faq/job-announcement/security-clearances/))

### **Drug test**

No

### **Position sensitivity and risk**

[Non-sensitive \(NS\)/Low Risk](#)

[\(/https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/faq/job-announcement/security-clearances/\)]((/https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/faq/job-announcement/security-clearances/))

### **Trust determination process**

[Credentialing](#)

[\(/https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/faq/job-announcement/security-clearances/\)]((/https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/faq/job-announcement/security-clearances/))

[Suitability/Fitness](#)

[\(/https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/faq/job-announcement/security-clearances/\)]((/https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/faq/job-announcement/security-clearances/))

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### **Announcement number**

23-RES-11748953-DHP-GT

### **Control number**

692484900

# **This job is open to**



## Clarification from the agency

Applications will be accepted from any U.S. citizen. Direct Hire Authority will be used to fill this position. Veterans Preference and traditional rating and ranking of applicants does not apply to this vacancy.

## Duties

- Conduct research using both conventional and sophisticated statistical research techniques.
- Emphasis on experimental design, linear and non-linear regression, general linear models, mixed effects models, data mining, and simulation techniques.
- Participate in statistical, mathematical, and computational collaborations with other scientists.
- Understand and communicate with scientists from other disciplines and be able to convey statistical concepts and methods in an understandable and useful manner.
- Join a research team of the few statisticians in the United States working in wood utilization research.
- Provide economic information, analysis, and projections indicating how and why the markets and technologies for wood products change over time.

## Requirements

### Conditions of Employment

- Must be a U.S. Citizen or National.
- Males born after 12-31-59 must be registered for Selective Service or exempt.
- Subject to satisfactory adjudication of background investigation and/or fingerprint check.
- Successful completion of one-year probationary period, unless previously served.
- Per Public Law 104-134 all Federal employees are required to have federal payments made by direct deposit to their financial institution.
- Successfully pass the E-Verify employment verification check. To learn more about E-Verify, including your rights and responsibilities, visit E-Verify.

## Qualifications

**This is a research scientist position and is classified under the scientist career plan. Research scientists have open-ended promotion potential.** Research accomplishments and their impact on the duties and responsibilities of positions are evaluated periodically. The grade level is limited only by the individual's demonstrated ability to perform research of recognized importance to science and technology. Final grade level will be determined by a peer review panel. The purpose of the initial review panel is to determine the grade level upon entry into a position.

Candidates being considered for this research position should provide a list of publications for which you have been an author, co-author, or contributor. **If providing curriculum vitae, please incorporate all resume requirements identified in the REQUIRED DOCUMENTS section of this announcement, or submit a supplemental resume which includes all information required in addition to the curriculum vitae.**

**Work Experience:** Your resume must clearly document the following for each block of work experience: the beginning day, month

and year the work assignment started and ended; the hours worked per week; position title, and series and grade if applicable; and description of duties performed. This information must be provided for each permanent, temporary or seasonal appointment/work assignment or volunteer work and should be clearly documented as a separate block of time. Incomplete, inaccurate or conflicting work history may not be credited for qualifications purposes. This can result in an applicant not being considered for the position.

Applicants must meet all qualifications and eligibility requirements as defined below by the closing date of the announcement. For more information on the qualifications for this position, go to: <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/classification-qualifications/general-schedule-qualification-standards/#url=GS-PROF> (<https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/classification-qualifications/general-schedule-qualification-standards/#url=GS-PROF>).

**In addition to meeting the education requirement listed below, you must also possess experience or directly related graduate education in the amounts listed below.**

**For the GS-11 level:** One year of specialized experience at or equivalent to the next lower grade level (GS-9). Specialized experience at this level is defined as:

- Conducting the full cycle of scientific research with defined objectives, limited in scope to investigating specific phenomena or problems, or are segments of related investigations. Research at this level requires fairly conventional techniques and involves applying existing theory or methods to areas previously investigated, but under different conditions, or involves adapting previous studies in light of changes in theory or improved techniques and instrumentation and result in contributions that add to scientific and professional knowledge or support developing new or improved methods and techniques. This research must have been related to statistical methods and techniques.
- Using common statistical packages, such as SAS, R, SPSS and/or Minitab to develop mathematical algorithms and write statistical computer programs.
- Disseminating research findings at conferences or scientific meetings and contributing to results published in peer-reviewed journals.
- Collaborating and building partnerships with researchers.

--OR--

**Conferred master's degree that** included scientific research in statistical methods and techniques and/or includes coursework in areas such as inferential statistics, design of experiments, and mixed effects models.

**For the GS-12 level:** One year of specialized experience at or equivalent to the next lower grade level (GS-11). Specialized experience at this level is defined as:

- Conducting the full cycle of scientific research (including identifying research topics, defining study objectives, organizing and conducting the research, interpreting the results, and presenting the findings in the form of reports, demonstrations, manuscripts, and other appropriate technology transfer activities) related to statistical methods and techniques. Research can involve applying existing theory or methods to areas previously investigated, but under different conditions, or involve adapting previous studies considering changes in theory or improved techniques and instrumentation.
- Using both conventional and sophisticated statistical research techniques, with special emphasis on inferential statistics, experimental design, multivariate methods, regression analysis, nonparametric data analysis, sampling methods, general linear models, mixed effects models, and simulation techniques.
- Using common statistical packages, such as SAS, R, SPSS and/or Minitab to develop mathematical algorithms and write statistical computer programs.
- Adapting and/or developing statistical methods and/or theory to improve the statistical field as documented in a statistical thesis or refereed publication.
- Forming, leading, and participating in research teams, regional, and/or national importance.
- Disseminating research findings at conferences or scientific meetings and publishing results in peer-reviewed journals.

--OR--

**Conferred Ph.D. degree that** included scientific research in statistical methods and techniques and/or includes coursework in areas such as inferential statistics, design of experiments, and mixed effects models.

**For the GS-13 level:** One year of specialized experience at or equivalent to the next lower grade level (GS-12). Specialized experience at this level is defined as:

- Conducting a diversity or body of research as a Principal Investigator or project member on multiple studies that include the full cycle of scientific research (i.e. identifying research topics, defining study objectives, organizing and conducting the research, interpreting the results, and presenting the findings in the form of reports, demonstrations, manuscripts, and other appropriate technology transfer activities) as it pertains to statistical methods and techniques. At this level, research conducted may have involved problems that are difficult to define; areas previously investigated, but under different conditions; or involve adapting previous studies considering changes in theory or improved techniques and instrumentation.
- Using and modifying both conventional and sophisticated statistical research techniques, special emphasis on inferential statistics, experimental design, multivariate methods, regression analysis, nonparametric data analysis, sampling methods, general linear models, mixed effects models, and simulation techniques and integrating statistical thinking with statistical, mathematical, and computational methods to analyze and interpret research results.
- Using common statistical packages, such as SAS, R, SPSS and/or Minitab to develop mathematical algorithms and write statistical computer programs.
- Adapting and/or developing statistical methods and/or theory to improve the statistical field as documented in a statistical thesis or refereed publication
- Developing and disseminating research findings in collaboration with resource managers and planners for presentation at conferences or scientific meetings and publishing results in peer-reviewed journals.

**NOTE!** At the GS- 13 grade level, *Graduate level education alone is not qualifying. To qualify at this grade, you must possess the specialized experience listed above.*

Experience refers to paid and unpaid experience, including volunteer work done through National Service programs and other organizations. Volunteer work helps build critical competencies, knowledge, and skills and can provide valuable training and experience that translates directly to paid employment. You will receive credit for all qualifying experience, including volunteer experience.

## Education

You must possess the Basic Requirements identified below to be considered qualified for this position, which includes all positive education requirements if applicable. Transcripts must be provided for qualifications based on education. **Provide university course descriptions to clarify content of coursework as necessary.**

**Required Education for Mathematical Statistics Series, 1529:** <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/classification-qualifications/general-schedule-qualification-standards/1500/mathematical-statistics-series-1529/>  
(<https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/classification-qualifications/general-schedule-qualification-standards/1500/mathematical-statistics-series-1529/>).

**Degree:** that included 24 semester hours of mathematics and statistics, of which at least 12 semester hours were in mathematics and 6 semester hours were in statistics.

-OR-

**Combination of education and experience:** at least 24 semester hours of mathematics and statistics, including at least 12 hours in mathematics and 6 hours in statistics, as shown above, plus appropriate experience or additional education.

**Evaluation of Education:** Courses acceptable toward meeting the mathematics course requirement of paragraphs A or B above must have included at least four of the following: differential calculus, integral calculus, advanced calculus, theory of equations, vector analysis, advanced algebra, linear algebra, mathematical logic, differential equations, or any other advanced course in mathematics for which one of these was a prerequisite. Courses in mathematical statistics or probability theory with a prerequisite of elementary calculus or more advanced courses will be accepted toward meeting the mathematics requirements, with the provision that the same course cannot be counted toward both the mathematics and the statistics requirement.

**Evaluation of Experience:** The experience offered in combination with educational courses to meet the requirements in paragraph B above should include evidence of statistical work such as (a) sampling, (b) collecting, computing, and analyzing statistical data, and (c) applying known statistical techniques to data such as measurement of central tendency, dispersion, skewness, sampling error, simple and multiple correlation, analysis of variance, and tests of significance. Without other indications of statistical experience, work required in the processing of numerical or quantified information by other than statistical methods is not considered appropriate qualifying experience. Examples of such nonqualifying work include statistical clerical work; statistical drafting; calculation of totals, averages, percentages, or other arithmetic summations; preparation of simple tables or charts; or verification of data by simple comparison or proofreading.

## Additional information

Salary wage as shown is for Rest of the U.S. For more information, refer to the [Office of Personnel Management](https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/), [Salary and Wages web page](https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/).

Final location to be determined at time of selection. Flexibilities to work remotely in a permanent virtual posture may be considered.

[Career Transition Assistance Plan \(CTAP\)](https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/workforce-restructuring/employee-guide-to-career-transition/), [Reemployment Priority List \(RPL\)](https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/workforce-restructuring/employee-guide-to-career-transition/), or [Interagency Career Transition Assistance Plan \(ICTAP\)](https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/workforce-restructuring/employee-guide-to-career-transition/).

: To exercise selection priority for this vacancy, CTAP/RPL/ICTAP candidates must meet the basic eligibility requirements and all selective factors.

Selections made under this authority will be processed as new appointments to the civil service. Current civil service employees will be given a new appointment.

If you are selected for a position with further promotion potential, you will be placed under a career development plan, and may be non-competitively promoted if you successfully complete the requirements and if recommended by management. However, promotion is not guaranteed.

This is a bargaining unit position and is represented by either NFFE, AFGE, or NAGE.

The Forest Service may use certain incentives and hiring flexibilities, currently offered by the Federal government, to attract highly qualified candidates. Additional information is available at <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/pay-and-leave-flexibilities-for-recruitment-and-retention/>  
<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.opm.gov%2Fpolicy-data-oversight%2Fpay-leave%2Fpay-and-leave-flexibilities-for-recruitment-and-retention%2F&data=04%7C01%7C%7C0096aa4601984888916d08d915428378%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C6375641981050398>

Multiple positions may be filled from this announcement.

This position is eligible for telework.

Forest Service daycare facilities are not available.

Government housing is not available.

## Benefits

A career with the U.S. government provides employees with a comprehensive benefits package. As a federal employee, you and your family will have access to a range of benefits that are designed to make your federal career very rewarding. [Learn more about federal benefits](#)  
(<https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/working-in-government/benefits/>).

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Eligibility for benefits depends on the type of position you hold and whether your position is full-time, part-time or intermittent. Contact the hiring agency for more information on the specific benefits offered.

## How You Will Be Evaluated

You will be evaluated for this job based on how well you meet the qualifications above.

This is a Direct-Hire Authority position, all applicants who meet the minimum qualifications, to include any selective placement factor(s), if applicable, will be referred to the selecting official. Before a certificate is issued to the selecting official, the resume is reviewed to ensure that you meet all the qualification requirements. A rating will not be used; veteran's preference does not apply due to the existence of the Direct Hire authority for this position.

**Note:** If, after reviewing your resume and/or supporting documentation, a determination is made that you have inflated your qualifications and or experience, you may be found ineligible. Please follow all instructions carefully. Errors or omissions may affect your rating. Providing inaccurate information on Federal documents could be grounds for non-selection or disciplinary action up to including removal from the Federal service.

To view the application form, visit: <https://apply.usastaffing.gov/ViewQuestionnaire/11748953>

## Required Documents

The following documents are required for your applicant package to be complete. Our office cannot be responsible for incompatible software, illegible fax transmissions, delays in the mail service, your system failure, etc. Encrypted documents will not be accepted. Failure to submit required, legible documents may result in loss of consideration.

Resume that includes: 1) personal information such as name, address, contact information; 2) education; 3) detailed work experience related to this position as described in the responsibilities section including work schedule, hours worked per week, dates of employment; title, series, grade (if applicable); 4) supervisor's phone number and whether or not the supervisor may be contacted for a reference check; 5) other qualifications.

If education is required or you are using education to qualify, you must submit a copy of your college transcripts. An unofficial copy is sufficient with the application; however, if you are selected, you will be required to submit official transcripts prior to entering on

duty. Education must have been successfully obtained from an accredited school, college or university. If any education was completed at a foreign institute, you must submit with your application evidence that the institute was appropriately accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as equivalent to U.S. education standards. There are [private organizations](#) (<http://www.naces.org/members.htm>) that specialize in this evaluation and a fee is normally associated with this service. All transcripts must be in English or include an English translation.

Surplus or displaced employees eligible for CTAP, RPL, or ICTAP priority must provide: proof of eligibility (RIF separation notice, notice of proposed removal for declining a transfer of function or directed reassignment to another commuting area, notice of disability annuity termination), SF-50 documenting separation (as applicable), and your most recent SF-50 noting position, grade level, and duty location with your application per 5 CFR 330.

## How to Apply

Please view [Tips for Applicants](#) (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/jobs/how-to-apply>) - a guide to the Forest Service application process.

Read the entire announcement and all instructions before you begin. You must complete this application process and submit all required documents electronically by 11:59p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on the closing date of this announcement.

Applying online is highly encouraged. We are available to assist you during business hours (8:00a.m. - 4:00p.m. (MST), Monday - Friday. If applying online poses a hardship, contact the Agency Contact listed below well before the closing date for an alternate method. All hardship application packages must be returned to Human Resources no later than noon ET on the closing date of the announcement in order for it to be entered into the system prior to the closing date.

This agency provides reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities on a case-by-case basis. Contact the Agency Contact to request this.

To begin, in USAJOBS click "Apply" and follow the instructions to attach your resume and required documents, complete the assessment questionnaire, and submit your application.

**NOTE:** If a document is resubmitted, it replaces the previous submission, which means the previous document is no longer available to the Human Resources Office. If you are adding to, rather than replacing a previous submission, you must upload both the old document and the new document. You must verify that uploaded documents from USAJOBS transfer into the Agency's staffing system as there is a limitation to the number of documents that can be transferred. However, once in the Agency's staffing system, you will have the opportunity to upload additional documents. Applicants may combine all like required documents (e.g. SF-50s or veteran docs) into one or more files and scan for uploading into the application. Each file must not exceed 3MB. Grouping like documents into files will simplify the application process. Documents must be in one of the following formats: GIF, JPEG, JPG, PDF, PNG, RTF, or Word (DOC or DOCX). Uploaded documents may not require a password, digital signature, or other encryption to open.

## Agency contact information

 HRM Contact Center

Phone

Address

[1-877-372-7248 X2](tel:1-877-372-7248)  
(tel:1-877-372-7248 X2)

## Email

[HRM.Contact.Center@usda.gov](mailto:HRM.Contact.Center@usda.gov)  
(mailto:HRM.Contact.Center@usda.gov)

[Learn more about this agency.](#)  
(#agency-modal-trigger)

USDA Forest Service HRM Contact Center  
DO NOT MAIL IN APPLICATIONS, SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN THE  
ANNOUNCEMENT.  
Albuquerque, NM 87109  
US

## Next steps

Your application will be reviewed to verify that you meet the eligibility and qualification requirements for the position prior to issuing referral lists to the selecting official. If further evaluation or interviews are required, you will be contacted. Log in to your [USAJOBS](http://www.usajobs.gov/) (<http://www.usajobs.gov/>) to check your application status.

You must choose to turn on email notifications in your USAJOBS profile if you want to receive important email notifications that may impact your applicant experience (e.g. If you start an application and do not submit it prior to the closing date, USAJOBS will send an email reminder that the closing date is approaching and your application is in an incomplete status).

To ensure compliance with an applicable preliminary nationwide injunction, which may be supplemented, modified, or vacated, depending on the course of ongoing litigation, the Federal Government will take no action to implement or enforce the COVID-19 vaccination requirement pursuant to Executive Order 14043 on *Requiring Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination for Federal Employees*. Therefore, to the extent a Federal job announcement includes the requirement that applicants must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 pursuant to E.O. 14043, that requirement does not currently apply. Federal agencies may request information regarding the vaccination status of selected applicants for the purposes of implementing other workplace safety protocols, such as protocols related to masking, physical distancing, testing, travel, and quarantine.

## Fair & Transparent

The Federal hiring process is set up to be fair and transparent. Please read the following guidance.

[Equal Employment Opportunity \(EEO\) Policy](#)  
(/Help/equal-employment-opportunity/)

[Financial suitability](#)  
(/Help/working-in-government/fair-and-transparent/financial-suitability/)

[New employee probationary period](#)  
(/Help/working-in-government/fair-and-transparent/probationary-period/)

[Privacy Act](#)  
(/Help/working-in-government/fair-and-transparent/privacy-act/)

[Reasonable accommodation policy](#)  
(/Help/reasonable-accommodation/)

[Selective Service](#)  
(/Help/working-in-government/fair-and-transparent/selective-service/)

[Signature and false statements](#)  
(/Help/working-in-government/fair-and-transparent/signature-false-statements/)

[Social security number request](#)  
(/Help/working-in-government/fair-and-transparent/social-security-number/)