

**Ecological Land Management Student Field Technician**

**Position Description (proposed STDT AST 4)**

**UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden**

**Learning by Leading Program**

**8.8.2025**

DEPARTMENTAL DIVISION UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden

JOB FUNCTION Community Service

**DESCRIPTION**

The UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden seeks to hire Ecological Land Management (ELM) Student Field Technicians (Field Techs) to work under the mentorship of Senior Environmental Steward, Miles DaPrato, during the **2025-26 academic year** as participants in the organization’s Learning by Leading Program.

The Field Techs will work across various land units within the Putah Creek Riparian Reserve and Campus Naturalized Lands to execute a wide variety of natural resource stewardship tasks associated with the ongoing management and maintenance of these diverse public spaces. Activities performed will include native plant installation, temporary irrigation installation, invasive weed control, fence installation and removal, and other physical improvements that will enhance and restore wildlife habitat across the UC Davis Campus.

Field Techs will help design new habitat enhancement projects on the Reserve as well as perform ongoing maintenance tasks on previously installed ELM sites. All project work will be implemented by the ELM team which includes Field Techs, student interns, volunteers and local community groups working alongside the Reserve staff. The projects will incorporate a wide variety of restoration techniques used by local natural resource conservation professionals and restoration practitioners throughout the region. Technicians will also gain experience creating integrated pest management plans and will execute those plans utilizing a combination of manual, mechanical, and chemical control methods to achieve the desired ecological outcomes. Additional job duties will include:

* Helping to clear and remove limbs and debris to maintain the elaborate hiking, walking, and waterway trail network of the Putah Creek Riparian Reserve;
* Collecting, processing, and cataloguing a variety of native plant seeds used in ongoing revegetation and climate adaptation projects to improve wildlife habitat connectivity and biological diversity on the Reserve;
* Coordinating the activities executed by student interns each quarter as the ELM team explores, stewards, enhances, and restores local native plant and animal populations on the Reserve;
* Working with the Putah Creek Council’s **One Creek** collaborative internship program to execute field tasks such as native plant installation and invasive weed control.

The Field Techs can expect to gain extensive knowledge and practical hands-on experience in vegetation management (with a focus on riparian, oak woodland, and native grassland plant communities), community-based restoration, and regional plant and wildlife identification. Academic credit/internship units are available through this position.

**QUALIFICATIONS**

- Must be a current UC Davis undergraduate student and have a working knowledge of principles and practices in restoration ecology, environmental science, or related field of study.

-Must be able to work on uneven terrain and work outdoors in hot, cold, and potentially wet/muddy conditions.

-Must be willing to work with a variety of hand tools, electric power tools, gas powered tools (chainsaws, brush cutters, etc.) as well as operate field vehicles like trucks, trailers, ATV’s, gators, and small tractors (training provided).

-Must be able to stand or sit for extended periods of time, and able to lift and maneuver up to 50 pounds.

-Good verbal, written, and interpersonal communication skills to interact with people from diverse backgrounds.

-Ability to build an effective and inclusive team culture and environment.

-Ability to effectively serve as both a member and leader of a field restoration team.

-Decision making, and problem-solving skills to provide accurate and timely feedback, and identify and resolve conflicts.

-Organizational skills to establish priorities and manage multiple tasks and deadlines.

-Ability to occasionally work independently without direct supervision.

-Must have a valid Driver’s license and be able to travel to and from project sites on the Reserve.

**JOB EXPECTATIONS**

-Read, follow, and model the UC Davis Principles of Community.

-Exhibit strong professional ethics, accountability, and efficiency.

-Follow all safety protocols put in place to protect the individual and the team.

-Lead by example and foster leadership and teamwork.

-Understand complex relationships between individuals/organizations and the University and use good judgment in resolving issues impacting the Arboretum.

-Understand the importance of cultivating relationships within and outside of the organization to represent the Arboretum with a high degree of professionalism and integrity.

**SCHEDULE/DURATION**

7 – 10 hrs./week each Quarter (Fall, Winter, Spring)

Anticipated start date is the week of October 6th, 2025.Applicants must be available to work 1 to 2 days per week (M-F) for 3.5hrs or more each block. This is a yearlong position designed to give Field Techs the full breadth of seasonal training and experience in ecological land management and habitat restoration. The schedule is flexible and will be determined once candidates are selected and will be reassessed each Quarter based on the team’s availability.

**SALARY LEVEL**

$19/hour

APPLICATION INFORMATION

If this position sounds exciting and aligns with your personal, academic, and potential future career goals then please submit a Cover Letter and Resume directly to Miles DaPrato (Senior Environmental Steward, UCD Arboretum and Public Garden), at [madaprato@ucdavis.edu](mailto:madaprato@ucdavis.edu) . This position will remain open until filled.