



**BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY**  
invites applications for the position of:

## **Assistant Professor of Sociology**

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### **IFO POSTING**

- OPENING DATE:** October 18, 2021
- CLOSING DATE:** Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Initial review of applications will begin on Wednesday, **November 17<sup>th</sup>**, so applications should be submitted by that time for guaranteed consideration.
- APPOINTMENT DATE:** August 16, 2022
- SALARY:** Depends on Qualifications
- JOB TYPE:** Probationary / Tenure-track

**BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY (BSU)** invites qualified applicants to join our team as an **Assistant Professor of Sociology**. BSU's vision is to educate people to lead inspired lives. To accomplish BSU's vision, the University prioritizes creating a culture in which diversity is embraced and all people are safe, welcome, and validated. BSU also prioritizes increasing engagement with Indigenous communities to become a destination university.

BSU is located amid the lakes and forests of northern Minnesota and occupies a wooded campus along the shore of Lake Bemidji. BSU balances rigorous academic work with an opportunity to enjoy a fun, robust, outdoor culture. The proximity to the lake and the surrounding north woods allows easy access to an assortment of recreation. Major campus facilities are connected by all-season underground passages for safe and warm travel during the cold, winter months.

Bemidji State University is a teaching-focused institution of higher education. Enrolling around 5,000 students, BSU offers more than 70 undergraduate majors and eight graduate degrees encompassing arts, sciences and select professional programs. BSU is a member of the Minnesota State system of colleges and universities and has a faculty and staff of more than 550. BSU's [\*Shared Fundamental Values\*](#) include civic engagement and leadership, international and multicultural understanding, belief in the power of the liberal arts, and environmental stewardship.

The Sociology Program consists of four faculty and is housed in the Department of Sociology and Communication Studies. Sociology offers a fully online and on campus undergraduate degree and minor. Our mission is to instill "a deep understanding of social systems and structured inequalities and enhance capacities to interpret change and assist communities." The recently revised curriculum reflects that mission and focuses on an intersectional analysis of social inequalities, helping students connect theoretical knowledge to their lives and to the social environment. Students also gain experience developing and implementing sociological research projects and they learn how to interpret data and share it with multiple audiences. The sociology degree provides a foundation for beginning a career or toward graduate study. The sociology program also houses a Gender and Women's Studies minor and sociology faculty have responsibility for its delivery.

**Responsibilities of the Assistant Professor of Sociology position include:**

- The incumbent is expected to teach four courses (12 credits) within sociology each semester.
- The incumbent is expected to teach courses across the curriculum such as Society and Social Issues (Introduction to Sociology) and Research Methods, but with an ability to teach two or more institutions-focused/macro-level courses such as Family and Society, Work and Careers, Health and Medicine, Political Economy, Global Sociology and/or Environmental Sociology. The Department welcomes interest in developing one or more elective courses consistent with the program mission, vision, and goals.
- The incumbent is expected to be committed to quality teaching.
- The incumbent is expected to have experience teaching in-person and online courses as the instructor of record.
- The incumbent is expected to contribute to a program of scholarship within the discipline, participate in student advising, engage in service to the University and community, and complete other associated faculty duties.
- The incumbent is expected to contribute to interdisciplinary teaching and be involved in activities that support Bemidji State University's signature themes: Environmental stewardship, Civic engagement, Global/Multicultural Understanding.
- The successful applicant is expected to contribute to a collegial and supportive environment that advances the goals of the sociology program, including curriculum development, assessment, and other departmental and governance activities.

**Minimum qualifications for this position include:**

- Earned Doctorate in Sociology from a regionally accredited institution at the start of employment.
- Substantial graduate-level expertise in two macro-level, institutions-focused areas.
- Demonstrated commitment to quality teaching, as evidenced by teaching evaluations or teaching effectiveness.
- Demonstrated evidence of continued or promising scholarly research agenda within the sociology discipline (e.g., conference presentations, publications).
- Demonstrated experience working with and/or interest in working with students and colleagues from multicultural and diverse backgrounds.

**Preferred qualifications include:**

- Demonstrated expertise in one or more additional areas that align with programmatic direction.
- Demonstrated experience teaching Society and Social Issues (Introduction to Sociology) and Research Methods.
- Demonstrated ability to teach two or more institutions-focused/macro-level courses such as Family and Society, Work and Careers, Health and Medicine, Political Economy, Global Sociology and/or Environmental Sociology.
- Demonstrated experience incorporating intersectional and culturally relevant curriculum and using pedagogies that meet the variable needs of students.
- Demonstrated experience as an instructor of record for in-person courses relevant to this vacancy notice.
- Demonstrated experience with teaching online courses as an instructor of record.
- Demonstrated experience with course assessment and program evaluation.

**To facilitate proper crediting, please ensure that your application and/or resume clearly demonstrate fulfillment of these minimum and preferred qualifications.**

**Other considerations:**

- All applicants must be able to lawfully accept employment in the United States at the time of an offer of

employment.

- Official transcript(s) must be provided to Human Resources upon hire.
  - Employment for this position is covered by the collective bargaining agreement for the Inter Faculty Organization (IFO) which can be found at <https://www.ifo.org/>.
  - In accordance with the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MinnState) Vehicle Fleet Safety Program, faculty and staff driving on college/university business, who use a rental or state vehicle, shall be required to complete a vehicle Use Agreement form and conform to MinnState's vehicle use criteria and consent to a motor vehicle records check.
  - BSU and NTC are tobacco free workplaces ([see policy](#)).
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**Apply online:** <https://bemidjistate.peopleadmin.com/>

**A complete application will include the following attachments:**

- Cover letter, which addresses the required qualifications and your specific interest in working at Bemidji State University.
- Curriculum Vitae.
- A teaching philosophy/statement that discusses your commitment to teaching, and experience with teaching undergraduate students.
- Teaching evaluations, where available, or evidence of teaching effectiveness.
- Names and contact information for three (3) people who can provide a professional reference.
- Unofficial transcript(s) of all undergraduate and graduate coursework.

**Inquiries:**

Dr. Rucha Ambikar, Search Chair

Assistant Professor - Sociology and Communication Studies Department

(218) 755-2540

[rucha.ambikar@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:rucha.ambikar@bemidjistate.edu)

If you have general questions about this posting or submitting an application, contact Teresa Hanson at

[teresa.hanson@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:teresa.hanson@bemidjistate.edu)

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**UNIVERSITY / COMMUNITY**

**WHY BEMIDJI:**

Bemidji State University is nestled among the pines along the shores of Lake Bemidji, just blocks from a thriving downtown community. In this Northwoods setting, students, staff, and faculty have a variety of activities at their fingertips. Possessing all the charm and character of a college town, Bemidji remains a tight-knit community of good neighbors and engaged citizens who always come out to cheer for the Bemidji State Beavers. While the city of Bemidji — named after the Ojibwe Chief Shaynowishkung (nicknamed Bemidji) — is home to a diverse population of more than 15,000 people, it serves a regional population of more than 100,000.

Located between three American Indian reservations – Leech Lake, Red Lake and White Earth, students at Bemidji State University have the opportunity to experience a dynamic local culture and history. Bemidji also sits at the center of the legends of Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox. The famous statues of Paul and Babe greet students as they drive in from the south along Lake Bemidji.

Though quaint and historic, the city offers the urban conveniences upon which college students rely. Bemidji State is conveniently located minutes away from affordable restaurants, cozy coffee shops, grocery stores, city parks and more. Small, locally owned shops and art sculptures line the streets of downtown Bemidji, while national chains can be found in and around the Bemidji area, including an uptown selection of department stores and restaurants.

The thriving downtown community presents ample opportunities for engagement off-campus. Among other things, there are fine-dining restaurants, cafes, and a natural foods co-op in downtown Bemidji. The historic Paul Bunyan Playhouse has a calendar of classic shows; restaurants and lounges offer weekly live music performances; the First Friday Art Walk provides a tour of new monthly art exhibits; and annual events such as the Loop the Lake Festival, the Dragon Boat Festival, the Blue Ox Marathon, Bemidji Winterfest, and The Minnesota Finlandia bring the community together.

For those who love the outdoors, there are wooded, multi-use trail systems within minutes of campus and community parks with walking trails, playgrounds and a skate park. Lake Bemidji State Park and its miles of navigable trails is located directly across the lake from BSU, and the Buena Vista Ski Area — just 12 miles north of campus — offers downhill skiing and BSU-sponsored student transportation in the winter months. Further, the Mississippi River Headwaters is a mere 45 minutes from Bemidji.

**For further information, visit our website at: <http://www.bemidjistate.edu>**

**Review a "special report on how this former lumber town has rebuilt itself as a high-speed, regional center of enterprise" at [Bemidji 2.0](#)**

#### **Other Resources:**

- **Visit Bemidji** – <https://www.visitbemidji.com/>
- **218 Relocate / Greater Bemidji** – <https://www.218relocate.com/>
- **Bemidji Area Chamber of Commerce** – <https://www.bemidji.org/>
- **Explore Minnesota** – <https://www.exploreminnesota.com/article/top-things-to-do-bemidji>

*Bemidji State University is an Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity Employer and Educator. This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities. Consumers with hearing or speech disabilities may contact us via their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service.*