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**Job Title:** Student Lab Assistant

**Department:** Various Academic Departments
**Hourly Rate:** $12/hour
**Work Hours:** Up to 20 hours per week (flexible, based on lab needs and student's class schedule)

**Position Summary:**

The Student Lab Assistant will provide crucial support to faculty, researchers, and/or instructors in a laboratory setting. This role is designed for students seeking hands-on experience in a research or instructional lab, contributing to experiments, data collection, and lab maintenance. It offers an excellent opportunity to apply classroom knowledge in a practical environment and develop essential laboratory skills applicable across various scientific and engineering disciplines.

**Purpose and Learning Outcomes:**

* Gain practical experience in fundamental laboratory techniques and procedures.
* Develop proficiency in operating and maintaining common lab equipment.
* Enhance understanding of experimental design, data collection, and basic analysis in a real-world context.
* Strengthen adherence to laboratory safety protocols and best practices.
* Improve organizational skills through managing lab supplies, samples, and equipment.
* Develop problem-solving skills related to technical issues and experimental challenges.
* Enhance teamwork and communication abilities by collaborating with faculty, graduate students, and peers.

**Key Responsibilities:**

* Assist with the preparation of laboratory materials and solutions for experiments or instructional labs.
* Clean and maintain laboratory glassware, equipment, and workstations.
* Calibrate and operate basic lab instruments under supervision.
* Support data collection, recording observations, and organizing experimental results.
* Assist with sample preparation, labeling, and proper storage.
* Perform routine equipment checks and light maintenance as directed.
* Help manage and organize laboratory supplies and inventory.
* Ensure strict adherence to all laboratory safety rules, protocols, and waste disposal procedures.
* Provide general assistance with lab setup and breakdown for experiments or teaching sessions.
* Document procedures and results accurately in lab notebooks or digital records.

**Qualifications:**

Preferred knowledge, skills, and personal qualifications:

* Majoring in a science or engineering discipline (e.g., Biology, Chemistry, Physics, various Engineering fields, Environmental Science, Agriculture).
* Prior coursework with a laboratory component (e.g., General Chemistry Lab, Biology Lab).
* Basic understanding of scientific principles and common lab terminology.
* Familiarity with lab safety guidelines and the importance of precise measurements.
* Experience with Microsoft Excel or similar data organization tools.
* Strong attention to detail, precision, and accuracy in lab work.

Required Qualifications:

* Must be a currently enrolled undergraduate or graduate student at Alabama A&M University.
* Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 and in good academic standing.
* Strong analytical and observational skills.
* Ability to follow detailed instructions and standard operating procedures meticulously.
* Reliable, responsible, and a strong commitment to laboratory safety.
* Ability to work independently as well as collaboratively in a team environment.
* Physical ability to perform routine lab tasks, which may include standing for extended periods, light lifting, and handling chemicals safely with proper personal protective equipment.

**Experience Gained in this Role:**

By the end of the employment period, the student will have developed skills in:

* Critical Thinking: The student will be able to identify and address practical challenges in a laboratory setting.
* Professionalism: The student will develop a comprehensive understanding and strict adherence to safety protocols.