

Assistant Professor (Tenure-track), Polymer Chemist
School of Packaging, Michigan State University

The School of Packaging (www.packaging.msu.edu) in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Michigan State University (MSU) is seeking qualified applicants for an Assistant Professor position in Polymer Chemistry/Synthesis. This is a nine-month, tenure-track position with research/teaching/service (50%/40%/10%) assignment. The successful candidate will be expected to develop an externally funded research program with a focus on extracting/deriving molecules from raw materials and converting or synthesizing them into new polymers and plastics and an emphasis on novel feedstocks such as carbon dioxide or insects, green chemistry, and synthesis of soft materials.

This position is part of the initiative on designing sustainable, smart materials and packaging systems, and supports the initiative on assuring quality, safety and nutrition in packaged foods and preventing loss, as increasingly such systems are using novel bio-based packaging materials with enhanced functionality and improved sustainability.

Therefore, the incumbent will develop a nationally and internationally recognized program in polymers and/or in chemical modification of polymers to impart desired functionality that builds collaboratively on MSU's strengths in sustainable biomaterials. Research should use both basic science and applied approaches while addressing the issues and opportunities facing the packaging and polymer industry.

The successful candidate must demonstrate interest in and promise of excellence in teaching graduate and undergraduate courses in polymers as well as developing a graduate-level course in the candidate's area of expertise. The initial teaching assignment will be an undergraduate course on packaging with plastics. In addition, the candidate will establish innovative research programs, secure competitive grants, publish in high quality refereed journals, advise and mentor students, provide service and leadership in professional societies, and establish strong ties with industry.

Candidates must have the following qualifications: (1) a doctoral degree in Packaging, Chemical Engineering, Materials Science, Polymer Chemistry or a closely related field; (2) demonstrated capacity to conduct independent research; (3) the ability to work collaboratively with research teams; and (4) excellent oral and written communication skills. Records of impactful research, publication, and research funding commensurate with experience are important selection criteria.

Qualified applicants should submit a letter of application, a summary of research accomplishments and future research objectives (1 page maximum), a current curriculum vitae, a statement of Teaching Philosophy (1 page maximum) and the names and email address of three references online at <https://jobs.msu.edu>. Select Faculty/Academic Staff and apply to posting #1497. Please upload reference information as "other document".

Review of applications will begin on August 17, 2015 and will continue until the position is filled.

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer. MSU is committed to achieving excellence through a diverse workforce and inclusive culture that encourages all people to reach their full potential. The University actively encourages applications and/or nominations of women, persons of color, veterans and persons with disabilities.