The Curriculum Associates Psychometric and Research
Summer 2018 Internship

Curriculum Associates is seeking graduate or doctoral students for a summer internship focused on psychometric and research projects related to the award-winning i-Ready® Diagnostic, Growth Monitoring, and Standards Mastery assessments, as well as the nationally recognized i-Ready Personalized Instruction system.

About Curriculum Associates, i-Ready, and Ready

Curriculum Associates
Founded in 1969, Curriculum Associates, LLC designs research-based print and online instructional materials, screens and assessments, and data management tools. The company’s products and outstanding customer service provide teachers and administrators with the resources necessary for teaching diverse student populations and fostering learning for all students. Curriculum Associates is one of the fastest-growing companies in the EdTech industry; one of Boston Business Journal’s Best Places to Work in 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017; and is headed by EY’s 2016 Entrepreneur of the Year, CEO Rob Waldron.

i-Ready
i-Ready is a K–12 adaptive diagnostic assessment and K–8 instructional system. Built for the Common Core, i-Ready combines a valid and reliable growth measure and individualized instruction in a single online product that saves teachers time at a fraction of the cost of similar products.

Ready
Built from the ground up to be true to the details and intent of the Common Core Standards, Ready is a rigorous instruction and practice program that fully prepares students for the Common Core in a highly supportive way. It’s an out-of-the-box solution that teachers can start using right away, because it provides them with step-by-step, point-of-use professional development to help them teach the standards most effectively.

About the Internship

The Curriculum Associates Psychometric and Research Summer Interns will work on both pressing operational psychometric and research projects, and will also have the opportunity to get exposure to all aspects of the assessment design and development process. Specifically, interns will:

- Analyze the large datasets at Curriculum Associates, which include some of the most extensive assessment and instructional data in the nation.
- Collaborate with other members of the assessment development, psychometrics, and research teams.
- Learn about how an operational computerized adaptive assessment is managed.

Research Project
In addition to gaining experience with operational psychometric and research projects, interns will focus on at least one major project with the goal of presenting findings at a national conference or submitting the project for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Potential topics include the following:
• **Methods for empirically validating grade-level appropriateness:** Curriculum Associates’ *i-Ready Diagnostic* test is a vertically scaled adaptive assessment, which permits the administration of items aligned either above or below students’ chronological grades. Existing operational guidelines dictate the range of chronological grade levels to which an item may be administered. This research would seek to review those guidelines and refine existing methods to validate the grade-level appropriateness of items. This would require literature review, vertical scaling, and item analysis skills, as well as collaboration with subject matter experts in reading and mathematics.

• **The relationship between educator beliefs and behaviors, professional development, and student learning:** Curriculum Associates has a wealth of data on educators’ beliefs and behaviors related to the *i-Ready* and *Ready* product lines, as well as the professional development opportunities offered by Curriculum Associates. This research would focus on learning how these data relate to student learning gains. For example, what evidence is there that various beliefs and behaviors are related differentially to strong student growth? And what evidence is there that various professional development courses are related to strong student growth? This research will involve a combination of skills in survey analysis, regression, and data interpretation.

• **Methods for identifying student disengagement from instructional lessons:** There is currently extensive research in the educational measurement field on test-taking motivation, and specifically on how to determine if a student is not actively engaged in an assessment or a given assessment item. There is comparatively less research on the methodologies that could be used to evaluate whether or not students are engaged in instructional lessons delivered through educational technology platforms, such as *i-Ready*. This research will require investigation of the current state of test- and lesson-taking motivation, a strong interest in the intersection of instructional technology and empirical research, and the ability to analyze large datasets.

• **Empirical case studies to identify different implementation profiles:** Educators use Curriculum Associates’ products in a number of different ways. For example, some implementations of our products focus on interventions for individual students, other implementations focus on the use of our products for large-group instruction, while other implementations focus on the use of our products for supplemental small-group instruction. This line of research will investigate how our products and services are used in an attempt to build a series of user profiles with accompanying narratives that illustrate the characteristics of each profile. This research will involve a combination of qualitative techniques to learn about and document how educators implement *i-Ready* and *Ready*, as well as quantitative skills to help support or refute the qualitative findings.

**Qualifications for Interns**

Candidates for the internship will ideally have the following qualifications:

• Currently pursuing a doctorate in an educational measurement or related field. Masters-level students may be considered on a case-by-case basis. A preference will be given to students with at least two years of doctoral-level coursework completed by the start of the internship.

• Must have some level of proficiency with SAS. Minimal proficiency at the “SAS Programming 1: Essentials” level; proficiency at the “SAS Programming 2: Data Manipulation Techniques” level is highly desirable. For details, see [https://support.sas.com/training/us/paths/prg.html](https://support.sas.com/training/us/paths/prg.html).
• Must have a strong interest in applied psychometrics and research that impacts student learning.

**Funding, Length, and Location of Internship**

• Interns will ideally work at least eight weeks during the summer; however, longer internships will be considered, including opportunities that begin on a limited part-time basis as early as April and then shift to full-time during the summer.

• Exact dates for the internship are negotiable.

• Interns will be considered part-time temporary employees of Curriculum Associates.

• Interns work 40 hours/week and will be paid $25 per hour (equivalent to $8,000 for 8 weeks).

• Interns may work remotely or, if they happen to live locally, they may work in the Curriculum Associates offices in Chicago or New York, or the home office in Billerica, Massachusetts. Some travel will be required, including at the beginning of the internship. The costs of travel will be covered by Curriculum Associates.

**Questions and Next Steps**

• Do you have questions about this exciting opportunity? Email us at research@cainc.com.

• Are you interested in this internship? Please apply by sending the following information to research@cainc.com:
  
  o A cover letter that:
    
    ▪ Describes some of your current research interests,
    
    ▪ Describes your reason for interest in the internship,
    
    ▪ Includes the name of your advisor and a statement from you that your advisor is supportive of your involvement in the internship.
    
    ▪ Includes which of the projects under the “Research Projects” section above you would be most interested in helping with over the summer.
      
      • Additional project ideas may be considered depending upon the availability of Curriculum Associates staff and data to support the pursuit of projects beyond what is listed above.
    
  o A current resume / CV.

• Applications must be submitted by February 23, 2018 at 5pm ET. A select group of interns will be interviewed by phone shortly afterward and final selections will be made in early-April.