

UT Plateau AgResearch And Education Center Crossville, Tennessee

2026 Summer Internship Opportunity

Experience a 10-week summer internship of ongoing research within an outdoor laboratory! Located in Crossville, Tennessee, the UT Plateau AgResearch and Education Center serves the scientific community by testing theories under real life conditions. Nestled within this 675-acre research is the newest of the three UT Gardens, locally referred to as the Plateau Discovery Gardens. Originally designed and maintained by members of the Cumberland County Master Gardener Association, a Garden Coordinator is also onsite to assist with all garden related opportunities.

Job Description

The successful candidate's primary responsibility will be to assist with the daily oversight and maintenance of the Plateau Discovery Gardens. Other opportunities will include:

- * Research trials~assist with on-going research including irrigation, weeding, planting, pest management, preparation of seed beds, trellising, composting, fertilizing, using tiller/tools, data collection, and/or other duties as needed
- * Production log~record day-to-day activities to assist both the candidate and internship sponsors with understanding and improving the internship opportunity
- * Field trips~opportunities based upon candidate interest and coursework
- * Individualized project~complete a project of interest to benefit educational coursework
- * Informal Presentation~share individualized project and synopsis of internship to the CCMGA membership on Tuesday, August 4, 2026

Eligibility and Selection: Open to all students enrolled in the 2026-2027 academic year majoring in plant sciences or a related field of study.

Timeframe:

Applications due: March 6, 2026

Email confirmation to applicant: Upon receipt of application

On-site interviews conducted prior to: March 27, 2026

Notification to successful candidate: April 4 2026

Duration: Ten week internship between May 1st and September 1st. Specific start and end dates will be mutually agreed upon between UT PREC Director and Candidate.

Student requirements: Interested applicants must be 18 years of age, able to lift 25 pounds, be willing and able to work outdoors, and have a valid driver's license.

Supervision and Coordination

The UT PREC Director, UT PREC Garden Coordinator, and Cumberland County UT Extension Agricultural Agent will be responsible for the supervision of the successful candidate. The successful intern will meet periodically with members of the selection committee to ensure intern goals and opportunities are being met.

On-line application is available at plateau.tennessee.edu, click “UT Gardens”, scroll down click “Internship”.

Interested students are to submit the following:

- * completed application
- * most recent transcript
- * 3 letters of reference
- * resumé

ALL COMPONENTS of the application must be received no later than March 6, 2026. An email confirmation will be sent upon receipt. If you do not receive a confirmation, please call Jennifer Burns at 931-484-0034.

Applications may be emailed to utgardenscrossville@tennessee.edu or sent to address below.

UT Plateau Research and Education Center 320 Experiment Station Road
Crossville, TN 38571-2133

Attn: Jennifer Burns
2026 Internship

NOTE: Top applicants will be invited to an on-site interview with members of the selection committee at a time that is mutually agreeable to both the candidate and committee members. Special arrangements will be made for distance applicants.

Pay/Stipend/Coursework Benefit:

- * \$15 hourly rate based on 40 hour work week
- * credit for coursework subject to approval from attending college

Comments:

- * Interested applicants may contact Walt Hitch at the UT Plateau Research and Education Center (931-484-0034) or Gregg Upchurch at the UT Extension Office-Cumberland County (931-484-6743) for further information.
- * To learn more about UT Plateau Research and Education Center, or the Plateau Discovery Gardens, visit <http://plateau.tennessee.edu> .
- * To learn more about the Cumberland County Master Gardener Association, visit <http://www.ccmga.org> .
- * Interested applicants are welcome to visit UT PREC and the surrounding community prior to the submission of the application. Please call 931-484-0034 to schedule a guided tour.

**The Cumberland County Master Gardener Association,
 UT Extension-Cumberland County, and UT Plateau Research and Education Center
 Crossville, Tennessee**

2026 10-Week Summer Internship Application

Name _____
 (First) (Middle Initial) (Last)

Address _____
 (Street)

 (City) (state) (zip)

Phone _____ Alternate phone _____

E-mail _____

Education

Name and City/State of School Attended	Dates	Diploma/Degree

Attending School 2026-2027 _____

Major: _____

Minor: _____

Classification as of Fall 2026: ___ Freshman ___ Sophomore ___ Junior ___ Senior ___ Graduate

Activities: _____

Honors: _____

Special Talents: _____

Internship and Career Goals

If selected for this internship, what would you expect to gain from this opportunity? _____

What are your career interests and goals following graduation?

Professional or Faculty References

Name	E-mail or Phone

Confirmation for Application

Yes	No	
		Are you 18 years of age or older?
		Are you able to lift 25 pounds?
		Are you willing and able to work outdoors?
		Do you have a valid driver's license?
		Within the past five years, have you been convicted of or pleaded no contest to a felony? If yes, please explain: _____ _____

I certify that the information contained in this application is true and complete. I understand that false information may be grounds for not hiring me or for immediate termination of employment at any point in the future if I am hired. I authorize the verification of any or all information listed above.

(signature)

(date)