



**Assistant Professor of Exercise Science
Full-Time, Tenure-Track Position**

Union Commonwealth University invites applications for a full-time Assistant Professor of Exercise Science beginning January 15, 2026. We seek an engaged, student-centered teacher of exercise science who helps students connect the science of human movement to the health of the people and communities they will serve, and who takes seriously the work of teaching that science to undergraduates in their first laboratory course.

The successful candidate will join a growing academic community committed to student-centered learning, professional preparation, and the liberal arts tradition. The position carries a substantial and valued role in preparing students for graduate and professional study in the health sciences and for careers in clinical, fitness, and wellness settings, along with the opportunity to shape a developing Exercise Science curriculum through upper-division teaching, laboratory instruction, advising, and program development.

The appointment is tenure-track, contingent upon the successful candidate holding an earned terminal degree in Exercise Science or a closely related field at the time of appointment.

Areas of Specialization

Specialization within the discipline is open, and we welcome candidates trained in exercise physiology, biomechanics, strength and conditioning, motor behavior, or clinical and applied exercise science. Candidates prepared to teach broadly across the Exercise Science curriculum outside their own specialization are especially encouraged to apply.

Position Responsibilities

The successful candidate will:

- Teach foundational courses in the Exercise Science curriculum, with a commitment to making the classroom and the laboratory a genuine intellectual experience rather than a requirement students endure.

- Teach courses that prepare students for professional certification and for graduate and professional programs in the health sciences, working closely with colleagues in related programs on curricular alignment.
- Develop and teach upper-division courses in the candidate's area of specialization, including a signature laboratory-based course.
- Mentor and advise Exercise Science majors and minors, and direct undergraduate research, internships, and practicum experiences.
- Participate in assessment, curriculum development, academic advising, and university service.
- Maintain an active program of scholarship appropriate to the discipline and to a teaching-centered institution.

Required Qualifications

- Earned doctorate (Ph.D., Ed.D., or equivalent) in Exercise Science, Kinesiology, Exercise Physiology, Biomechanics, or a closely related field by the time of appointment. ABD candidates nearing completion may be considered, with appointment status determined by degree completion timeline and institutional needs.
- Evidence of effective teaching, or strong potential for teaching, at the undergraduate level.
- Demonstrated ability to teach foundational exercise science courses, including laboratory instruction, and to contribute broadly across the curriculum.
- Commitment to undergraduate education, student mentorship, and inclusive learning environments.

Preferred Qualifications

- Research or teaching expertise in exercise physiology, biomechanics, or strength and conditioning.
- Experience teaching laboratory courses involving exercise testing, fitness assessment, or related hands-on instruction.
- Current professional certification relevant to the position, such as ACSM-CEP, ACSM-EP, or NSCA-CSCS.
- Experience with undergraduate research mentorship, internship supervision, or project-based learning.
- Interest in interdisciplinary collaboration and community engagement, including partnerships with healthcare, wellness, and school organizations.

About Union Commonwealth University

Union Commonwealth University is a private, liberal arts institution located in Barbourville, Kentucky, with a longstanding commitment to educating students for meaningful lives and careers. Founded in the Appalachian region, Union combines

personalized education with opportunities for students to engage deeply with their communities and the wider world.

Our faculty are dedicated teachers, mentors, and scholars who value close student relationships, classroom innovation, and the transformative power of higher education.

Application Process

Applicants should submit:

- Letter of application addressing qualifications and interest in the position
- Curriculum vitae
- Statement of teaching philosophy
- Unofficial transcripts (official transcripts required upon appointment)
- Contact information for three professional references

Screening of applicants will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Official transcripts and a satisfactory background check will be required before appointment.

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter of interest, curriculum vitae, and the contact information for three professional references to:

HumanResources@unionky.edu & facultyhiring@unionky.edu

Founded in 1879, Union is a small, liberal-arts institution located in southeastern Kentucky. Union boasts a long commitment to Appalachia, providing quality education to a wide range of students from across the world, while maintaining a focus on the underserved and marginalized, especially first-generation college students.

Union Commonwealth University (the “University”) is committed to maintaining an educational, employment, and business environment free of all forms of discrimination. The University provides full and equal access to its educational services, classes, and programs without regard to and prohibits discrimination based on the protected characteristics of age (40 and older), race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex (including transgender status, gender identity or expression), pregnancy (including childbirth, lactation, and related medical conditions), physical or mental disability, AIDS/HIV status, genetic information (including testing and characteristics), veteran status, uniformed servicemember status, status as a smoker or nonsmoker, medical condition, sexual orientation, marital status, or because an individual is perceived to have one or more of the foregoing characteristics, or any other status protected by federal, state, or local laws