

August 31, 2026

PhD/M.S. Assistantship: Fly Pollinator Ecology

The [Clem Lab](#) in the [School of Biological Sciences](#) at [Illinois State University](#) is seeking a graduate student (Ph.D. or advanced M.S.) to join a funded research project on fly pollinator ecology starting in spring 2027. The project will involve examining roles of fly pollinators (Diptera) in Illinois specialty cropping systems (apple orchards), using a combination of traditional and molecular approaches. This position offers opportunities to build research skills, gain extension experience, and network/collaborate with local growers, state extension personnel, and professional entomologists.

Applicants seeking a PhD should hold an M.S. degree (or equivalent research experience) in biology, ecology, entomology, or a related field. Applicants seeking an M.S. will be considered but must demonstrate advanced research experience and competency in addition to a BSc degree in one of the above fields. All applicants should have excellent written and verbal communication skills, demonstrate the ability to work both independently and collaboratively, and show evidence of research productivity appropriate for their career stage. Competitive applicants will possess strong experience collecting and identifying insects (flies/bees especially), conducting field research, and performing statistical analyses. Experience with molecular approaches (DNA extraction, PCR, etc.) is preferred but not required. Candidates should be prepared to begin research immediately (April/May field season).

Students are typically offered a monthly stipend of ~\$2,300 for Ph.D. or ~\$1,550 for M.S. for up to 5 (Ph.D.) or 2.5 years (M.S.), along with a full tuition waiver and health insurance. Funding is contingent on adequate progress in the program. Support will be offered through a combination of Research Assistantship (RA) and Teaching Assistantship (TA) appointments. Additional funding is available to support research expenses and travel to present at scientific conferences. More information on the department, application procedures, and requirements can be found [here](#).

Interested applicants should email Scott Clem (cscllem2@ilstu.edu) with the following materials: (1) a curriculum vitae; (2) a brief statement (~1 page) describing your research experience, research interests, career goals, and why you are interested in this position; and (3) contact information for three professional references. **Applications must be submitted by September 16, 2026, but review will begin immediately.**

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

C. Scott Clem, PhD
Assistant Professor of Insect Ecology
Illinois State University
School of Biological Sciences

