

Cluster Hire in Smart Cities, AI and Related Strategic
Areas
University of Memphis

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Posted Sep. 17, 2025, set to expire Jan. 17, 2026

Job Title	Cluster Hire in Smart Cities, AI and Related Strategic Areas
Department	Herff College of Engineering https://www.memphis.edu/herff/
Institution	University of Memphis Memphis, Tennessee
Date Posted	Sep. 17, 2025
Application Deadline	Open until filled
Position Start Date	August 2026
Job Categories	Assistant Professor
Academic Field(s)	Ecological and Environmental Energy Technology Engineering - Other Mechanical Engineering
Apply Online Here	https://workforum.memphis.edu/postings/45338
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Job Description	

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The Herff College of Engineering (HCoE) at the University of Memphis is pleased to announce multiple tenure-track Assistant Professor positions as part of a strategic cluster hire focused on the interdisciplinary theme of **Smart Cities**, with complementary emphasis in **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, **Advanced Manufacturing**, **Engineered Materials**, and **Sustainable Energy and Environmental Systems**. This initiative is designed to foster cross-disciplinary collaboration and to catalyze transformative research at the intersection of AI, technology, data science, infrastructure, and sustainability.

We seek visionary and forward-thinking scholars whose work advances the digital, energy-efficient, and environmentally sustainable transformation of urban environments, production systems, and materials design.

Applicants with expertise in enabling technologies—including artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, or automation—are encouraged to apply, especially where such tools enhance engineering solutions for complex urban and industrial systems.

This cluster hire aligns with one of the College's core strategic priorities: to grow targeted research areas with strong potential for national impact, expanded external funding, and regional application. The new faculty will collaborate across disciplines and with existing faculty experts to contribute to a vibrant and inclusive research ecosystem that enhances the College's national leadership in Smart Cities innovation and beyond.

The Smart Cities theme is at the forefront of national and global priorities for urban resilience, sustainability, and innovation. In support of this vision, special consideration will be given to candidates whose expertise falls within the following areas:

1. Smart Infrastructure & Urban Planning – urban-scale integration of cyber-physical systems and IoT; intelligent infrastructure and mobility systems; data-driven urban planning and digital twins; circular economy models and sustainable city design; green infrastructure and nature-based solutions; urban resilience and disaster risk management; computational and AI-assisted planning tools.
2. Energy & Environment – renewable energy integration and smart grid optimization; electrification, energy storage, and hydrogen technologies; urban energy modeling and environmental sensing; water-energy nexus and resource-efficient urban ecosystems; data analytics and machine learning for energy forecasting.
3. Advanced Manufacturing –metals, polymers, composites; robotics, automation, and cyber-physical production systems; sustainable, low-carbon, or circular manufacturing processes; smart supply chains and urban manufacturing integration; AI-supported process control and predictive maintenance; advanced manufacturing systems and automation including additive, hybrid and

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smart manufacturing.

4. Engineered and Functional Materials – smart and sustainable infrastructure materials design and characterization; energy and sensing materials for resilient cities; circular and low-impact materials and manufacturing; integrated urban supply chains and localized production; computational methods and data-driven materials design.

The Herff College of Engineering is committed to fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and providing the support necessary for faculty to succeed in advancing impactful, forward-thinking research.

Qualifications:

Required:

- Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering, Materials Science, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Energy Systems, Urban Engineering, Electrical & Computer Engineering or a related discipline
- Evidence of research excellence and potential for securing independent funding
- Demonstrated commitment to teaching and mentoring at undergraduate and graduate levels
- Strong interest in interdisciplinary research aligned with the theme of “Smart Cities”

Preferred:

- Experience in one or more of the cluster focus areas
- A track record of collaborative or cross-disciplinary work
- Engagement with societal impact, public-private partnerships, or technology deployment

Responsibilities:

- Develop and sustain an innovative, externally funded research program that supports graduate students and engages other faculty
- Teach core and elective courses in home departments and interdisciplinary programs
- Supervise and mentor graduate and undergraduate students
- Collaborate within the cluster to pursue large-scale interdisciplinary research initiatives

Engage with stakeholders, including industry, government, and communities, to translate research into real-world impact

How to apply:

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Candidates must hold a doctoral degree in an Engineering discipline or a closely related field. They must demonstrate a clear potential for creative, interdisciplinary, and independent research that would lead to a strong, externally funded research program with national and international recognition. Candidates are expected to teach at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Interested candidates must submit their application materials through the University of Memphis employment portal at <https://workforum.memphis.edu/>. To locate the position, please select the "Full-Time Faculty" category.

A complete application must include the following:

1. A cover letter outlining interest in the position and relevant qualifications
2. A statement of research accomplishments and future plans
3. A teaching philosophy statement
4. A comprehensive curriculum vitae
5. Contact information (name, email, phone number, and address) for three professional references

Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until all positions are filled. The anticipated start date is August 2026, for the fall semester.

Contact Information

Please reference Academickeys in your cover letter when applying for or inquiring about this job announcement.

Contact Human Resources
HR/Herff College of Engineering
University of Memphis
165 Administration Building
Memphis, TN 38152

Contact E-mail bwaldron@memphis.edu