



Felipe de Paula Nogueira Cruz, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Biology

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March 4th, 2025

To
Hiring Committee
Fort Hays State University
Department of Biological Sciences

Dear Dr. Michael Gruenstaedl,

My name is Dr. Felipe de Paula, and I am enthusiastically formalizing my application for the position of Assistant Professor at the Department of Biological Sciences (Job no: R-04516).

I am currently an Assistant Professor at Graceland University-Natural and Physical Sciences Department, and I am responsible for the Anatomy and Physiology courses at the Institution. In addition, I have a strong background in Microbiology, a passion for microbial natural products, and a commitment to impactful teaching. For this position, I also offer my knowledge and a unique set of academic and soft skills which I gained in over a decade of experience in multidisciplinary environments, which I believe I am an excellent investment for the needs of your Department.

Throughout my doctoral studies at Universidade Federal de Sao Carlos (Brazil) and at University of Michigan, my research focused on the study of the endophytic and rhizospheric microbiome associated with Brazilian medicinal plants and their potential to tackle human and plant pathogens., culminating in major visibility. This research has allowed me to develop expertise in microbial natural products and fortifying relationships between other research groups in Brazil, United States, and United Kingdom.

Back at the University of Michigan in 2022 as a postdoctoral researcher, I had the opportunity to serve the community during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. As a member of Dr. Krista Wigginton's group on the SEWER project, I was responsible for designing methods of monitoring respiratory viruses in wastewater systems.

I am particularly excited about the potential to further explore microbial natural products and wastewater-based epidemiology within the robust research environment at University Kentucky.

Beyond research, I dedicate massive efforts to provide support, engaging, and student-centered learning experience. As a Professor at Fenix Technical School (2013) I was



responsible for seven courses in Nursing, Radiology, and Work and Environmental Safety majors. Further, I could develop my teaching abilities during the Ph.D. and postdoctoral periods at Universidade Federal de Sao Carlos, where I could successfully mentor undergraduate students and teach Microbiology classes.

I can say that my motivation, willingness to learn and teach, passion, adaptability, and a set of interpersonal abilities are my most valuable virtues. I am confident that my skills and enthusiasm would allow me to make a meaningful impact on the academic community.

Enclosed you will find my Curriculum Vitae and references, and I am looking forward to providing more details to aid you in the evaluation of my application.

Kind regards,

Felipe de Paula Nogueira Cruz, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Biology
Graceland University
Natural and Physical Sciences Department