

ECOCAR

INNOVATION CHALLENGE

DRIVING THE FUTURE

Project Manager

About the Competition: The EcoCAR Innovation Challenge is a four-year collegiate engineering competition in which university teams develop intelligent and energy-efficient vehicle technologies using advanced controls, electrified propulsion, automation, artificial intelligence, and industry-standard development processes.

Mississippi State University will compete in the General Motors track using a 2026 Chevrolet Blazer SS Police Edition EV. Students will contribute to the design, integration, and validation of advanced propulsion, electrical, controls, and autonomous vehicle systems.

Overview: This posting is for a fully funded graduate research assistant position (or hourly undergraduate for well-qualified candidate) to serve as the Project Manager (PM) for the MSU EcoCAR team. The PM plans, executes, and manages all competition deliverables and requirements, technical milestones, and team functions, and ensures the team can operate efficiently and align with business and automotive industry practices. Motivated applicants with strong learning ability are encouraged to apply, even if all preferred qualifications are not met.

Hours: 20 hours/week, greater availability while approaching deliverable deadlines and during travel expected

Benefits:

- Graduate students
 - Full tuition exemption, ~\$2000/month stipend, and health insurance reimbursement
- Undergraduate students
 - Hourly pay
- Industry management experience with a multidisciplinary team
- Increased job opportunities
- Travel to workshops and competitions
- Mentorship from industry engineers, faculty, and other students
- Competitive edge for careers in project management, engineering management, and the automotive/mobility sector

Required Skills and Qualifications:

- The ability to articulate ideas to both technical and non-technical audiences
- Strong written, verbal, and non-verbal communication skills
- Interest in developing leadership, project management, and conflict-resolution skills

Preferred Skills and Qualifications:

- Prior experience leading or motivating a team
- Knowledge and experience in:
 - Leadership and team management
 - Risk management
 - Planning, scheduling, and prioritizing work to meet established deadlines
 - Conflict resolution
- Familiarity with MATLAB, Simulink, or Python

Requirements:

- Currently accepted/enrolled in an engineering program at MSU for FALL 2026
 - Must be available until May 2027 (minimum)
- Majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering, Computer Science Engineering, Software Engineering, or related field

Job Description:

- Lead the subteams and work with other leads to foster and support a collaborative and positive working environment
- Develop the overall project timeline and work plan
- Track and execute all project-level activities and knowledge transfer
- Manage project risks by developing mitigations, manage issues as they develop, and provide plans to address issues
- Monitor project progress, consolidate status reports, and report out to internal and external stakeholders
- Work with Lead Faculty Advisor, Bagley College of Engineering staff, and the rest of the team to manage all local sponsorship and fundraising activities
- Prepare presentations for competition and outside groups
- Create high-quality competition deliverables
- Lead recruitment and retention activities for the team
- Provide mentorship to team leads and students

Interested candidates should apply soon [here](#) to allow onboarding with the start of the semester. If you have any questions, please send an email to jeball@ece.msstate.edu.