Sustainability Studies Minor
(Interdisciplinary Minor–15 Semester Hours)

Purpose

Sustainability is, by nature, an interdisciplinary endeavor. Therefore, the minor brings together courses from across the university to provide students with the knowledge they need to carry sustainability into their professional lives. It is an appropriate minor for any major and in most cases will enhance a student’s major field of study. Students will learn the principles of sustainability and gain an understanding about how to incorporate sustainable practices into any career.

Core Competencies

Students who complete the Sustainability Minor should acquire the following knowledge and skills:

1. Knowledge of Sustainability

   Students will learn about sustainability and its wide relevance in the modern world. They will learn the interrelated principles of sustainability—attention to environment, society and markets, and social justice—and how to apply these principles to a wide range of problems. They will learn the value of approaching problems from a systems perspective rather than focusing on problems as though they were unrelated to other issues. The competency provides a framework for integrating sustainability broadly, in an interdisciplinary way, and more precisely as it relates to their chosen major.

2. Interdisciplinary Understanding

   Students will be exposed to a wide range of work in sustainability. They will learn about the triple bottom line of sustainability: society and markets, environment, and social justice and the importance of understanding how different fields and specialties work together. They will learn to ask questions informed by the core principles across disciplinary boundaries.

3. Disciplinary Understanding

   In the two new courses—the introductory course and the senior seminar—students will learn how sustainability can be integrated into their chosen major. They will be able to explain to others in their field about the contribution sustainable approaches can play.

4. Research and Problem Solving

   Students will be led through a research and problem solving experience in the context of sustainability. They will learn that questions asked from a sustainability perspective are often different from those asked from a single discipline. By working with a group of their peers from different disciplines, they will learn the significance of a systems approach to problem solving.
Learning Outcomes

Students who complete the sustainability minor should

- Be equipped and enabled through their understanding of sustainability to have an impact both professionally and personally in society.
- Be able to think critically and creatively, and communicate effectively about local, national and global sustainability problems.
- Have the ability to frame societal problems and issues in a sustainability context.
- Be prepared to serve as effective leaders in sustainability.
- Aspire to continue their development as sustainability experts through ongoing study and practice.

Sustainability Minor Requirements—15 Semester Hours

All students are required to take:

- SUST 2000, Introduction to Sustainability
- SUST 5000, Senior Seminar in Sustainability
- 9 additional hours of electives:
  --at least 3 elective hours outside their major college
  --6 elective hours must be at the 3000 level or above (9 hours must be at the 3000 level or above, the senior seminar counts for 3 of those hours)

I. Knowledge of Sustainability –3 Credit Hours—Required

SUST 2000 Introduction to Sustainability (3)—required for all students, and must be taken before taking other courses to be applied to the minor.

II. Disciplinary and Interdisciplinary Understanding—9 Credit Hours

Choose 3 courses from the following list. The student will choose classes that cover at least two of principal issues in sustainability: general economic issues, environment, and social justice.

Society and Markets:

CAHS 2000: Global Consumer Culture (3)
MKTG 4600: Green Marketing (3) PR MKTG 3310
RSOC 5650: Sociology of Natural Resources and the Environment (3) PR junior or senior standing

Environment:

ARCH 4900: Readings in Landscape Architecture (3) PR permission of instructor
HIST 3620: Landscape and Culture (3)
RSOC 5650: Sociology of Natural Resources and the Environment (3) PR junior or senior standing
GEOG 2020: Physical Geography (3)
AGRN 5000: Soils & Environment Quality (3) PR AGRN 2040
AGRN 5400 Bioenergy and the Environment (3) PR junior standing
BIOL 3060: Ecology, PR 8 hrs Biology (3)
BIOL 5090: Conservation Biology (3) PR Ecology
BSEN 3230: Natural Resource Conservation Engineering (3) PR CIVL 3110
BSEN 3500: Natural Resource Systems Conservation (3) PR MATH 1130

Social Justice:

ANTH 3700: Political Ecology (3)
RELG 4970: Religion and the Environment (3)
RSOC 5650: Sociology of Natural Resources and the Environment (3) PR junior or senior standing
FORY 5310: Environmental Ethics (3) PR junior or senior standing
HIST 3620: Landscape and Culture (3)

There may be classes not on this list that are appropriate for the minor and may be approved by the advisor as credit toward completion of the minor.

IV. Research and Problem Solving–3 Credit Hours, Required

SUST 5000—Senior Research Seminar (3), required of all students. This course will be taken after all other requirements for the minor have been fulfilled. The student must have junior or senior standing.