SUSTAINABILITY, CERTIFICATE

WHY CHOOSE A SUSTAINABILITY CERTIFICATE?

Perhaps the best reason for pursuing a sustainability certificate is a personal interest in learning practical skills to make a difference in the world—in your life, in your job, and in your community. Working toward a certificate offers students the opportunity to pursue interests that complement their major(s). For example, the interdisciplinary nature of sustainability encourages students to consider multiple perspectives. In doing so, this certificate provides a breadth of perspective highly applicable to complex problems, such as those we face in our communities, in our workplaces, and in our personal lives.

The Nelson Institute also offers a major and another certificate:

Environmental Studies Major (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/environmental-studies/environmental-studies-major)

Environmental Studies Certificate (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/environmental-studies/environmental-studies/environmental-studies-certificate)

The sustainability certificate can be added to any undergraduate major except environmental studies. Students who earn a sustainability certificate may not earn the environmental studies certificate or the certificate in engineering for energy sustainability.

REQUIREMENTS

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• A 2.00 GPA in the certificate
• 12 credits of coursework, including the capstone, drawn from the list below
• A sustainability-related community service project
• Courses taken on a pass/fail basis will not count toward the certificate.

SUSTAINABILITY CERTIFICATE COURSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Select 9 credits from:</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVIR ST/GEOSCI 106</td>
<td>Environmental Geology</td>
<td></td>
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<td>ENVIR ST/GEOSCI 106</td>
<td>Environmental Geology</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ENVIR ST 112</td>
<td>Environmental Studies: The Social Perspective</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ENVIR ST/GEOSCI 120</td>
<td>Introduction to the Earth System</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ENVIR ST/ILS 126</td>
<td>Principles of Environmental Science</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ED POL 150</td>
<td>Education and Public Policy (Climate Change and Sustainability Education section only)</td>
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</table>

CAPSTONE

Typically, a 3-credit capstone is also required.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENVIR ST 600</td>
<td>Environmental Studies Major Capstone (Water in a Changing World)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVIR ST 600</td>
<td>Environmental Studies Major Capstone (Capstone in Soil and Water Management)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGRONOMY 375</td>
<td>Special Topics (Systems Thinking)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTEREGR 601</td>
<td>Topics in Interdisciplinary Engineering (Interdisciplinary Design for Energy and Sustainability - IDEAS)</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

A list of approved capstones for next semester is available here. (http://www.nelson.wisc.edu/undergraduate/sustainability-certificate/capstone-courses.php)

EXCEPTIONS

Students may request to substitute a listed course with a sustainability-related course that is currently not listed. Such a request requires that students submit a written explanation of how the substitute course meets the learning outcomes of the certificate and assists them in reaching their individual goals for taking the certificate. They must also submit a syllabus of the substitute class. The substitute request
requires approval by the certificate’s faculty advisor, Ann Terlaak (ann.terlaak@wisc.edu).

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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Learning outcomes for students completing the sustainability certificate include the ability to:

- Set sustainability-related goals and develop strategies to implement these goals.
- Be able to use and apply concepts related to sustainability:
  - Life cycle thinking
  - Long term thinking, e.g., "Shifting baselines"
  - Sustainability frameworks, e.g., "triple bottom line"
  - Embodied resources including energy and water
  - Natural capital and biodiversity
  - Multiple-stakeholder thinking capstone
  - Climate change concepts
- Link events in time and space to perceive the connections among them
- Analyze human decisions on the basis of their impacts on natural ecosystems
- Apply energy, resource, demand and technology knowledge to value generation and use
- Describe and interpret sustainability issues from local, regional and global perspectives
- Give examples of how public policy influences decisions
- Understand climate change, adaptation and mitigation to extent necessary to support analyses, design and policy decisions

**ADVISING AND CAREERS**

Nelson Institute students are represented in majors across campus and in most undergraduate schools and colleges. Sustainability certificate students should utilize the career office for their home school as appropriate. All students, not just Letters & Science students, can also benefit from the L&S Career Services office.

**PEOPLE**

A complete list of faculty and staff affiliated with the Nelson Institute is available here. (http://nelson.wisc.edu/people)