

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. Students who earn a sustainability certificate may **not** earn the environmental studies certificate or the certificate in engineering for energy sustainability.

HOW TO GET IN

AM I ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Undergraduate students enrolled at the University of Wisconsin–Madison may apply for the sustainability certificate if they meet two criteria: (1) completion of one of the approved courses for the certificate with a grade of B or better and (2) are **not** earning the environmental studies certificate, or the certificate in engineering for energy sustainability.

HOW CAN I APPLY?

Interested? Eligible as described above? If so, fill out this application form (https://uwmadison.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_6DWJeRMGBmPHmDz). Be ready to upload an unofficial copy of your transcript and to answer two short essay questions (fewer than 500 words). The first question asks "Pick an experience from your own life, and explain how it has influenced your interest in sustainability." The second question asks "If you could change one thing in the world, what would it be and why?" You might find it helpful to draft your responses beforehand.

REQUIREMENTS

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CERTIFICATE

- A 3.00 GPA in all coursework that counts toward the certificate
- 12 credits of coursework total, 3 credits from each of the four main categories
- A sustainability-related community service project

- Courses taken on a pass/fail basis will not count toward the certificate.

ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION

Code	Title	Credits
Select minimum of 3 credits		3
ENVIR ST/ SOIL SCI 101	Forum on the Environment	1-2
ENVIR ST/ATM OCN/ GEOSCI 102	Climate and Climate Change	3
ENVIR ST/ GEOSCI 106	Environmental Geology	3
ENVIR ST 117	GreenHouse Roots Seminar	1
ENVIR ST/GEOG 120	Introduction to the Earth System	3
ENVIR ST/ILS 126	Principles of Environmental Science	4
ENVIR ST/GEOG 127	Physical Systems of the Environment	5
SOIL SCI/ ATM OCN 132	Earth's Water. Natural Science and Human Use	3
ENVIR ST/ ATM OCN 171	Global Change: Atmospheric Issues and Problems	2-3
ENVIR ST/GEOG 309	People, Land and Food: Comparative Study of Agriculture Systems	3
ENVIR ST/ATM OCN/ GEOG 332	Global Warming: Science and Impacts	3
ENVIR ST/ ATM OCN 355	Introduction to Air Quality	3
ENVIR ST/ F&W ECOL/ ZOOLOGY 360	Extinction of Species	3

SOCIAL DIMENSION

Code	Title	Credits
Select minimum of 3 credits		3
ENVIR ST 112	Environmental Studies: Social Science Perspectives	3
ENVIR ST/GEOG 139	Global Environmental Issues	3
C&E SOC/SOC 140	Introduction to Community and Environmental Sociology	4
ENVIR ST/ ENTOM 205	Our Planet, Our Health	3
GNS/ENVIR ST 210	Cultures of Sustainability: Central, Eastern, and Northern Europe	3
URB R PL 215	Welcome to Your Urban Future	3
C&E SOC/F&W ECOL/ SOC 248	Environment, Natural Resources, and Society	3
GEOG/ENVIR ST 337	Nature, Power and Society	3
ENVIR ST/GEOG 339	Environmental Conservation	4
ENVIR ST 349	Climate Change Governance	3
A A E/AGRONOMY/ NUTR SCI 350	World Hunger and Malnutrition	3
ECON 370	Economics of Poverty and Inequality	3
ENVIR ST/GEOG 439	US Environmental Policy and Regulation	3-4

ENVIR ST/ PHILOS 441	Environmental Ethics	3-4	HORT/PL PATH 261	Sustainable Turfgrass Use and Management	2
ENVIR ST/GEOG 537	Culture and Environment	4	ENVIR ST/BSE 367	Renewable Energy Systems	3
SOC/C&E SOC/ ENVIR ST 540	Sociology of International Development, Environment, and Sustainability	3	HORT 375	Special Topics (A Growing Dilemma: The Future of Food only)	1-4
C&E SOC/SOC 541	Environmental Stewardship and Social Justice	3	ENVIR ST 402	Special Topics: Social Perspectives in Environmental Studies (Green Urbanism only)	1-4

ECONOMIC DIMENSION

Code	Title	Credits
Select minimum of 3 credits		
A A E/ENVIR ST 244	The Environment and the Global Economy	4
A A E 246	Climate Change Economics and Policy	3
ENVIR ST/ M H R 310	Challenges & Solutions in Business Sustainability	3
A A E/ECON/ ENVIR ST 343	Environmental Economics	3-4
ECON 370	Economics of Poverty and Inequality	3
OTM 370	Sustainable Approaches to System Improvement	3
A A E/INTL ST 373	Globalization, Poverty and Development	3
CIV ENGR/G L E 421	Environmental Sustainability Engineering	3
A A E/ECON 474	Economic Problems of Developing Areas	3
A A E/ECON/ F&W ECOL 531	Natural Resource Economics	3
R M I 650	Sustainability, Environmental and Social Risk Management	3
REAL EST 651	Green - Sustainable Development	3

SYSTEMS DIMENSION

Code	Title	Credits
Select minimum of 3 credits		
ENVIR ST 326	Sustainability Tools: Systems Thinking & Life Cycle Assessment	3
AGRONOMY 375	Special Topics (Systems Thinking only)	1-4
ENVIR ST 402	Special Topics: Social Perspectives in Environmental Studies (Systems Thinking only)	1-4
CIV ENGR 494	Civil and Environmental Engineering Decision Making	3

MULTIDIMENSIONAL AND CROSS-TOPICS COURSES

Code	Title	Credits
May use maximum of 3 credits to substitute for 3 credits from one of the four categories above; requires special permission		
ED POL 150	Education and Public Policy (Climate Change and Sustainability Education only)	3

ENVIR ST/BSE 367	Renewable Energy Systems	3
HORT 375	Special Topics (A Growing Dilemma: The Future of Food only)	1-4
ENVIR ST 402	Special Topics: Social Perspectives in Environmental Studies (Green Urbanism only)	1-4
CURRIC/C&E SOC/ ENVIR ST 405	Education for Sustainable Communities	3
ENVIR ST 417	Sustainability Science, Technology and Policy	1
INTER-AG 471		3
DY SCI/AN SCI/ FOOD SCI/ SOIL SCI 472	Animal Agriculture and Global Sustainable Development	1
GEOG 475	Topics in Geography (Green Urbanism only)	1-4
LAND ARC 563	Designing Sustainable and Resilient Regions	4
INTEREGR 601	Topics in Interdisciplinary Engineering (Interdisciplinary Design for Energy and Sustainability only)	1-3

EXCEPTIONS

Students may request to substitute a course that is listed in one of the four dimensions with a course listed as a "Multidimensional and Cross-Topics Course". Requests can be granted to the extent that the student's proposed course portfolio still covers all four dimensions of the certificate's curriculum. Such a request requires that the student submits a written explanation how the substitute course meets the learning outcomes (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/environmental-studies/environmental-studies/sustainability-certificate/#learningoutcomestext>) of the certificate and assists the student in reaching his or her individual goals for taking the certificate. Please also submit a syllabus of the substitute class. All substitution requests require approval by the certificate's faculty advisor, Ann Terlaak (ann.terlaak@wisc.edu).

CERTIFICATE COMPLETION REQUIREMENT

This undergraduate certificate must be completed concurrently with the student's undergraduate degree. Students cannot delay degree completion to complete the certificate.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students will be able to identify, critically analyze, and propose solutions to the environmental, social, and economic dimensions of sustainability.
2. Students will be able to engage in systems thinking and practice so as to address the interrelationships among the three dimensions of sustainability.

3. Students will develop the capacity for an engaged life in which theory, practice, and reflection are integrated in the pursuit of a more sustainable world.

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 SuccessWorks at the College of Letters & Science.

PEOPLE

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