Food Policy and Sustainability Leadership (Graduate Certificate)

Demand for healthy, sustainably produced food has heightened the need for new public policies that support food systems aligned with the Global Sustainable Development Goals. A new generation of leaders with policy knowledge, skills and networks is sought to create and champion such innovative food policy.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: Certificate Food Policy and Sustainability Leadership (certificate)

The certificate program in food policy and sustainability leadership trains students in food policy, from understanding policy-making broadly to developing specific, master-level skills that allow them to effectively navigate legislative, budgetary and administrative governmental processes. This empowers students to grapple with real-life complexities and become effective agents of change. Students are exposed to contemporary food policy issues and are required to choose a food policy issue in which, with faculty assistance, they become an expert.

This certificate program allows students to self-schedule work with the exception of weekly calls with their professor, and also requires students to spend a week meeting with food producers in Arizona and a week meeting with policymakers in Washington D.C. Students will participate in research projects and professional presentations that contribute to food policy knowledge among sustainable food system advocates.

At a Glance

- College/School: School of Sustainability
- Location: Tempe campus
Degree Requirements

15 credit hours including the required capstone course (SFS 565)

Required Core (12 credit hours)
SFS 560 Tools and Tactics for Food Policy Change (3)
SFS 561 Food and Farm Immersion Experience (2)
SFS 562 Managing Natural Resources for Food Production (3)
SFS 563 Applied Food Policy Immersion Experience (2)
SFS 564 American Agriculture in the Global Context (2)

Culminating Experience (credit hours)
SFS 565 Organizational Leadership (3)

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the School of Sustainability.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in a related field from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of a student's first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

Applicants are required to submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. two letters of recommendation
4. professional resume
5. personal statement
6. two years professional experience in food and agriculture
7. Interview (in-person or virtual)
8. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency.
The personal statement should not exceed 1,500 words, and it should describe a food policy issue of interest to the applicant and why the applicant thinks that engaging in policy is important as it relates to this issue.

Contact Information

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