Sustainable Food Systems, BS

The food and agriculture sector is changing in exciting ways, creating demand for professionals who understand the complex interconnections between food, natural resources, policy, economic opportunity and social equity. Become an innovative problem-solver ready for a wide range of food-related careers.

Program Description

The BS program in sustainable food systems trains students to understand food-related challenges using a food systems lens which encompasses the many aspects of food and agriculture within an integrated social and environmental context. This lens empowers students to grapple with real-life complexities and become effective agents of change.

Coursework covers a wide range of topics from nutrition science to agricultural production, economics, social justice and more. Students are engaged in an active community collectively working to achieve the 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Beyond the core subject matter and skills courses, the degree requirements include an internship, a chosen focus area and a culminating project-based course, all of which provide students in-depth knowledge of a food-related subfield and ample preparation for exciting careers.

At a Glance

- College/School: School of Sustainability
- Location: Downtown Phoenix campus, Polytechnic campus, Tempe campus
- Additional Program Fee: Yes
- Second Language Requirement: Yes
- First Required Math Course: SOS 101 - Intro Appl Math Life & Soc Sci
- Math Intensity: Moderate
Admission Requirements

General University Admission Requirements:

All students are required to meet general university admission requirements.

Transfer Admission Requirements:

Transfer students (those with 12 or more transfer credit hours after high school graduation) are required to have a cumulative transfer GPA of 3.00 or higher. The School of Sustainability will review transfer applications that fall below this GPA level on an individual basis.

Students with more than 45 transfer credit hours who are not admissible to the School of Sustainability or the second major choice will be contacted to select an appropriate major.

Change of Major Requirements

ASU students who would like to change their major to sustainable food systems are required to have a minimum cumulative ASU GPA of 3.00 (based on at least 12 credit hours of ASU coursework).

Students should refer to https://changingmajors.asu.edu/request for information about how to change a major to this program.

Transfer Options

ASU is committed to helping students thrive by offering tools that allow personalization of the transfer path to ASU. Students may use the Transfer Map search to outline a list of recommended courses to take prior to transfer.

ASU has transfer partnerships in Arizona and across the country to create a simplified transfer experience for
Global Opportunities

Global Experience

As the world faces critical decisions on sustainability, students can learn about conservation while studying abroad in another country. Explore sustainable practices and innovations in some of the world’s most important ecosystems in Africa or Asia while learning alongside peers from other countries. Study abroad will develop teamwork and problem-solving skills, which employers value. (https://mystudyabroad.asu.edu/).

The School of Sustainability recommends the following study abroad programs for students majoring in sustainability: (https://mystudyabroad.asu.edu/students/major/sustainability).

Career Opportunities

Graduates have gained a broad understanding of sustainable food systems and are trained to pursue multiple career pathways related to food. Students are encouraged to select electives that build upon core sustainable food systems coursework and ready them for career opportunities such as managing natural resources for food production; public policy, governance and grassroots organizing; food literacy; sustainable food procurement; agricultural development, poverty alleviation and emerging markets; improved public health through food; or food entrepreneurship and innovation, marketing and agribusiness.

From the School of Sustainability’s 2019 alumni employment survey, 95% of sustainability undergraduates are either employed or have gone on to a graduate program. Of those employed, 72% have jobs directly related to sustainability. Because the sustainable food systems program just launched Fall 2019, the school currently does not have alumni employment data for this specific degree.

Career examples include but are not limited to those shown in the following list. Advanced degrees or certifications may be required for academic or clinical positions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career</th>
<th>*Growth</th>
<th>*Median Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Protection Specialist</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>$69,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupation</td>
<td>Growth Rate</td>
<td>Salary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Scientist</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>$63,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Manager (GM)</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>$100,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranch Manager</td>
<td></td>
<td>$69,620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulatory Affairs Manager</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>$105,610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainability Specialist</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>$70,010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Data obtained from the Occupational Information Network (O*NET) under sponsorship of the U.S. Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration (USDOL/ETA).

🌞 Bright Outlook 🌿 Green Occupation

Contact Information

Schedule an advisor appointment
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