Sustainability (Graduate Certificate)

A connected world faces increasing challenges, so leaders need to understand the relationships between humans, the environment and the economy. You can join others from diverse backgrounds and use innovative, solutions-based thinking to address critical issues facing this planet.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: Certificate Sustainability (Certificate)
The development of sustainable solutions depends on interdisciplinary collaboration. The graduate certificate program in sustainability provides the foundational knowledge required to integrate sustainable thinking into any academic or professional field.

The skills developed in this program, like systems thinking and solutions-based problem solving, are essential to addressing sustainability challenges across disciplines. Students in the program learn to communicate and collaborate with faculty and peers from varied backgrounds, preparing them to lead teams in the future.

Courses introduce students to the foundations of sustainability through a disciplinary overview and problem-solving methodology. With electives, students can explore specific areas that are of greatest interest to them. Subjects include policy, international development, clean air and water, sustainable food systems, corporate social responsibility, waste reduction, human rights, climate transformation and clean energy.

This program is designed to be taken independently or as a supplement to another graduate degree program.

At a Glance

- College/School: College of Global Futures
• Location: Downtown Phoenix campus, Polytechnic campus, Tempe campus, West campus or online

Degree Requirements

15 credit hours

Required Core (6 credit hours)
SOS 508 Pathways to Sustainability (3)
SOS 509 Leading Sustainability Transitions (3)

Electives (9 credit hours)

Additional Curriculum Information
Students select six credit hours of sustainability focused electives from EMS, SFS and SOS course prefixes. Other coursework may be used with approval of the sustainability graduate committee. In addition, students take three credit hours of other elective coursework related to sustainability.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the College of Global Futures.

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

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

Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency.

Attend Online

ASU offers this program in an online format with multiple enrollment sessions throughout the year. Applicants may view the program description and request more information here.
Application Deadlines

Fall

Spring

Career Opportunities

This certificate program may be relevant to individuals in a variety of industries.

Graduates of this program can pair the certificate with a range of graduate degrees to enhance their expertise and career prospects related to sustainability. Because many organizations seek to implement greener initiatives, knowledge of sustainability may be valuable across many areas, including business, engineering, government, nonprofit and education sectors. Students can use their skills to bring sustainable initiatives to organizations.

Career examples include the following. Additional advanced degrees or certifications may be required for some.

- chief sustainability officer
- civil engineer
- economist
- energy engineer
- environmental economist
- environmental restoration planner
- industrial ecologist
- project coordinator
- sustainability specialist
- urban planner
- water resource specialist

Contact Information

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