Sustainability Leadership, MSL

A master's degree program for students who want to drive high-impact transformative sustainability results for their company, organization, community and their own career, this 100 percent online program teaches organizational leadership through the lens of sustainability. Students learn from sustainability experts about core areas of strategy, communication, leadership and global context.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MSL Sustainability Leadership

The MSL program prepares professionals to advance social and environmental responsibility. The program teaches organizational leadership skills through the lens of sustainability. The Master of Sustainability Leadership program equips graduates to drive high-impact global sustainability results for their companies, organizations and communities.

The curriculum includes four synergistic thematic areas:

- communications and change management
- global context of sustainability
- leadership for sustainability
- sustainability and strategy

The program also includes opportunities for students to include electives that are related to their specific area of interest. Elective courses are offered that focus on the military, cities, climate, food systems and other thematic areas. Students may also choose to go on an approved study abroad trip to fulfill elective credits.

A sustainable future requires leaders who are able to integrate sustainability into existing institutions and new enterprises. A particular knowledge base and skill set is required to drive this kind of transformational change. Professionals with tools and skills learned in sustainability leadership, as opposed to other degree programs, are in a prime position to establish sustainability practices in any type of organization. Because sustainability is a relatively new field of study, professionals who are interested in this emerging field have often migrated into sustainability roles without formal training and education in sustainability practice.
This program is designed and delivered by people who have worked in and with companies making sustainability transitions and continue to be on the cutting edge of global sustainability leadership.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** School of Sustainability
- **Location:** online

Degree Requirements

35 credit hours including the required Capstone Course Course (EMS 588)

**Required Core (27 credit hours)**

- EMS 502 Global Context I (2)
- EMS 503 Strategic Sustainability I (2)
- EMS 504 Communications and Sustainability I (2)
- EMS 505 Sustainability Leadership I (2)
- EMS 506 Global Context II (2)
- EMS 507 Strategic Sustainability II (2)
- EMS 509 Communications and Sustainability II (2)
- EMS 510 Sustainability Leadership II (2)
- EMS 511 Global Context III (2)
- EMS 512 Strategic Sustainability III (2)
- EMS 513 Communications and Sustainability III (2)
- EMS 514 Sustainability Leadership III (2)
- EMS 586 Introduction to MSL Capstone (1)
- EMS 587 MSL Capstone Preparation (1)
- SOS 501 Foundations of Sustainability (1)

**Focus Area Electives (6 credit hours)**

**Culminating Experience (2 credit hours)**

EMS 588 MSL Capstone (2)
Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements for 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 any field, from a regionally accredited institution. They should also have a minimum of three years of professional or organizational experience or the equivalent.

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 who have a GPA less than 3.00 may submit a statement describing contributing circumstances and reference personal experience to be considered for admission.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. statement of intent
4. resume or curriculum vitae
5. 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.

Because sustainability explores ways to improve human well-being globally without threatening earth's life supporting systems and because this program is designed to prepare decision-makers for the challenges ahead, for the statement of intent, applicants must explain in their own words (in no more than 300 words per question) why sustainability is important to them, and they must describe a time in which they demonstrated leadership to enact positive change. Applicants must explain how they plan to apply the lessons they learn from this degree in the short term and long term. And, lastly, applicants must explain how they have prepared to manage and accommodate family, work and life balance while completing this program in two years.

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.

Contact Information