Sustainability Solutions, MSUS

A master's degree program for students that want to learn how to implement sustainability initiatives, this program allows students to combine foundational sustainability courses with electives in their area of interest. Students showcase what they have learned in a culminating applied project. Concurrent degree options are also available.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MSUS Sustainability Solutions

The MSUS program focuses on the application of established knowledge in sustainability and prepares students to develop solutions, working with stakeholders on sustainability challenges using a sustainability framework. The program is also designed to prepare students to apply sustainability principles and approaches to careers in a variety of fields, addressing complex human and environmental challenges. Students will have a knowledge base and skill set to bring sustainability solutions to corporate, government and NGO sectors. Students begin the program with a foundation in sustainability theory and methods, then are allowed to take electives in an area of interest.

A distinguishing element of the Master of Sustainability Solutions program is its applied approach and emphasis on solutions. This includes a course on managing sustainability projects as well as the capstone experience, in which students do an applied project in lieu of a thesis. Students are encouraged to apply sustainability principles and approaches to their chosen career field. They will be teaming up with a company, a government agency or a nongovernmental organization to develop a real-world sustainability solution. This practical experience will perfectly position graduates for today's competitive, knowledge-intensive job market. Students can also apply to participate in the Global Development Research Program, which works in conjunction with this program (or any graduate program at ASU).

At a Glance

- College/School: School of Sustainability
• **Location:** Tempe campus

**Concurrent Degrees**
This degree is also offered as concurrent degree program with:

- Legal Studies, MLS
- Master of Mass Communication, MMC
- Public Administration - Downtown Phoenix, MPA
- Public Policy, MPP
- Urban and Environmental Planning, MUEP

**Accelerated Degrees**
This program allows students to obtain both a bachelor's and master's degree in as little as five years. It is offered as an accelerated bachelor's and master's degree with:

- Sustainability, BA
- Sustainability, BS

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. During their junior year, eligible students will be advised by their academic departments to apply.

**Degree Requirements**
33 credit hours including the applied project requirement of (SOS 593)

**Required Core (6 credit hours)**
- SOS 510 Perspectives on Sustainability (3)
- SOS 511 Advanced Sustainability Problem Solving (3)

**Other Requirements (18 credit hours)**
- SOS 531 Achieving Career Success in Sustainability (1)
- SOS 582 Project Management for Sustainability (3)
- foundational courses (9)
- methods courses (5)

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

**Culminating Experience (3 credit hours)**
- SOS 593 Applied Project (3)
Additional Curriculum Information
MSUS students specialize in a focus area and take six credit hours of elective coursework related to that area, with approval by their academic advisor.

For a list of approved courses that may fulfill the methods and foundational requirements, students should see the academic unit. No more than six credit hours of 400-level coursework can be included in the plan of study.

The Graduate College policies and procedures for fulfillment of degree requirements must also be met.

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 any 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.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. statement of intent
4. GRE scores
5. three letters of recommendation
6. resume or curriculum vitae
7. 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.

Letters of recommendation must be from three people who can attest to the applicant's academic and professional achievements. At least one letter should be academic in nature.
The statement of intent should not exceed 600 words and should explain the goals the applicant intends to achieve through the plan of study, describe how the applicant's background will contribute to success in the program, explain how completion of the degree will support long-term career goals, and elaborate on project ideas the applicant wishes to pursue as part of the program of study.

**Contact Information**

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Admission Deadlines