Sustainability Solutions, MSUS

Do you want to learn how to implement sustainability initiatives? This program allows you to combine foundational sustainability courses with electives in your area of interest and real-world practical experience. Concurrent degree options are also available.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MSUS Sustainability Solutions

The MSUS program prepares students to apply sustainability principles and approaches to careers in a variety of fields, addressing complex human and environmental challenges. The focus is on developing solutions by working with stakeholders on these sustainability challenges using a sustainability framework.

Graduates have a knowledge base and skill set to bring sustainability solutions to corporate, government and NGO sectors. Graduates bring competencies in collaboratively creating sustainability solutions, drawing on their ability to employ systems-thinking, develop future scenarios and sustainability visions, skillfully negotiate and reconcile diverse values, and devise strategies for action.

Students begin the program with a foundation in sustainability theory and methods, then take electives in an area of interest.

A distinguishing element of the Master of Sustainability Solutions program is its applied approach and emphasis on learning how to develop solutions. This includes a course on managing sustainability projects as well as the capstone experience, in which students collaboratively carry out an applied project in lieu of a thesis.

Students team up with a company, a government agency or a nongovernmental organization to develop a real-world sustainability solution. This practical experience positions graduates for today's competitive, knowledge-intensive job market.

Students can learn more about careers in sustainability and where Master of Sustainability Solutions graduates are now employed by visiting

At a Glance

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

Concurrent Program Options

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 Program Options

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 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.

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 must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency.

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.

Application Deadlines

Global Opportunities

Global Experience

Study abroad is possible for graduate students, with more than 50 program opportunities spanning six continents. Faculty-directed programs tend to be the best fit for graduate students; taking courses over the summer or during academic breaks with ASU professors offers close mentorship and professional network growth in many fields of study while earning ASU credit. Exchange program participation is also possible with careful planning. https://mystudyabroad.asu.edu/students/graduate-students

Students may also participate in a School of Sustainability study abroad program (https://schoolofsustainability.asu.edu/student-life/study-abroad/) or apply to participate in the Global Development Research Program (https://sustainability.asu.edu/global-development-research), which works in conjunction with this program. Many students in the program also conduct research abroad as part of their culminating experience.

Contact Information

School of Sustainability | WGHL 108
SOSGradSunDevil@asu.edu | 480-727-6963