Sustainability, BA

If your dream is to help lead the way to a better world, this program has the tools to prepare you: world-class faculty, resources, and opportunities like study abroad experiences and internships. Join a vibrant community of like-minded students at the nation's first School of Sustainability.

Program Description

Students in ASU's School of Sustainability are rethinking and reinventing the future of a world at risk. The school's programs encourage experiential learning, study abroad (https://schoolofsustainability.asu.edu/student-life/study-abroad), research with faculty (https://schoolofsustainability.asu.edu/undergraduate-research), community engagement and leadership development (https://schoolofsustainability.asu.edu/student-life/campus-experience/student-sustainability-clubs-organizations). The knowledge and solutions that are created today will shape the social and environmental quality of life for future generations.

The School of Sustainability offers two degrees in sustainability: a BA and a BS. Both programs introduce students to the concept of sustainability in the context of real-world problems and focus on developing practical solutions to some of the most pressing environmental, economic and social challenges of sustainability. The curriculum trains students to approach challenges with consideration of complex adaptive systems and resilience; interconnections and cascading effects between scales; management of trade-offs; stakeholder engagement; future visioning and scenario typologies for transitioning social-ecological systems; and other cutting-edge frameworks.

The Bachelor of Arts is geared toward students interested in the social and human aspects of sustainability in global, regional and local contexts such as international environmental law, urban policy, etc. Students select from one of four Bachelor of Arts track options:

- international development and sustainability
- policy and governance in sustainable systems
- society and sustainability
- sustainable urban dynamics
Disciplinary perspectives included in the core courses of the degree tracks include anthropology, urban planning and design, environmental economics, ethics, geography, philosophy of science, political science, sociology and other disciplines relevant to the sustainability of environmental resources and social institutions.

Students in the School of Sustainability gain not only an understanding of the field of sustainability and strong problem-solving, systems-thinking, stakeholder engagement and future scenario-building skills, they also develop strength in a more traditional discipline of their choice (in addition to their track). Students apply the skills from their core Bachelor of Arts classes and knowledge from their track and related discipline courses in two required capstone experiences in the senior year.

Capstone requirements consist of an internship (https://schoolofsustainability.asu.edu/student-life/sustainability-internships-opportunities) with a sustainability-focused organization and either hands-on research (https://schoolofsustainability.asu.edu/student-life/student-sustainability-research/) or a workshop course in which students work together as a team to develop solutions to real sustainability problems. These workshops are great resume builders as they usually include real work for actual organizations such as city governments, sports organizations, nonprofits, local and global companies, local schools, and ASU facilities management and sustainability practices. Students also are offered workshops on making documentary films, redesigning buildings and downtown areas, and other engaging projects.

Students graduate with a portfolio of accomplishments and skills. They also have the opportunity to participate in study abroad programs, student organizations and professional development workshops.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** School of Sustainability  
- **Location:** Polytechnic campus, Tempe campus or online

- **Additional Program Fee:** Yes  
- **Second Language Requirement:** Yes
- **First Required Math Course:** SOS 101 - Intro Appl Math Life & Soc Sci
- **Math Intensity:** Moderate

**Required Courses (Major Map)**
Concurrent Program Options

This degree is also offered as concurrent degree program with:

Supply Chain Management, BS

Global Management, MGM
Sustainability Solutions, MSUS

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

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:

Global Management, MGM
Sustainability Solutions, MSUS

Admission Requirements

General University Admission Requirements:

All students are required to meet general university admission requirements.

Freshman | Transfer | International | Readmission

Additional Requirements:

Freshman admission requirements for this program are the same as the university's freshman 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 reviews transfer applications that fall below this GPA level on an individual basis.
Change of Major Requirements

ASU students who would like to change their major to sustainability 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.

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.

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 students. These pathway programs include exclusive benefits, tools and resources, and help students save time and money in their college journey. Students may learn more about these programs by visiting the admission site: https://admission.asu.edu/transfer/pathway-programs.

Global Opportunities

Global Experience

Study abroad programs provide students the opportunity to research sustainability challenges in a global context. Students gain knowledge that helps them understand global and cultural contexts that are critical to making impactful solutions. Students can participate in faculty-directed programs in countries across Europe, Latin America, Asia and Africa. 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

In addition to going on to graduate school, graduates of the program are qualified for well-paying positions in:

- consultancy
- government
- intergovernmental organizations
- international development
- management
- municipalities
- nongovernmental organizations
- nonprofits
- policy-making enterprises
- regulatory agencies
- utilities

Recent interest in sustainability within business and government has created new employment opportunities (e.g., sustainability coordinators, directors and managers). Of undergraduate alumni who have shared their experiences with the school (https://schoolofsustainability.asu.edu/careers/employment-data), 95% are either employed in sectors such as those listed above or have gone on to a graduate program. Of those employed, 72% have jobs directly related to sustainability.

Those with a BA in sustainability offer employers and graduate programs an integrated approach to developing solutions to sustainability challenges. They understand the complexity of systems, have engaged in a range of knowledge and experience from different disciplinary perspectives, and understand the importance of planning for the future and how to engage stakeholders in that process. Graduates of the program are adaptable and prepared for a changing world.

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>Climate Change Analyst</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>$69,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compliance Manager</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>$105,610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Restoration Planner</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>$69,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Manager (GM)</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>$100,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupation</td>
<td>Change</td>
<td>Salary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Marketer</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>$106,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market Research Analyst</td>
<td>23.2%</td>
<td>$63,230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Ranger</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>$61,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainability Specialist</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>$70,010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Planner</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>$71,490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warehouse Manager</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>$92,460</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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