Sustainability, BA

A bachelor's degree program for students who want a better world, this program prepares students to lead the way with world-class faculty, resources and opportunities --- including 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, research with faculty, community engagement and leadership development. The knowledge and solutions that are created today will shape the social and environmental quality of life for future generations. Students select from one of four tracks:

• international development and sustainability
• policy and governance in sustainable systems
• society and sustainability
• sustainable urban dynamics

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 tradeoffs; 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. 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 not only gain 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 with a sustainability-focused organization and 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 or Sustainability Practices. Students are also 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, professional development workshops and hands-on initiatives such as ProMod (https://schoolofsustainability.asu.edu/student-experience/promod). Learn more here: https://schoolofsustainability.asu.edu/degrees/bachelor-arts.

At a Glance

- College/School: School of Sustainability
- Location: Polytechnic campus, Tempe campus or online
- Additional Program Fee: No
- Second Language Requirement: Yes
- Math Intensity: Moderate

Required Courses (Major Map)

2017 - 2018 Major Map (On-campus)
2017 - 2018 Major Map (Online)
Major Map (Archives)

Concurrent Degrees

This degree is also offered as concurrent degree program with:

Supply Chain Management, BS
See degrees side by side
Accelerated Degrees

This degree is also offered in an accelerated format with:

Sustainability Solutions, MSUS

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

Admission Requirements

General University Admission Requirements:

All students are required to meet general university admission requirements.

Freshman | Transfer | International | Readmission

Additional Requirements:

The School of Sustainability has higher admission requirements. Applicants must select a second choice for their major on the application. Students who are not admitted to the School of Sustainability and who did not select a second major or are not admissible to the second major choice will be admitted to the exploratory social and behavioral sciences program within the College of Integrative Sciences and Arts. Students with more than 45 transfer hours who are not admissible to the College of Integrative Sciences and Arts will be contacted to select an appropriate major.

Freshman applicants must meet the following standards:

- Minimum cumulative high school GPA of 3.00 (4.00 = "A") in competency courses AND
- rank in the top 25 percent of their high school graduating class OR
- an SAT combined score of
  - 1040 or higher (if taken prior to March 2016) or
  - 1120 or higher (if taken in or after March 2016) OR
- an ACT combined score of 22 or higher.

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 will review 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 cumulative ASU GPA of 3.00 or higher (based on at least 12 credit hours of ASU coursework). Students should see https://students.asu.edu/changingmajors 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 and accelerated 7.5 week classes. Applicants may view the program description and request more information here.

Transfer Agreements

Career Opportunities

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

- consultancy
- government
- industry
- 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, 88 percent are employed in sectors such as those listed above and seven percent have gone on to a graduate program. Sustainability students 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.

Contact Information

Schedule an advisor appointment
School of Sustainability | WGHL 108
schoolofsustainability@asu.edu | 480-727-6963