

Graduate Certificate in Society and Sustainability

Understanding the complex and dynamic interactions between human activities and the natural environment is essential for achieving sustainable development. Developing this understanding in the next generation of scientists, educators and resource management professionals is the primary goal of the University of Missouri's interdisciplinary graduate certificate program in Society and Sustainability.

The Society and Sustainability Program (SSP) is a unique interdisciplinary program that prepares students for careers with private and public organizations through advanced graduate level training and research. The certificate program is designed for students with undergraduate-graduate training in agriculture, biology, business administration, economics, engineering, fisheries and wildlife, forestry, geography, geology, sociology and related disciplines. Students who are in a graduate or professional program in their area of specialization take four integrated courses and complete a thesis or dissertation that applies more than one discipline. The program is designed to enhance the student's familiarity with disciplinary and interdisciplinary concepts and principles from the social and natural sciences and humanities.

The goal of the program is to develop critical thinking and analytical skills related to:

- sustainable natural resource and environmental management and planning,
- dynamic interactions between social, economic and ecological systems,
- quantitative-qualitative analysis of individual and social behavior,
- cultural interpretations of natural resource and environmental issues, and
- application of knowledge gained in the above areas to the evaluation of public policy.

Requirements

All students are required to take the following core courses: a) a three-credit interdisciplinary course on sustainability and sustainable development, b) a three-credit research seminar in Society and Sustainability, and c) six credits of approved elective courses.

The interdisciplinary course examines the sociocultural, economic, ethical and biophysical aspects of sustainability with emphasis on the human dimension. It is normally taken during the student's first year. The primary objective of this course is to develop a student's appreciation of: a) major issues in the society-sustainability nexus, b) roles of various disciplines in understanding and resolving socioeconomic-ecological issues, and c) integrative analysis. A course requirement is for students to work in interdisciplinary teams to evaluate human effects on and responses to contemporary societal-environmental issues at the local, regional and global scales.

The research seminar exposes students to interdisciplinary research on the interactions between social, economic and ecological systems. Emphasis is placed on the complexity and multiplicity of sustainability and sustainable development. Speakers for the research seminar include faculty, students, visiting scholars, and private and public officials.

Students are expected to present their thesis or dissertation research at the research seminar. Thesis and dissertation research must be conducted on a topic related to the social, economic, environmental, and policy aspects of sustainability. Students completing the SSP receive a certificate in Society and Sustainability. Recognition of the certificate appears on the student's transcript.

Program requirements: 12 credit hours of coursework, all of which may double count toward a student's primary degree program.

Interdisciplinary Seminar (3 hours): Choose one of the following

FOREST 8530	Ecosystem Management: The Human Dimension	3
AAE 7370	Society, Environment and Natural Resources	3
or NAT_R 7370	Society, Environment and Natural Resources	
or SOCIOL 7370	Society, Environment and Natural Resources	
AAE 8436	Community, Natural Resources and Sustainability	3
AAE 8510	Interdisciplinary Quantitative and Mixed Research Methods	3
or NAT_R 8510	Interdisciplinary Quantitative and Mixed Research Methods	

Research Seminar (3 hours): Choose one of the following

AAE 8287	Seminar on Sustainable Development	3
or NAT_R 8287	Seminar on Sustainable Development	
or SOCIOL 8287	Seminar on Sustainable Development	
AAE 8448	Society and Ecosystems Research Seminar	3
or NAT_R 8448	Society and Ecosystems Research Seminar	

Elective Courses (6 hours): Choose two of the following

AAE 8410	Natural Resource and Environmental Economics	3
AAE 8430	International Agricultural Development Policy	3
AAE 8444	Agriculture, Food and Community	3
AAE 8610	Economic and Sociological Approaches to Collective Action	3
ARCHST 7323	Sustainable Technologies and Systems	3
ARCHST 8887	Environment and Behavior II	3
BIOL_EN 7050	Zero Hunger Challenge	3
or F_S 7050	Zero Hunger Challenge	
BIOL_EN 7560	Observing the Earth from Space	3
CV_ENG 7286	Environmental Sustainability	3
ENV_SC 7400	Environmental Law, Policy, and Justice	3
F_W 7220	Human Dimensions of Fish and Wildlife Conservation	3
FOREST 7385	Agroforestry I: Theory, Practice and Adoption	3
GEOG 7770	Migration and Immigration	3
GEOG 7560	Resources and Indigenous Peoples	3
ISE 7720	Introduction to Life Cycle Analysis	3
JOURN 8044	Strategic Conflict Management	3
MAE 7355	Industrial Energy Analysis	3
NAT_R 7024	Foundations of Environmental Education	3
NAT_R 7353	Natural Resource Policy/Administration	3
NAT_R 8500	Qualitative Analysis for Environment-Society Inquiry	3
PRST 7250	Parks, Health and Wellness	3

PRST 7260	Sustainable Tourism	3
PRST 8436	Visitor Behavior and Policy	3
PUB_AF 7340	Regional and Economic Development Policy	3
SOCIOL 7335	Social Change and Development	3
SOCIOL 9350	Graduate Seminar in Environmental Discourses	3
T_A_M 8130	Supply Chain Management in the Global Softgoods Industry	3
Select Departments 7001/8001 Advanced Topics Courses		3

Admission

Admission to the SSP is open to degree-seeking and non-degree seeking students who have undergraduate-graduate training in natural and/or social sciences and have interest in interdisciplinary studies. The admissions process varies by whether a student enrolls in a degree program and seeks a certificate to enhance his or her degree program experience or whether the student is a certificate-only student. The University of Missouri Graduate School facilitates the admissions process.

Persons interested in the SSP should contact:

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Advisory Committee

The student's plan of study and research topic are selected in collaboration with an advisory committee established in accordance with the requirements of the student's department/unit and the Graduate School. The advisory committee includes at least one faculty member affiliated with the SSP. Graduate school permission is required in cases where it is highly desirable for the three faculty members comprising a master's student advisory committee to be from different departments/units.