Sustainability Minor

Why study sustainability?

Questions regarding environmental sustainability are among the most important facing humankind. The challenges surrounding environmental sustainability do not arise from singular causes, nor can solutions be developed based upon a narrow disciplinary framework. Instead, the study of sustainability requires a multidisciplinary perspective in order to understand problems and develop meaningful solutions.

Holistic approaches to sustainability practices require a workforce that understands various perspectives within an optimistic framework. Students who complete this minor will demonstrate a command of the language and skills of relevant disciplines, and will be better prepared to take leadership in this challenging field.

What Can You Do With A Sustainability Minor?

A recent review of job postings revealed over 300 opportunities for which students graduating with the Sustainability Minor may be eligible. Students with this Minor will also be highly competitive for interdisciplinary graduate programs in environmental sustainability.

The program starts with two introductory courses, **ENVS 1342 Environment, Society, and Sustainability,** and **SUST 3010 Sustainability; Past, Present, and Future** and finishes with an exit course **SUST 4960 Sustainability Capstone**.

ENVS 1342 Overview of perspectives on environmental issues within the context of sustainable development and taking a systems approach. The focus is on social science approaches to explore the human footprint on the earth, environmentalism, scientific uncertainty, policy creation and social change

SUST 3010 focuses on the intersection of natural resource depletion, ecosystem degradation, and anthropogenic climate change. The course examines both sustainable and unsustainable practices in land use, water depletion, energy demands, food production, resource depletion, conservation efforts, and biodiversity loss (Prereq: ENVS 1342). **SUST 4960** is designed to bring teams of students together to study and focus on solving specific environmental problems; it is the culminating experience for the sustainability minor (Prereq: ENVS 1342 and SUST 3010).

Elective Courses for the Sustainability Minor
The Sustainability Minor consists of 18 credit hours of study: Three Core Courses (9 total credits) and three electives (9 total credits).

Students are strongly encouraged to locate field studies, internships, or service learning experiences that focus on real-life, practical applications of sustainability principles. Throughout their course of study, students consult with the Sustainability Minor director to determine appropriate elective courses and academic foci.

"For me, sustainability creates a space where environmental science, economics and anthropology can critically intersect." **- Sustainability Minor Graduate 2017**

Twelve hours of course work for the minor must be upper division (3000 or above) and approved for the Sustainability Minor. Students must complete a minimum of nine (9) credits in residence, and average a minimum 2.5 GPA in all courses counted towards the Minor. No more than six (6) credits counted for another major or minor can be counted toward the Sustainability Minor. Most of the courses listed are offered regularly.*

Participating Departments

Academic departments offering coursework in the Sustainability Minor include Anthropology, Integrated Biology, Chemistry, Economics, Geography (GIS), Environmental Sciences, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Physics and the business School.

Anthropology (ANTH)

3006—Sustainable Development and Equity
3210—Urban Food Systems and Sustainability
4010/5014—Medical Anthropology: Global Health
4020/5014—Global Health Studies II; Comparative Health Systems
4030/5030—Ethnobiology
4040/5040—Anthropology of Food and Nutrition
4050/5050—Quantitative Methods in Anthropology
4070/5070—Culture of Development and Globalization
4080/5080—Global Health Practice
4090/5090—Political Economy of the Drug Culture
4140/5140—Principles of Economic Anthropology
4170/5170—Culture and the Environment
4220/5220—Community in a Global Context
4450/5450—Conservation and Development: Contemporary Issues
4460/5460—Development and Conservation: Theory and Practice
4560/5560—Human Ecology
6063—Qualitative Research Design and Methods

Integrated Biology (BIOL)

3122—Natural History of Colorado
3330—Plant Diversity
3411—Principles of Ecology
3654—General Microbiology
4052—Advanced Ecology
4154—Conservation biology
4355—Flora of Colorado
4415—Microbial Ecology
4416—Aquatic Ecology
4425/5425—Biogeography
4474—Ecological Methods
4910—Field Studies
4974—Evolution

Chemistry (CHEM)

4700/5700—Environmental Chemistry
5710—Air Pollution Chemistry
5720—Atmospheric Sampling and Analysis

Communication (COMM)

2802—Intro to Environmental Communication
4282 – Environmental Communication
4082 – Wilderness Communication

Economics (ECON)

4530/5530 Economics of Natural resources
4540/5540—Environment Economics
4770—Economic Development: Theory and Problems
5530—Economics of Natural Resources
5540—Environmental Economics

Engineering (ENGR)

3400—Technology and Culture

Environmental Sciences (ENVS)

1042—Introduction to Environmental Science
5020—Earth Environments and Human Impacts
5030—Environmental Geology
5340 Multicultural Science Education
5600—Applied Statistics for Natural Sciences
5650—Environmental Education

Geography (GEOG)

3301—Population, Culture and Resources
4060/5060—Remote Sensing I: Introduction to Environmental Remote Sensing
4080/5080—Introduction to GIS
4090/5090—Environmental Modeling with GIS
4220—Environmental Impact Assessment
4230/5230—Hazard Mitigation and Vulnerability Assessment
4260—Natural resource Planning and Management
4265/5265—Sustainability in Resource Management
4335/5335—Contemporary Environmental Issues
4350/5350—Environment and Society in the American Past
4420—The Politics of Nature
4440—Science, Policy and the Environment
4680—Urban Sustainability Perspectives and Practice
4710—Disasters, Climate

History (HIST)

3366—Environmental History of North America
4240—National Parks History

Philosophy (PHIL)

2510—Philosophy of Nature
4250—Environmental Ethics

Political Science (PSCI)

4146—Indigenous Politics
4354—Environmental Politics
4365—Global Ecological Crises
5217—Human rights in Theory and Practice
5276—Conflicts and rights in International law
5468—Research Methods in Political Science

Public Health (PBHL)

2020—Introduction to Environmental Health

Physics (PHYS)

3082—Energy and the Environment

* For a complete list of courses and departmental advisors, visit the CU Denver Sustainability Minor website at: http://clas.ucdenver.edu/sustainability

"The Sustainability minor has offered a conversation to start and for people to come together and look beyond the societal paradigm that is perpetuating economic incentive over life for all. We look at the world intricately and understand that we are a part of it."
- Sustainability Minor Student

"I'm so happy a classmate mentioned the sustainability club on campus. It's the first club I've ever been a part of, but it's been a great experience!"
-Sustainability Minor Student

Contact:

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