

Sustainability

In the College of Arts and Letters

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Faculty

Faculty assigned to teach sustainability courses are drawn from the colleges at San Diego State University. The program is housed in the College of Arts and Letters.

Program Director and Undergraduate Adviser: Matthew T. Lauer (Anthropology)

Committee: Alcosser (English and Comparative Literature), Atterton (Philosophy), Biggs (Geography), Carruthers (Political Science), Conway (Anthropology), Elkind (History), Larom (Asian and Pacific Studies), Richardson (Geography), Sasidharan (Recreation and Tourism Management)

Offered by Sustainability

Major in sustainability with the B.A. degree in liberal arts and sciences.

Minor in sustainability.

The Major

The major in sustainability focuses on the interface of human and natural systems. Students gain an understanding of sociopolitical, historical, philosophical, moral, and scientific aspects of environmental problems. Students take courses in the humanities, the social sciences, and the natural sciences, and have the flexibility to concentrate their studies in one or more of these areas. Emphasis is placed on strong writing, research, quantitative skills, and broad liberal arts perspective. The curriculum emphasizes the study of cultural, historic, social, economic, political values and forces that shape resource use and constrain responses to sustainable development. Students are engaged to define sustainability in its various uses, evaluate international debates about the meaning of this term, and the goals of sustainability movements. The program takes an interdisciplinary approach to local, regional, and global environmental issues. This approach fosters systems-thinking skills, written and verbal communication skills, quantitative and qualitative skills, analytic and problem-solving skills. These skills combined with knowledge of foundational scientific principles, an understanding of the human and social contexts of environmental problems, and the policy and decision making contexts within which these problems are reckoned are consistent with careers focused on sustainability; the improvement of the human quality of life through balanced and adaptive stewardship of resources that lie at the human nature interface. The primary objective of the major is to aid in the development of strategies, practices and policies for sustainable societies based on respect and care for the community of life, human cultures, ecological integrity, social and economic justice, and the result of scientific research.

Graduates majoring in sustainability are well prepared for positions in local and state government, particularly in the areas of public lands, parks, natural resource management, environmental conservation and restoration, environmental education, and environmental planning. The major is good preparation for a career of further education in environmental advocacy, energy, private consulting, law, natural resource management, social sciences, and the humanities. Graduates may also work in nonprofit organizations such as the Nature Conservancy, Audubon Society, Green Peace, and Sierra Club, or become teachers in primary, secondary education, or universities.

Advising

Students are required to meet with an undergraduate adviser in order to declare the major. All students admitted to the university with a declared major in sustainability are urged to meet with an undergraduate adviser either prior to or during their first semester.

Impacted Program

The sustainability major is an impacted program. To be admitted to the sustainability major, students must meet the following criteria:

- Complete preparation for the major;
- Complete a minimum of 60 transferable semester units;
- Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0.

To complete the major, students must fulfill the degree requirements for the major described in the catalog in effect at the time they are accepted into the premajor at SDSU (assuming continuous enrollment).

Major Academic Plans (MAPs)

Visit <http://www.sdsu.edu/mymap> for the recommended courses needed to fulfill your major requirements. The MAPs website was created to help students navigate the course requirements for their majors and to identify which General Education course will also fulfill a major preparation course requirement.

Sustainability Major

**With the B.A. Degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences
(Major Code: 49101) (SIMS Code: 117001)**

All candidates for a degree in liberal arts and sciences must complete the graduation requirements listed in the section of this catalog on "Graduation Requirements." No more than 48 units of sustainability courses can apply to the degree.

A minor is not required with this major; however, it is recommended that majors in sustainability consider a minor in an area of expertise that helps to ground interdisciplinary work in a focused area or discipline. It is also recommended that students secure competency in a chosen region and/or culture, tied to their choice of foreign language and study abroad experience.

Individual master plans are filed with the sustainability undergraduate adviser.

Preparation for the Major. Sustainability 100 [or Environmental Science 100]; Economics 102; Geography 101; and Economics 201, or Philosophy 120 or Political Science 201 or Psychology 280 or Sociology 201 or Statistics 119 or 250 ; three units from Geography 170 or Professional Studies and Fine Arts 100. (15-16 units)

Language Requirement. Competency (successfully completing the third college semester or fifth college quarter) is required in one foreign language to fulfill the graduation requirement. Refer to section of catalog on "Graduation Requirements."

Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement. Passing the Writing Placement Assessment with a score of 10 or completing one of the approved upper division writing courses (W) with a grade of C (2.0) or better. See "Graduation Requirements" section for a complete listing of requirements.

International Experience Requirement. All sustainability majors are required to complete an international experience. This may involve a study abroad program, student exchange, international internship, coursework abroad, summer program, international volunteer program, or other international activity approved by the undergraduate adviser. In consultation with the undergraduate adviser, when appropriate or when accredited coursework is involved, the international experience can waive three units of the field distribution. See the undergraduate adviser to make arrangements to meet the international experience requirement.

Major. A minimum of 33 upper division units to include Sustainability 495 (three units), 12 units of integrative core courses: Sustainability 332 [or Philosophy 332]; Sustainability 353 [or Anthropology 353]; Biology 315 or Geography 370; History 441 or Sustainability 334 [or Political Science 334]; and 18 units selected from three of the following fields, at least nine units of which must be 500-level courses.

Field A, Human-Nature Interface: Anthropology 510, Comparative Literature 570, Economics 455, English 305, 491 (with relevant content), History 584, International Security and Conflict Resolution 310, Philosophy 496 (with relevant content), Psychology 310, Religious Studies 376, Women's Studies 540. (3-9 units)

Field B, Applied and Regional Studies: Anthropology 532, Asian Studies 320, Environmental Engineering 320, Geography 340, 354, 426, 440 [or Political Science 440], 554, 572, Oceanography 320, Political Science 564, Recreation and Tourism Management 305, 470, 487, Sociology 350, Women's Studies 580. (3-9 units)

Field C, Scientific and Analytical Thinking: Biology 324, 327, 538 [or Environmental Science 538], 540, Economics 455, 456, Geography 375, 409, 506, 570, 572, 573, 574, Geological Sciences 305, Public Health 304, 362. (3-9 units)

With the exception of Biology 315 and Geography 370, courses not selected for the core may be used in field distribution A: History 441, Sustainability 332 [or Philosophy 332].

Sustainability Minor*

(Minor Code: 49101) (SIMS Code: 117003)

Dr. Matthew T. Lauer (Department of Anthropology) is the adviser for this minor.

The minor in sustainability consists of 15 units to include three units from Sustainability 100 [or Environmental Science 100], Geography 101, 370, Biology 315; three units from Sustainability 353 [or Anthropology 353], Sustainability 332 [or Philosophy 332], 334 [Political Science or 334], History 441; and nine additional units selected from Sustainability 332 [Philosophy or 332], 334 [or Political Science 334], 353 [or Anthropology 353], American Indian Studies 420, Asian Studies 320, Biology 324, 327, Economics 455, 456; Environmental Engineering 320; Geography 354, 409, 426, 573, Geological Sciences 303, 305, History 584, International Security and Conflict Resolution 310, Oceanography 320, Physics 499 (History of Science and Technology), Political Science 564, Public Health 302, Recreation and Tourism Management 305, 485, Religious Studies 376, Sociology 350, Women's Studies 540, 580, 582.

Courses in the minor may not be counted toward the major, but may be used to satisfy preparation for the major and general education requirements, if applicable. A minimum of six upper division units must be completed in residence at San Diego State University.

*Additional prerequisites may be required for courses in the minor.

COURSES (SUSTN)

Refer to *Courses and Curricula and University Policies* sections of this catalog for explanation of the course numbering system, unit or credit hour, prerequisites, and related information.

LOWER DIVISION COURSES

SUSTN 100. Environmental Sciences (3) [GE] (Same course as Environmental Science 100)

The earth as an ecosystem composed of biological, chemical, and physical systems and how these systems interact with one another and the human population.

SUSTN 296. Experimental Topics (1-4)

Selected topics. May be repeated with new content. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree.

SUSTN 299. Special Study (1-3)

Prerequisites: Consent of program director and instructor. Individual Study.

UPPER DIVISION COURSES (Intended for Undergraduates)

SUSTN 332. Environmental Ethics (3) [GE] (Same course as Philosophy 332)

Prerequisite: Completion of General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.C., Humanities.

Development of traditional values concerning the natural environment. Reasons for altering values in light of modern changes in relationship of human beings to the environment. Application of ethical principles to actions affecting the environment.

SUSTN 334. Politics of the Environment (3) [GE] (Same course as Political Science 334)

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences required for nonmajors.

Environmental politics and policy in historical and comparative non-dominant perspective. Alternative environmental world views, cases/materials on sustainability, climate change, social and racial justice, globalization and developing nations.

SUSTN 353. Sustainability and Culture (3) [GE] (Same course as Anthropology 353)

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences required for nonmajors.

Examination of efforts of anthropology to understand sustainability and provide solutions to human-environmental problems. Compares and explores sustainability in a variety of contexts and scales, from San Diego region to diverse communities around the world.

SUSTN 495. Internship in Sustainability (1-3)

Prerequisites: Sustainability 334 [or Political Science 334] and Sustainability 353 [or Anthropology 353].

Supervised internship in campus, community, or international organizations, government agencies, or businesses where concepts and principles of sustainability can be learned experientially and put into practice. Maximum credit three units.

SUSTN 496. Experimental Topics (1-4)

Selected topics. May be repeated with new content. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree.

SUSTN 499. Special Study (1-6)

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. Individual study. Maximum credit six units.