SUSTAINABILITY MINOR

Sustainability is an interdisciplinary field that explores, from multiple perspectives, the interconnectedness of every system on the planet and how to maintain and improve earth’s resources for current and future generations. The natural sciences provide the basis for understanding Earth’s systems and how humans impact them. The humanities value our physical and ethical connection to these systems. Finally, the social sciences allow us to understand political, economic, and cultural sustainability, as well as formulate workable policies for a sustainable future.

Sustainability integrates a broad range of topics, including:

- green business practices
- ecology
- natural resources management
- city planning (including land development, housing, transportation, and urban infrastructure)
- international law, policy, and politics
- ethics, values, and environmental justice
- energy and international development
- food security
- human health and quality of life.

A minor in sustainability can be combined with any major in any college at UNO, offering students a flexible and interdisciplinary curriculum. Students who complete this minor will be able to:

- Understand sustainability, its various sub-disciplines, major themes, and analytical techniques as it relates to virtually any career field
- Recognize the political, economic, and cultural forces acting upon the global ecosystem
- Appreciate the significant value of the global ecosystem services provided by a healthy environment
- Identify ways to advance equity, improve quality of life, and lower our personal and collective environmental footprint, on campus and in the community.

Other Information

All coursework taken for the sustainability minor must be completed with a grade of “C-” or better.

Contact

Dr. Elizabeth Chalecki, Director
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Website (https://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-arts-and-sciences/sustainability/)

Requirements

Undergraduate students will be expected to complete at least 15 credit hours of Sustainability courses, including an introductory course in Sustainability, one course in environmental science, and advanced sustainability coursework. Nine credit hours must be upper division (3000 or higher) courses. No more than six credit hours will be accepted as transfer credit.

Code | Title | Credits
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SUST 1000 | INTRODUCTION TO SUSTAINABILITY | 3

Select one of the following approved courses in environmental science:

- BIOL 1330 | ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY | 3-4

Plus a minimum of 9 credit hours selected from the following. Courses can only be applied to one area.

Select one of the following in the economic and public policy aspects of sustainability:

- ECON 3320 | INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE ECONOMICS | 3
- ECON 4320 | NATURAL RESOURCE ECONOMICS | 3
- GEOG 4160 | URBAN SUSTAINABILITY | 3
- PSCI/ENVN 4270 | GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS | 3
- PSCI 4290 | INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT & SUSTAINABILITY | 3

Select one of the following in social and ethics dimensions of sustainability:

- GEOG 4160 | URBAN SUSTAINABILITY | 3
- GEOG 4350 | GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE | 3
- HIST 4910 | TOPICS IN HISTORY (When topic is American Environmental History) | 3
- PHIL 3180 | ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS | 3
- PSCI/ENVN 4270 | GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS | 3
- PSCI 4290 | INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT & SUSTAINABILITY | 3
- SOC 4760 | ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY | 3

Select one of the following in sustainability and natural resource management:

- BIOL 4120 | CONSERVATION BIOLOGY | 3
- ENVN 4310 | OUR ENERGY FUTURE: SOCIETY, THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY | 3
- ENVN 4320 | ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY AND HUMAN HEALTH | 3
- ENVN 4330 | INTRODUCTION TO GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE | 3
- GEOG 4010 | CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES | 3

Students may also pursue the following options, as approved by the director of the minor:

- SUST 4090 | SPECIAL TOPICS IN SUSTAINABILITY | 3
- SUST 4800 | INTERNSHIP IN SUSTAINABILITY | 1-6
- SUST 4900 | INDEPENDENT STUDY | 1-3

Please be advised that students who elect to complete both the ENVN major and Sustainability minor may only count 1000-level classes for both the major and minor. For other majors, students may count one lower-level course and one upper-level course for both the major and minor.