

Law and Sustainability (Graduate Certificate)

LWLSUSGRCT

Program description

Degree awarded: Certificate Law and Sustainability (Certificate)

The law and sustainability graduate certificate within ASU's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law is designed to propel ASU Law students into legal careers related to environmental sustainability.

Environmental sustainability is a primary emphasis at ASU, and this certificate program leverages that emphasis by recognizing those law students who have successively immersed themselves in sustainability-related law coursework during their time at the law school.

The certificate program provides instruction and meaningful research experiences, equipping students with the knowledge and skills necessary to become influential leaders in the global sustainability movement. The program's renowned faculty research and teach in every major area of sustainability policy, including climate change, water, energy and environmental protection. Students in the program have access to a range of externships, research opportunities, moot court experiences and mentorships.

At a glance

- **College/School:** [Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law](#)
- **Location:** [Downtown Phoenix](#)

Degree requirements

Required Core (6 credit hours)

LAW 619 Energy Law and Policy (3) or

LAW 631 Environmental Law (3) or

LAW 639 Natural Resource Law (3) or

LAW 643 Water Law (3)

Electives (9 credit hours)

Culminating Experience

writing requirement and active participation in sustainability law

Additional Curriculum Information

Students must select two of the required core courses from the above list.

The academic unit maintains a list of preapproved elective coursework. Students should contact the academic unit for the current list.

Students must earn a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") for those courses taken to satisfy the substantive coursework requirement for the law and sustainability certificate. Students also must earn a minimum grade of "B" in any approved elective course taken outside of the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law.

To earn the certificate, students must participate in at least two different activities from the following list:

- completion of a sustainability-focused legal externship approved by the program or faculty director
- completion of the Sustainability Law Research Seminar
- membership on the elected board of the law school's Environmental Law Society student chapter
- participation in an extramural environmental or sustainability moot court competition approved by the program or faculty director
- participation as a mentee in the Mentorship Initiative in Sustainability Law

Each student must write a substantial paper on a topic related to law and sustainability. The paper must be at least 15 pages in length and written under the guidance of a member of the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law faculty. A sustainability-related paper written to satisfy the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law's graduate writing requirement or flexible writing requirement can fulfill this writing requirement, including a paper written as part of a seminar course included on the list of elective courses.

Admission requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law.

Applicants must be existing JD or LLM students who are currently enrolled in coursework and in good academic standing with the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law. Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in any field from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. an admission application for the certificate program through Law Interactive*
2. proof of English proficiency

*Students should refer to the [ASU Law website](#).

Additional Application Information

An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of [English proficiency](#) regardless of current residency.

Further specific requirements for admission to the certificate program can be found on the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law website.

Tuition information

When it comes to paying for higher education, everyone's situation is different. Students can learn about [ASU tuition and financial aid](#) options to find out which will work best for them.

Career opportunities

Due to ASU Law's close proximity to dozens of law firms, government offices and other legal employers in sustainability-related fields, numerous ASU Law students involved in the law and sustainability program secure legal externships each year. Externships that ASU Law students have participated in recently include Arizona Attorney General's Office, Arizona Corporation Commission, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Arizona State Legislature, City of Mesa, City of Scottsdale, Climate Institute, Gammage and Burnham PLC, Kyl Center for Water Policy, Office of Water Master, Rose Law Group PC, Salt River Project, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Contact information

[College of Law Dean's Office](#) | BCLS 478

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