

Food Policy and Sustainability Leadership (Graduate Certificate)

SUFPSLGRCT

Demand for healthy, sustainably produced food has heightened the need for new public policies that support food systems aligned with global Sustainable Development Goals. You can become a leader in the field armed with the policy knowledge, skills and practical experience to initiate change.

Program description

Degree awarded: Certificate Food Policy and Sustainability Leadership (certificate)

The certificate program in food policy and sustainability leadership trains students in food policy, from understanding policymaking to developing specific, master-level skills that allow them to effectively navigate legislative, budgetary and administrative governmental processes. This empowers students to grapple with modern food system complexities and become effective agents of change.

Students are exposed to contemporary food policy issues and choose a food policy issue in which, with faculty assistance, they become an expert. Students participate in research projects and professional presentations that contribute to food policy knowledge among sustainable food system advocates.

The program includes two week-long experiences for students to engage in food systems. The first is in Arizona. Students have the opportunity to talk with and learn from farmers, ranchers and supply chain businesses about how food and agriculture policies and programs impact their operations. The second is a seminar in Washington, D.C. Students gain knowledge of leadership theories, develop leadership skills and engage in conversation with influential food policy leaders from a variety of sectors.

At a glance

- **College/School:** [College of Global Futures](#)
- **Location:** [Tempe](#) or [Online](#)

Degree requirements

15 credit hours including the required capstone course (SFS 565)

Required Core (12 credit hours)

SFS 560 Tools and Tactics for Food Policy Change (3)

SFS 561 Food and Farm Immersion Experience (2)

SFS 562 Managing Natural Resources for Food Production (3)

SFS 563 Applied Food Policy Immersion Experience (2)

SFS 564 American Agriculture in the Global Context (2)

Culminating Experience (3 credit hours)

SFS 565 Organizational Leadership (3)

Admission requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the College of Global Futures.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in a related 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 a student's first bachelor's degree program, or a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

Applicants are required to submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. two letters of recommendation
4. professional resume
5. personal statement
6. interview (in-person or virtual)
7. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information

An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of their current residency.

International students who need an F1 or J1 visa first need to apply to and be accepted into a graduate degree program prior to being considered for the certificate program. International students residing in the USA on other types of visas must adhere to all Graduate College policies and procedures regarding admission to be considered for admission to this certificate program.

The personal statement should not exceed 1,500 words, and it should describe a food policy issue of interest to the applicant and why the applicant thinks that engaging in policy is important as it relates to this issue.

Applicants should also have a minimum of two years of professional or organizational experience in food and agriculture.

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.

Attend online

ASU Online

ASU offers this program in an online format with multiple enrollment sessions throughout the year. Applicants may [view the program's ASU Online page](#) for program descriptions and to request more information.

Application deadlines

Fall

[expand](#)

Global opportunities

Global experience

Studying abroad is encouraged for graduate students. Nearly all of the College of Global Futures faculty-directed programs offer graduate credit. In addition, the Global Education Office offers more than 50 program opportunities, with programs on every continent.

Faculty-directed programs tend to be the best fit for graduate students; taking courses with ASU professors over the summer or during academic breaks offers students close mentorship and professional network growth in many fields of study while they earn ASU credit. Exchange program participation is also possible with careful planning.

Students can find programs specific to their interests on the [College of Global Futures Study Abroad webpage](#), and additional opportunities and information on the [ASU Global Education Office website](#). These sites also include additional information about applying for funding to support global travel.

Career opportunities

Graduates of this program can pair the certificate with a variety of graduate degrees to enhance their expertise and career prospects for work in government, public health organizations, food companies or educational institutions.

Career examples include:

- agricultural consultant
- education coordinator
- food policy analyst
- food resource manager
- lobbyist
- nonprofit advocate
- sustainability manager

Contact information

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