Sustainable Food Systems, MS

You can be instrumental in improving the health of people, communities and the planet once you have the necessary policy knowledge, strategic methodology and systems outlook.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MS Sustainable Food Systems
The MS in sustainable food systems is a research-oriented degree program in which students develop an understanding of present-day health, agriculture and environmental policy; develop strategies to lead policy discussions; interact with a network of food and agriculture policy leaders and mentors; and apply their knowledge and skills to address problems related to food and food systems.

This program also allows students to spend a week meeting with food producers in Arizona and a week meeting with policymakers in Washington, D.C. Students participate in research projects and professional presentations that contribute to food policy knowledge among sustainable food system advocates.

Graduates of the program are able to employ solutions-based thinking and a dynamic systems framework to create the inclusive, diverse and resilient food systems of the future.

At a Glance

- College/School: College of Global Futures
- Location: Online

Accelerated Program Options

This program allows students to obtain both a bachelor's and master's degree in as little as five years. It is offered as an accelerated bachelor's and master's degree with:
Sustainable Food Systems, BS

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. During their junior year, eligible students are advised by their academic departments to apply.

Degree Requirements

30 credit hours including the required capstone course (SFS 596)

**Required Core (21 credit hours)**
- SOS 508 Pathways to Sustainability (3)
- SOS 509 Leading Sustainability Transitions (3)
- 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)
- SFS 565 Organizational Leadership (3)

**Electives (6 credit hours)**

**Culminating Experience (3 credit hours)**
- SFS 596 Capstone (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 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.

Applicants are required to submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. statement of intent
4. two letters of recommendation
5. professional resume
6. proof of English proficiency
Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency.

The statement of intent should not exceed 600 words and applicants must explain the goals they intend to achieve through their plan of study at the College of Global Futures, specifically in the field of sustainable food systems. Applicants should elaborate on key research questions they wish to address or problems they wish to solve as part of their plan of study. Finally, applicants should describe how their background will contribute to their success in the program.

Letters of recommendation must be from two people who can attest to the applicant's academic and professional achievements. At least one letter should be academic in nature.

Attend Online

ASU Online

ASU offers this program in an online format with multiple enrollment sessions throughout the year. Applicants may view the program description and request more information here.

Application Deadlines

Fall  
expand

Global Opportunities

Global Experience
Study abroad is possible for graduate students, with more than 50 program opportunities spanning seven continents. Faculty-directed programs tend to be the best fit for graduate students; taking courses over the summer or during academic breaks with ASU professors offers close mentorship and professional network growth in many fields of study while earning ASU credit. Exchange program participation is also possible with careful planning. https://goglobal.asu.edu/students/graduate-students

Students may also participate in a School of Sustainability study abroad program. More information is available of the School of Sustainability study abroad website: https://schoolofsustainability.asu.edu/student-life/study-abroad. Many students in the program also conduct research abroad as part of their culminating experience.

Career Opportunities
From the School of Sustainability's 2021 alumni employment survey, 94% of master's degree program respondents are either employed or pursuing continuing education. Of those employed, 75% of respondents have jobs directly related to sustainability.

Graduates can use their training in sustainable food systems to advance their career in the food and agriculture sector. Career opportunities include:

- chief sustainability officer
- director of regulatory affairs
- food policy manager
- policy director
- senior advisor for sustainable food systems

**Contact Information**

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