Sustainable Food Systems, MS

Access to fresh, healthy food is a basic human need, and feeding a growing population of nine billion is a real challenge in the face of climate change. With a degree in sustainable food systems, you can help create a more just and resilient global future for food.

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 plus master's degree with:

**Sustainable Food Systems, BS**

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. Students typically receive approval to pursue the accelerated master's during the junior year of their bachelor's degree program. Interested students can learn about eligibility requirements and [how 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 their 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.

**Tuition Information**

When it comes to paying for college, 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**

[Study abroad](#) is possible for graduate students. There are more than 50 program opportunities, with programs on every continent.

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.
Students may also participate in a School of Sustainability study abroad program. More information is available on the College of Global Futures study abroad website. Many students in the program also conduct research abroad as part of their culminating experience.

**Career Opportunities**

Results of the School of Sustainability's 2021 alumni employment survey show that 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
- sustainability manager
- food policy analyst
- policy director
- senior advisor for sustainable food systems

**Contact Information**

[School of Sustainability](mailto:School of Sustainability@asu.edu) | WCPH 300LT
[FoodSystemsGrad@asu.edu](mailto:FoodSystemsGrad@asu.edu) | 480-727-6963