Sustainability Solutions, MSUS

Do you want to learn how to implement sustainability initiatives? This program allows you to combine foundational sustainability courses with electives in your area of interest and practical experience. Concurrent degree options are also available.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MSUS Sustainability Solutions
The MSUS program prepares students to apply sustainability principles and approaches to careers in a variety of fields, addressing complex human and environmental challenges. The focus is on developing solutions by working with stakeholders on these challenges using a sustainability framework.

A distinguishing element of the program is its applied approach and emphasis on learning how to develop solutions. Students begin the program with a foundation in sustainability theory and methods, then take electives in an area of interest.

Final courses include learning how to manage sustainability projects as well as the capstone experience, where students team up with a company, a government agency or a nongovernmental organization to develop a real-world sustainability solution. Carried out collaboratively in lieu of a thesis, the capstone provides practical experience positioning graduates for today's competitive, knowledge- and skill-intensive job market.

In order to promote access, students may submit a GPA petition if they don't meet the 3.00 GPA requirement for admission. More information can be found on the School of Sustainability graduate admission website at https://schoolofsustainability.asu.edu/admissions/application-process/graduate-admissions/.

Los Angeles location: Currently, programs of study are offered in a hybrid learning model. Select courses are offered through in-person instruction in the Herald Examiner building. The majority of courses are offered virtually from Arizona through a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning technologies. Students should consult their advisor and schedule of classes for additional information.
At a Glance

- **College/School:** College of Global Futures
- **Location:** Tempe campus, ASU at Los Angeles

Concurrent Program Options

Students can choose to create their own concurrent degree combination to match their interests by working with their academic advisor during or after their first semester of study. Some concurrent combinations are not possible due to high levels of overlap in curriculum; students should speak with their academic advisor for more details.

This degree is also offered as a concurrent program with the following:

- Legal Studies, MLS
  - Compare Programs
- Master of Mass Communication, MMC
  - Compare Programs
- Public Administration, MPA
  - Compare Programs
- Public Policy, MPP
  - Compare Programs
- Urban and Environmental Planning, MUEP
  - Compare Programs

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:

- Sustainability, BA
  - Sustainability, 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 applied project requirement of (SOS 593)
Required Core (6 credit hours)
SOS 508 Pathways to Sustainability (3) or SOS 510 Perspectives on Sustainability (3), and
SOS 509 Leading Sustainability Transitions or SOS 511 Advanced Sustainability Problem Solving (3)

Other Requirements (15 credit hours)
SOS 582 Project Management for Sustainability (3)
competency mastery courses (6)
methods courses (6)

Focus Area Electives (6 credit hours)

Culminating Experience (3 credit hours)
SOS 593 Applied Project (3)

Additional Curriculum Information
MSUS students specialize in a focus area and take six credit hours of elective coursework related to that area, with approval by their academic advisor.

For a list of approved courses that may fulfill the methods and competency mastery requirements, students should see the academic unit. No more than six credit hours of 400-level coursework can be included in the plan of study.

The Graduate College policies and procedures for fulfillment of degree requirements must also be met.

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.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. statement of intent
4. three letters of recommendation
5. resume or curriculum vitae
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.

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

The statement of intent should not exceed 600 words and should explain the goals the applicant intends to achieve through the plan of study, describe how the applicant's background will contribute to success in the program, explain how completion of the degree will support long-term career goals, and elaborate on project ideas the applicant wishes to pursue as part of the program of study.

Application Deadlines

Fall

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](https://goglobal.asu.edu/students/graduate-students)

Students may also participate in a School of Sustainability study abroad program. More information is available on the school's website: [https://schoolofsustainability.asu.edu/student-life/study-abroad](https://schoolofsustainability.asu.edu/student-life/study-abroad)

Career Opportunities

Professionals who understand how to solve difficult problems and know how to work with and draw from different disciplines are in high demand across sectors and industries. Graduates of the Master of Sustainability Solutions program have a knowledge base and skillset to bring sustainability solutions to sectors including business, education, nonprofit, governmental and nongovernmental organizations. Graduates bring competencies in collaboratively creating sustainability solutions, drawing on their ability to employ systems-thinking, develop future scenarios and sustainability visions, skillfully negotiate and reconcile diverse values, and devise strategies for action.

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. Students can learn more about careers in sustainability and where Master of Sustainability Solutions graduates are now employed, by visiting the
School of Sustainability alumni employment data website:

Career examples Include:

- chief sustainability officer
- environmental specialist
- industrial ecologist
- sustainability analyst
- sustainability consultant
- sustainability specialist
- urban planner

Contact Information

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Admission Deadlines