Sustainability Solutions, MSUS

Do you want to develop and implement solutions to critical sustainability problems, to make a lasting difference? Learn more about sustainability, gain practical experience, and be positioned to stand out in today’s competitive job market in the growing career field of sustainability, where you can help create a sustainable future.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MSUS Sustainability Solutions
The MSUS program teaches students how to analyze and solve sustainability challenges in organizations and communities. Students learn how to apply sustainability principles and approaches. The focus is on developing solutions in concert with stakeholders.

A distinguishing element of the program is its applied approach. Students begin the program with a foundation in sustainability frameworks and methods, then they take electives in an area of interest, and, ultimately, they use this knowledge to develop solutions to actual sustainability challenges in real time.

Final courses include learning how to manage sustainability projects. In the capstone experience, 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 that positions program graduates for today’s competitive, knowledge- and skills-intensive job market.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** College of Global Futures
- **Location:** Tempe, 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 plus master's degree with:

- Sustainability, BA
  - Compare Programs
- Sustainability, 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 applied project course (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 their 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.

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.

**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.

**Application Deadlines**

**Fall**

**Global Opportunities**

**Global Experience**

Study abroad is possible for graduate students. ASU has structured in-person program opportunities 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 mentorship and professional network growth in many fields of study while earning ASU credit. These courses can be taken as an elective in the student's program of study with permission from the advisor.

More information for graduate students can be found at the Global Education Office website. Programs offered by the School of Sustainability are listed on the school website.

**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 the knowledge base and skill set needed to create sustainability solutions in a variety of sectors including business, education, nonprofit, governmental and
nongovernmental organizations. Graduates are trained to help organizations approach differing values and perspectives in a collaborative way, understand and explore the complexity of systems, plan for various future scenarios, and develop strategies for action.

From the School of Sustainability's 2021 alumni employment survey, 89% of master's degree program respondents are either employed or pursuing continuing education. Of those employed, 86% 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](#)