



Certificate in Sustainability Studies

Cultivating Sustainability Leaders

Certificate in Sustainability Studies



The Certificate in Sustainability Studies equipped me with the necessary capacity building to tackle challenging issues society faces today. I increased my confidence and collaborated with other like-minded students who used innovative thinking to approach and understand various topics within sustainability such as food insecurity/security, ecological footprints, biomimicry design, food waste, etc.

— Niko Casuncad 2018 Certificate in Sustainability Studies Graduate

The University of Calgary's Certificate in Sustainability Studies provides a unique opportunity for undergraduate students to explore and experience different aspects of Sustainability Studies through new models of thinking and applied research. You will gain the knowledge, skills and exposure to the real-life scenarios needed for a career in sustainability. The Sustainability Certificate consists of four required core courses and two sustainability-focused elective courses that are embedded in your chosen degree program; elective selection is designed to fit your individual program requirements, but in a way that allows you to explore your interests and career goals.

The core courses begin with foundational sustainability principles, practices, challenges and opportunities in both an historical and contemporary context. Throughout the certificate you will apply foundational principles to complex social, ecological and sustainable design problems through research and experiential learning. Using systems models, design thinking, and quantitative and qualitative methods, you will learn how to work in teams to find solutions to complex sustainability problems at local, regional and global scales. Class sizes are small, course content is cross-disciplinary and you have the opportunity to engage directly with both sustainability problems and with faculty and expert practitioners who work on sustainability and resilience problems across the globe.

The first program of its kind at the University of Calgary

The Certificate in Sustainability Studies is based on an innovative experiential learning model that you can easily add to most undergraduate degrees¹ at no cost. UCalgary is a leader among Canadian universities with this new model for embedded sustainability education. The goal is to provide you with the thinking and problem-solving skill set needed for sustainability leadership, research, education, policy and planning.

¹ Note: students pursuing a degree in Law, Nursing, Social Work, Undergraduate Medical Education, Veterinary Medicine or a specialized program are not eligible to take the embedded certificate.

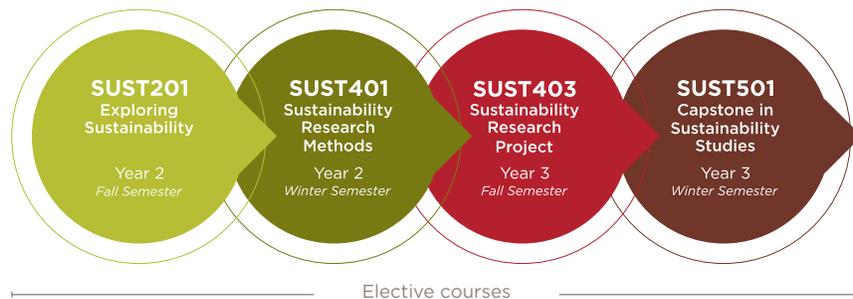
Developing Sustainability Leaders

Graduates of the Certificate in Sustainability Studies develop the necessary skill set to become sustainability leaders after graduation. Students will:

- Develop foundational knowledge of sustainability theories and concepts;
- Identify and critically examine sustainability issues from multiple perspectives and disciplines;
- Formulate and communicate sustainability-related arguments;
- Identify ethical issues that occur in the field of sustainability and use an evidence-based approach to evaluate them;
- Offer potential employers the integrated comprehension and experience in sustainability needs that they are looking for; and,
- Graduate with a comprehensive understanding of sustainability needs and opportunities.

After completing the Certificate in Sustainability Studies, you will be ready to enter into a variety of industries and jobs ranging from climate change adaptation to sustainable community design and sustainable futures planning, to natural and social resource conservation and stewardship, to renewable energy and regenerative food and water systems, product stewardship, municipal and federal planning and policy development, and community based and environmental monitoring, reporting and consulting. The emphasis on linking theory to practice through cross-disciplinary collaboration is a different kind of UCalgary educational experience.

Certificate Structure



SUST 201 and SUST 403 are offered during the fall semesters, while SUST 401 and SUST 501 will be offered during winter semesters.

In addition to the four core sustainability courses, students in the Certificate in Sustainability Studies are required to take six units (1.0 full-course equivalents) of elective courses, of which at least three units (0.5 full-course equivalents) must be taken at or above the 300-level. These elective courses are intended to provide breadth and disciplinary focus, while the core courses provide cross-disciplinary collaboration and depth in Sustainability Studies.

Learning Opportunities

Certificate in Sustainability Studies students have the opportunity to hear from a variety of external organizations, sustainability and equity consulting firms, researchers, institutions, not-for-profits and practitioners throughout the program.

Students will engage in applied research projects throughout the core courses both on and off-campus with a variety of stakeholders. These projects allow students to apply their classroom learnings to real sustainability challenges while also working with sustainability practitioners and leaders.