

MA and MS in Sustainability

Although the academic degree programs integrate a broad range of expertise in student training, the Master of Arts (MA) degree is best suited to students inclined towards social sciences, humanities, planning, and related fields, while the Master of Science (MS) degree is suited to those inclined towards natural sciences, economics, engineering and technology, and related fields. The MA and MS in Sustainability are research oriented degrees that focus on knowledge generation and research to address sustainability challenges in theory and practice. The program culminates with research writing (either a thesis or a scientific paper).

Course Requirements

The program of study will comprise a minimum of 37 credit hours. In summary:

| | Credits |
|---|-----------|
| Core Courses | 16 |
| Methods Elective | 3 |
| Normative Dimensions of Sustainability Elective | 3 |
| General Electives | 9 |
| Thesis or Capstone Publishable Scientific Paper | 6 |
| Total Credit Hours Required | 37 |

| Sem | Requirements By Semester | | | | Credits |
|-----|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------|---------|
| 1 | SOS 510 (3) | SOS 520 (3) | SOS 525 (3) | SOS 589 (1) | 10 |
| 2 | Normative Elective (3) | Methods Elective (3) | General Elective (3) | SOS 589 (1) | 10 |
| 3 | General Elective (3) | General Elective (3) | Optional Elective (1-3) | SOS 589 (1) | 7-10 |
| 4 | SOS 581 (3) | SOS 599 OR 596 (3) | SOS 599 OR 596 (3) | SOS 589 (1) | 10 |

Core Courses

Core courses will bring students together in an integrated learning environment to form a cohort of diverse backgrounds. They are designed to provide students with methods and theory appropriate to the study of sustainability. The students will explore the link between concepts of sustainability and systems approaches to knowledge, and will develop the integrative methods needed to work across the disciplines on sustainability problems.

| | |
|---------|---|
| SOS 510 | Perspectives on Sustainability (3) |
| SOS 520 | Research Design and Methods for Sustainability (3) |
| SOS 525 | Social-Ecological-Technical Systems (SETS): Domains and Interfaces (3) |
| SOS 581 | Synthesis for Sustainability Research (3) |
| SOS 589 | SOS Community of Graduate Student Scholars (1) <i>Taken over 4 semesters for 4 credit hours total</i> |

Methods Elective

Students should take at least one methods course pertinent to their research. This elective will be chosen from a limited set of approved options offered by the School's faculty. Students will select the appropriate course in consultation with their supervisory committee.

Normative Dimensions of Sustainability Elective

The intent of this elective would be to take a course that addresses the normative component of sustainability. Students will select the appropriate course in consultation with their supervisory committee.

General Electives

The selection of these electives will be left to the discretion of the student and the student's committee. However, these courses should serve to give the student specific depth in the SETS domains, interfaces, and sustainability competencies needed to conduct their research.

Thesis or Scientific Paper

Students will be required to devote six (6) credit hours to writing either a thesis (SOS 599) or a publishable scientific paper (SOS 596). All master's degree candidates must also be enrolled for at least one credit hour within the academic unit (i.e., the School of Sustainability) during the semester or summer session in which the thesis or paper is defended.

Careers

The MA and MS programs prepare students for doctoral programs or careers in research and academia.