Honors Opportunities in Sustainability

The School of Sustainability, together with the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability, provides innovative, interdisciplinary education and research opportunities for students to learn about and help solve environmental, social and economic challenges that are critical to sustaining communities and ecosystems around the world.

The undergraduate programs introduce students to the concept of sustainability in the context of real-world problems at local, regional and global levels. The programs stress diverse and holistic approaches in which students learn about the factors that affect the sustainability of environmental, economic and social systems. In this transdisciplinary program, students will be capable of communicating and learning across a number of disciplines as they build a foundation for solving some of the world’s most critical challenges.

Our degree programs include a Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Science (BS) in sustainability, both of which are flexible, interdisciplinary, solutions-oriented programs wherein students explore the sustainability of human societies and the natural environment on which they depend. The BA in sustainability is best suited to students inclined towards social sciences, humanities, planning and related fields. The BS in sustainability is best suited to those inclined towards natural sciences or engineering. The curriculum includes differences in additional coursework, particularly in math (BS) and a second language (BA). The tracks or areas of focus that students can pursue in each of the degree programs include the following.

BA Tracks:
- Society and Sustainability
- Policy and Governance in Sustainability
- International Development and Sustainability
- Sustainable Urban Dynamics

BS Tracks:
- Sustainable Energy, Materials and Technology
- Economics of Sustainability
- Sustainable Ecosystems

Careers in Sustainability
Sustainability graduates are prepared for admission into strong graduate and professional schools or may assume positions in industry, consultancy, utilities, regulatory agencies, non-profits, non-governmental organizations, or local, state or federal government. Career options depend on the student’s area of focus in the program. Recent graduates have gone on to work in government agencies, consulting firms, major corporations, non-profits and educational organizations. Visit our Careers in Sustainability page to find out more. School of Sustainability majors are encouraged to work directly with the school’s career services associate, Marsha Gonzaga.
Research & Thesis Opportunities
Faculty members in the School of Sustainability employ and advise students in conducting academic research on a wide array of topics, from economics and equity in international development to motivations and constraints for water or energy conservation. These positions entail paid jobs and potential honors thesis projects, as well as broader learning experiences. Course credit for independent research is also possible. Use the Expert Search to find more information on faculty expertise and interests, and to review a list of potential honors advisors.

Internships & Work Experience
ASU's sustainability program strongly supports students in their efforts to participate in real-world learning experiences, including volunteerism, internships and participating in on-campus organizations. Students may work directly with the school's assistant director of internships and experiential education to develop a sustainability internship or find available internships, volunteer opportunities and research projects on SustainabilityConnect.

Honors Classes & Contracts
The School of Sustainability offers a range of courses to engage students in learning about sustainability for honors credit, including an honors-only section of SOS 111 Sustainable Cities. Students can also request honors contracts for any SOS class taught by a faculty member. Workshop courses further allow students to develop hands-on experiences in collaborative settings with community partners.

Scholarships & Awards
The school recognizes excellence in learning through a variety of financial and other awards, from grants and loans to scholarships and fellowships.

Public Presentations & Discussions
Throughout the year, the school holds public presentations and discussions with sustainability scholars from ASU and elsewhere around the world, including our Wrigley Lecture Series. Topics range widely, from human vulnerability and adaptation to climate changes and the development of sustainable energy technologies – and so much more. Honors sustainability students are often invited to events and special engagements with speakers.

Sustainability Academy
The School of Sustainability Academy is a community of high-achieving, socially embedded sustainability students. The academy fosters academic success, leadership skills, community engagement, persistence through graduation and reaching goals beyond graduation. Academy students will participate in Camp SOS and other special events, and have access to peer and sustainability industry or academic mentors.

Honor Society for Sustainability
The Honor Society for Sustainability is a network of sustainability scholars that have demonstrated academic excellence and are committed to solving global sustainability challenges. HSS has two primary goals for its members: to give back to the community through service and to provide pre-professional development opportunities through guest speakers, networking mixers with alumni and business representatives, and faculty engagement. Two $500 scholarships are available each year to HSS members.

Sustainability Digest
The Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability distributes a weekly Sustainability Digest that summarizes upcoming lectures, community activities, work opportunities and much more. Subscribe today.

To learn more, visit the School of Sustainability at Wrigley Hall. You can make an appointment with our undergraduate advisors to discuss course offerings and degree program requirements using our online appointment scheduling tool. Alternatively, visit our web page or personally contact our faculty honors advisor, Michael Schoon.