**SUSTAINABILITY**

One of GW’s Interdisciplinary and Special Undergraduate programs, the 18-credit undergraduate minor in sustainability includes courses in three tracks: environment/earth systems, society and sustainability, and policy, organization, and leadership. Each track includes a choice of courses from several GW schools. Approved courses with varying topics and courses taken through study abroad can also be part of the program. Requirements include experiential learning and at least one course taken outside the student’s home school and discipline.

**REQUIREMENTS**

The 18-credit minor in sustainability includes a number of innovative features. Unlike other Universities where environmental studies or environmental management may be housed in a single school, the GW vision seeks to be genuinely trans-disciplinary. To encourage the participation of all schools and faculty, and to allow students to experience inter-disciplinary methods and approaches to sustainability, students will be required to take a minimum of 6 credits (including the inter-disciplinary introductory course) outside their home school and discipline.

Additionally, 3 credits of experiential learning will be required as a culminating experience for juniors or seniors. In order to give students a holistic view of sustainability, students are required to take at least 3 credits in each of the three tracks. Green Leaf courses (https://sustainability.gwu.edu/featured-green-leaf-courses-0) (courses that focus on or incorporate issues of sustainability in their syllabi) are automatically eligible to be counted for the minor, as long as they fit the structure.

**Foundation course:**

| SUST 1001 | Introduction to Sustainability |

**Tracks (at least 3 credits from each track):**

**Track A: Environmental/Earth Systems**

Courses in science or engineering that cover climate, energy, water or ecology

**Track B: Society and Sustainability**

Courses in public health, food, social equity, urban studies, international development or economics

**Track C: Policy, Organization and Leadership**

Courses in methods, policy, law, business, and organizational sciences

**Culminating experience:**

Experiential learning opportunity including sustainability-related field work, directed research, independent study, internships, community service, service learning courses, etc.

**SUST 1001 and permission of the program director are prerequisite to SUST 3095 through SUST 3098**

| SUST 3095 | Sustainability Fieldwork |
| SUST 3096 | Directed Research in SUST |
| SUST 3097 | Internship in SUST |
| SUST 3098 | Community Service in SUST |

Note: Students must get approval from academic advisor to arrange the culminating experience and to register for SUST 3097 and SUST 3098. For each of these courses there is an expectation of 40 hours of internship or service over the course of the semester.

A list of courses that fulfill each track can be found in the Undergraduate Minor in Sustainability Student Guide (https://sustainability.gwu.edu/sites/sustainability.gwu.edu/files/downloads/STUDENT%20GUIDE%20Undergraduate%20Sustainability%20Minor_0.pdf).

**COURSES**

**Explanation of Course Numbers**

- Courses in the 1000s are primarily introductory undergraduate courses
- Those in the 2000-4000s are upper-division undergraduate courses that can also be taken for graduate credit with permission and additional work
- Those in the 6000s and 8000s are for master’s, doctoral, and professional-level students
- The 6000s are open to advanced undergraduate students with approval of the instructor and the dean or advising office

**SUST 1001. Introduction to Sustainability. 3 Credits.**

The concept of sustainability is both broad and specific as it is applied to areas ranging from social systems to law, engineering, public health, and natural systems. The course considers goals, principles, and practical applications, with a multidisciplinary perspective on major environmental and social issues growing out of these concerns.

**SUST 2002. The Sustainable City. 3 Credits.**

This course will explore the connection between cities and sustainability. We consider sustainability from a variety of theoretical and practical perspectives and examine some of the most pressing and critical issues that must be addressed in order to create a sustainable city.

**SUST 2003. The Sustainable Plate. 3 Credits.**

The course will focus on how our dietary choices affect not only our health but the environment and those involved in the production of food. In this class we will explore the sustainable plate—how does dinner affect the future of the environment, economy, and society—from an interdisciplinary perspective.
**SUST 3095. Sustainability Fieldwork. 0-3 Credits.**
Research in the field that might include such efforts as wildlife management, pollution evaluation, or surveys. Students complete a series of reflection essays throughout the semester.

**SUST 3096. Directed Research in SUST. 3 Credits.**
Directed research with a GW faculty member or in a study abroad experience that might include laboratory research, archival work, or literature reviews. Students complete a series of reflection essays and other assignments throughout the semester. Prerequisites: Sust 1001 and by permission of instructor.

**SUST 3097. Internship in SUST. 3 Credits.**
A paid or unpaid internship with an organization working to implement sustainability or sustainability policy. Students complete a series of reflection essays and other assignments throughout the semester. Prerequisites: Sust 1001 and by permission of instructor.

**SUST 3098. Community Service in SUST. 0-3 Credits.**
Volunteer service with a nonprofit organization or federal agency working to implement sustainability or sustainability policy. Students complete a series of reflection essays and other assignments throughout the semester. Prerequisites: Sust 1001 and by permission of instructor.