



**SUSTAINABILITY GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM STUDENT HANDBOOK
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS 2024-25**

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SUSTAINABILITY GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM STUDENT HANDBOOK

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE 3

INTRODUCTION

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS GRADUATE SCHOOL HANDBOOK WEBLINK

DESCRIPTION OF GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

PURPOSE

PROGRAM CONTACTS

PAGE 4

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE AND CONTACTS

CURRICULUM FOCUS FOR STUDENTS OF THE SUSTAINABILITY GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

ELECTIVE COURSES

PAGE 5

ELECTIVE COURSES (CONTINUED)

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

PAGE 6

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

FACULTY ADVISOR AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ACADEMIC WARNING POLICY

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

GRADUATION/COMPLETION

SUSTAINABILITY GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM STUDENT HANDBOOK

INTRODUCTION

The Graduate Certificate in Sustainability is a University of Arkansas program with an administrative home in the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design. The material in this handbook will help you navigate the curriculum. This is a supplement to the University of Arkansas Graduate Handbook and Graduate Catalog.

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS GRADUATE SCHOOL HANDBOOK

<https://graduate-and-international.uark.edu/graduate/current-students/student-support/student-resources/graduate-handbook/index.php>

DESCRIPTION OF SUSTAINABILITY GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

The graduate certificate program is a fifteen unit program with one required foundational course in sustainability. The remaining twelve units are approved electives grouped into four categories. The categories are simply a framework to cognitively relate courses; they do not represent any requirements. An individual course may only be used once per each certificate.

Graduate Certificate - There are five three-unit courses required for the certificate in sustainability.

-either SUST 51003 or SEVI 50203 is required (you may take both and use one as an elective)

-Graduate Course Elective (3 units)

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There may be available courses with different credits than the three units noted above.

You must take twelve elective units of course work in addition to the required core course.

PURPOSE AND GOALS

The graduate sustainability certificate is meant to help students add value to their existing or concurrent degrees. The core course and electives are to help ground students in the theories, knowledge, skills, and case studies related to the practice of sustainability for the purposes of helping students gain employment.

CONTACTS

Professor Ken McCown, Director, Resiliency and Sustainability Curriculums

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Austin Brunson, Chief Program Administrative Lead

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Melinda Smith, Director of Student Services

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Jo Ann Kvamme, Program Administrative Back Up

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Austin Brunson handles the logistics of the program with Ken McCown from your initial inquiry into our program through to your graduation from the certificate. Austin will help you with the procedures involved in application, registration, and setting meetings with Ken McCown. Melinda Smith may help you with registration for courses and steps to official completion of the certificate. Ken McCown will provide academic advising from the perspectives of career focus and academic strategy for your course planning. Please do not hesitate to contact us regarding any issues you may be having during your academic experience. We are dedicated to student success in the certificate.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The sustainability certificate program nests within the Graduate School and International Education (GSIE) unit of the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. All students are part of GSIE Interdisciplinary graduate programs. Students may contact kennethm@uark.edu any time with questions or concerns.

The program administration is housed in the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design in the Department of Landscape Architecture. The curriculum is a university curriculum and a representative body of the University of Arkansas' Colleges are on the curriculum committee.

CURRICULUM FOCUS FOR STUDENTS OF THE SUSTAINABILITY GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

The graduate sustainability certificate, in alignment with the purposes and goals above, provides students with a better understanding of sustainability with an emphasis on theories of sustainability, methods of sustainable science, and principles for sustainable development. This certificate may add value to your curriculum if you are adding it to another degree program. Our experience since the inception of the program is that students graduating from the certificate have a relative advantage in the job market compared to job applicants.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Each individual's program schedule will vary. Upon program application and admission, each student should meet with Ken McCown for advising. In this advising session, we will work together to lay out a course plan and schedule. This course plan is not a contract, but a means of beginning the curriculum with a plan and a schedule for completion. We recommend taking SUST 51003 or SEVI 50203 as soon as possible after entering into the certificate program curriculum.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Four groups organize the elective courses: natural systems, built systems, managed systems, and social systems. These groups do not impose any kind of requirement for you; they are to help you sort through the elective list. Electives need to be 50000 or 60000 level; you may inquire and/or petition for courses below this threshold if they do not appear on the list below. If there are electives not on this list that you feel might be of use to the Certificate, please do not hesitate to contact Ken McCown and seek further evaluation of the course with him. As noted above, you need 12 units (typically four courses) to augment your core course.

Natural Systems

BENG 59303	Environmental and Ecological Risk Assessment (<i>sp</i>). 3 hours.
BIOL 41573	Biology of Global Change. (<i>Sp</i>). 4 hours.
BIOL 58473	Conservation Biology (<i>irregular</i>). 3 hours.
BIOL 59373	Global Biogeochemistry: Elemental Cycles and Environmental Change (<i>odd yrs, Sp</i>). 3 hrs.
CSES 52204	Soil Physics (<i>Sp</i>). 4 hours.
CSES 52604	Microbial Ecology (<i>odd years, Fa</i>). 4 hours.
ENDY 51103	Global Change (<i>Sp</i>). 3 hours.
ENDY 60103	Environmental Dynamics (<i>Fa</i>). 3 hours.

Built Systems

ARCH 40203	Advanced Architectural Studies (<i>Sp, Fa</i>). 3 hours.
BENG 56103	Simulation Modeling of Biological Systems (<i>irregular</i>). 3 hours.
BENG 56203	Life Cycle Assessment (<i>Sp</i>). 3 hours.
CVEG 48603	Sustainability in Civil Engineering (<i>irregular</i>). 3 hours.

Managed Systems

AGEC 41603	Agricultural and Rural Development (<i>Sp</i>). 3 hours.
AGEC 51303	Agricultural and Environmental Resource Economics (<i>Sp</i>). 3 hours.
BENG 56103	Simulation Modeling of Biological Systems (<i>Irregular</i>). 3 hours.
BENG 56303	Linkages Among Technology, Economics and Societal Values (<i>Sp, Fa</i>). 3 hours.
CSES 41003	Plant Breeding, (<i>Fa</i>) 3 hours.
CSES 41303	Ecology and Morphology of Weedy and Invasive Plants (<i>Fa</i>). 3 hours.
CSES 41403	Principles of Weed Control (<i>Sp</i>). 3 hours.
CSES 42204	Soil Fertility (<i>Fa</i>) . 4 hours.
CSES 50203	Physiology of Herbicide and Plant Interaction (<i>odd years, Sp</i>). 3 hours.
CSES 50303	Advanced Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition (<i>even years, Sp</i>). 3 hours.
MGMT 42403	Ethics and Corporate Responsibility (<i>Sp, Fa</i>). 3 hours.
SEVI 58403	Cross-Sector Collaboration for Sustainability (<i>irregular</i>). 3 hours
SCMT 51203	Sustainable Logistics and Supply Chain Management (<i>irregular</i>). 3 hours.

Social Systems

AGEC 41603	Agricultural and Rural Development (<i>Sp</i>). 3 hours.
AGEC 51503	The Economics of Public Policy (<i>Sp</i>). 3 hours.
CVEG 42003	Environmental Regulations and Permits (<i>Fa</i>). 3 hours.
ENDY 60303	Society and Environment (<i>Sp</i>). 3 hours.
GEOS 46903	Environmental Justice (<i>Sp</i>). 3 hours.
HIST 47703	Diplomatic History of the US. 1945 – Present (<i>irregular</i>). 3 hours.
LAWW 70850V	Federal Nutrition Law and Policy (<i>irregular</i>). variable hours (estimated 1-2).
PLSC 51703	Community Development (<i>Fa</i>). 3 hours.
SOCI 46003	Environmental Sociology (<i>Sp</i>). 3 hours.
SOCI 51103	Seminar in Social Inequality (<i>irregular</i>). 3 hours.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

A. University of Arkansas Graduate School and International Education

1. Admission Requirements

Students are required to have a BA/BS from an accredited university or college and a 3.0 GPA. <https://graduate-and-international.uark.edu/graduate/future-students/applying/degree-seeking.php>. International students must document proof of English proficiency through one of the accepted English Proficiency tests <https://international-admissions.uark.edu/graduate-studies/english-proficiency.php>

2. Apply!

To apply to the graduate certificate program go to <https://graduate-and-international.uark.edu/graduate/future-students/applying/degree-seeking.php> Applications for this program are accepted all year long.

3. To complete an application you must:

- ☐ fill out an application, (if you are already a graduate student in the program, you are done after this step and you should not have to pay an additional application fee)
- ☐ upload your transcript(s),
- ☐ language exams (if applicable), and
- ☐ pay the fee
- ☐ Do NOT forget to hit submit your application!

Only once these steps are complete may we review your application.

Once a student is admitted you will receive a letter stating that you must accept. You must complete this step in your application portal. Next, you will receive information how to create an UARK account which will be needed for your coursework.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Limited financial aid may be available including the W. E. Manning Memorial Scholarship. See the website for details and eligibility <https://online.uark.edu/manning-scholarship/>

FACULTY ADVISOR AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Students will work with the Director of the University of Arkansas' Sustainability and Resilience curriculums as the program coordinator to ensure they are taking the courses needed to fulfill the certificate. Students registered for the master's degree will choose an advisory committee. Since there is no degree component, no committee for the certificate will be necessary.

ACADEMIC WARNING POLICY

In the event of grades dropping below the University of Arkansas requirements such that you are placed on academic probation you will not be able to progress toward your certification or degree until the warning is lifted.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

A. Grievance Procedure

If a discrepancy between the instructor and students arises the students shall follow the steps below:

- 1. Contact the instructor directly in writing (or email) and state the nature of the problem.*
2. If the instructor is not able to resolve the problem to the student's satisfaction, the student contacts the Director, Professor McCown kennethm@uark.edu in writing outlining them.
3. If the Director is not able to resolve the problem the student must proceed through a formal appeal procedure describing in the graduate School catalog <https://catalog.uark.edu/undergraduatecatalog/academicregulations/studentacademicappeals/>

GRADUATION

You must apply to graduate and/or complete the certificate in UACONNECT before the deadline in the semester you wish to receive your degree/certificate and complete all courses by the deadline for the specific semester. <https://graduate-and-international.uark.edu/graduate/current-students/commencement-graduation.php>