



GRADUATE PORTFOLIO PROGRAM IN SUSTAINABILITY

Program Description

The Graduate Portfolio Program in Sustainability provides Master and doctoral students with a trans-disciplinary framework to study and research issues related to sustainability. Sustainability is an emerging discourse that simultaneously addresses issues of economic development, environmental protection, and social equity. The objectives of the portfolio program are to:

1. Provide a cohesive plan of study in sustainability;
2. Prepare students for leadership roles in academic and professional practice;
3. Foster trans-disciplinary research and dialogue between graduate students and participating faculty members interested in sustainability; and,
4. Assist students in publishing research on sustainability topics.

The University of Texas at Austin offers portfolio programs to introduce students to trans-disciplinary areas of academic inquiry while completing degree requirements in an established discipline. Portfolio programs are not degree programs; instead they provide an opportunity for graduate students to orient their studies to address a specific topic that overlaps several disciplines. These programs are similar to a minor area of study or a certificate program at other institutions. To be eligible, students must be admitted to a graduate degree program in one of the following academic units at UT-Austin:

School of Architecture
McCombs School of Business
College of Engineering
Jackson School of Geosciences

LBJ School of Public Affairs
College of Liberal Arts
College of Natural Sciences

Program Requirements

The requirements for the program include coursework, a scholarly paper, and a presentation. Each requirement is described in the following paragraphs.

Coursework

Each participant is required to complete four courses for a total of 12 credits from the Approved Course list (see pages 3-6). There are no required courses. The coursework should reflect a thematic course of study specific to the participant's research interests (see pages 6-7). The following requirements apply to all program participants:

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1. A minimum portfolio GPA of 3.0 and a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 must be maintained while participating in the program.
2. An independent study or conference course may be substituted for no more than one course and must be approved by the Faculty Steering Committee.
3. Master students can substitute one course (three credits) with an internship that includes a substantial focus on sustainability issues. Doctoral students cannot substitute an internship for credit.
4. Availability of enrollment space within any listed course is subject to the instructor's permission.

Scholarly Paper

Each participant is required to complete a substantive scholarly paper on a topic related to his or her thematic course of study. Participants should write their papers for an audience familiar with the concepts of sustainability and sustainable development but should be general enough to engage scholars outside of the participant's principal discipline. Participants are encouraged to use data and concepts from their theses and dissertations but the paper must be a separate, stand-alone document. A completed thesis or dissertation is not an acceptable substitute for the paper requirement. The Faculty Steering Committee evaluates student papers.

Doctoral participants are required to submit their papers to academic, peer-reviewed scholarly journals for publishing or to a scholarly conference for presentation. The Program Coordinator will assist doctoral students in navigating publishing and conference submission processes. Master participants are not required to submit their papers for publishing but are encouraged to do so.

Presentation

All participants are required to present their scholarly papers at the Sustainability Colloquium hosted by the Center for Sustainable Development before the end of their course of study. Participants are expected to attend the colloquium on a regular basis.

Admission Procedures

Graduate students at UT-Austin may apply to the program at any point in their graduate study. Applications are accepted at any time but students are encouraged to submit application materials at least two semesters before graduating. Each applicant must be in good standing in a graduate degree program in one of the Academic Units listed on page 1. To apply, students are required to submit the Program Application Form (page 9) along with the following documents:

1. An academic summary from the Registrar's Office as proof of enrollment and good academic standing in a graduate degree program in one of the participating Academic Units (see Page 1).

2. A two-page essay describing the relationship of the program to the student's degree program, career goals and interests, and a proposed thematic course of study (see pages 6-7 for examples).
3. A list and written rationale for the four courses (twelve credit hours) to be completed for the program.

Enrollment applications are reviewed by the Faculty Steering Committee at the beginning of the fall and spring semesters each year. Admission to the program will be selective and the Faculty Steering Committee reserves the right to admit or reject applicants based on evaluation of applications and program capacity. The program is administered by the Center for Sustainable Development. If you have questions about the program requirements, contact Dr. Steven Moore (samoore@mail.utexas.edu).

Affiliated Faculty Members

The following is the list of faculty members who are affiliated with the program. These individuals are familiar with the intent of the program and have agreed to have their sustainability courses included in the Approved Course list.

| <u>School or Department</u> | <u>Faculty Member</u> |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Architectural Engineering | Jeffrey Siegel |
| Architecture | Dean Almy, Michael Garrison, Michael Holleran, Werner Lang, Steven Moore, Stephen Ross |
| Biology | Richard Richardson |
| Chemical Engineering | David Allen |
| Civil Engineering | Kara Kockelman, Daene McKinney, James O'Connor |
| Community & Regional Planning | Kent Butler, Sarah Dooling, Talia McCray, Steven Moore, Elizabeth Mueller, Michael Oden, Robert Paterson, Bjorn Sletto, Frederick Steiner, Patricia Wilson, Ming Zhang |
| History | Erika Bsumek |
| Legal Environment of Business | David Spence |
| Economics | Don Fullerton, Robertson Williams |
| Geography & the Environment | Paul Adams, Karl Butzer, Kelley Crews, William Doolittle, Paul Hudson, Gregory Knapp |
| Geologic Sciences | Charles Groat |
| Management | John Doggett |
| Philosophy | Sahotra Sarkar |
| Public Policy | David Eaton, Shama Gamhkar, Shreyasi Jha |
| Sociology | Joseph Potter, Bryan Roberts |

Approved Counselist

The following is the Approved Counselist for the program. This list is updated twice a year to reflect changes in UT-Austin course offerings.

Anthropology

ANT 382N Geoarchaeology and Environmental History Butzer

Architecture

ARC 386M Agenda 21: Sustainable Urbanism Almy
ARC 386M Topics in Sustainable Development Moore
ARC 386M Building Codes and the Environment Moore
ARC 386M Cultural Landscape Preservation Holleran
ARC 386M Economy/Value/Quality of Life Ross
ARC 386M Housing, Landscape and Urbanism Almy
ARC 386M Seminar in Sustainable Design Lang
ARC 386M Society, Nature, and Technology Moore
ARC 386M Sustainable Architecture Garrison

Architectural Engineering

ARE 381E Design of Energy-Efficient and Healthy Buildings Siegel
ARE 389T Indoor Air Quality: Transport and Control Siegel
ARE 395 Value Management Processes II O'Connor

Biology

BIO 384K Natural Resource Management Richardson

Chemical Engineering

CHE 384 Engineering Sustainable Technology Allen

Civil Engineering

C E 389 Design of Energy-Efficient and Healthy Buildings Siegel
C E 389T Indoor Air Quality: Transport and Control Siegel
C E 392T Transportation Economics Kockelman
C E 395 Value Management Processes II O'Connor
C E 397 Transboundary Water Resources McKinney

Community and Regional Planning

CRP 381 Deep Democracy: Dialogue of Exchange Wilson
CRP 381 Growth Management Paterson
CRP 381 International Sustainable Social Development Wilson
CRP 381 Participatory Methods in Community Planning Wilson
CRP 381 Transit Oriented Development Zhang
CRP 383 Environment and Natural Resources Butler
CRP 383 Environmental Impact Assessment Paterson
CRP 383 Environmental Policy and Ethics Steiner
CRP 383 Environmental Readings Steiner

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|---|---|---------------|
| CRP 383 | Introduction to Urban Ecology | Dooling |
| CRP 383 | Redeveloping Contaminated Land | Paterson |
| CRP 383 | Topics in Sustainable Development | Moore |
| CRP 383 | Urban Environmental Analysis | Butler/Sletto |
| CRP 384 | International Transportation Issues | Zhang |
| CRP 384 | Metropolitan Transportation Studies with GIS | Zhang |
| CRP 384 | Participatory Methods in Community Planning | Wilson |
| CRP 384 | Transportation, Access, and Equity | McCray |
| CRP 385C | Community Development: History & Current Practices | Mueller |
| CRP 385C | Sustainable Urban Economic Development Planning | Oden |
| CRP 385C | Planning and Development in Latin America | Sletto |
| CRP 386 | Agenda 21: Sustainable Urbanism | Almy |
| CRP 386 | International Development and Participation | Wilson |
| CRP 386 | Applied Geographic Information Systems | Sletto |
| CRP 387C | Infrastructure Planning | Butler |
| CRP 387C | Water Resources Planning | Butler |
| CRP 386 | Regional Planning and Governance | Oden |
| CRP 388 | Affordable Housing Policy | Mueller |
| CRP 389C | Cultural Landscape Preservation | Holleran |
| CRP 389C | Research in Land Development | Ross |
| <u>Economics</u> | | |
| ECO 384N | Environmental Economics | Fullerton |
| ECO 384N | Natural Resource Economics | Williams |
| <u>Energy and Environmental Resources</u> | | |
| EER 396 | Energy and Environmental Policy Challenges | Groat |
| <u>Geography</u> | | |
| GRG 384C | Watershed Systems and Environmental Management | Hudson |
| GRG 382K | Geoarchaeology and Environmental History | Butzer |
| GRG 390C | Landscape, Meaning and Society | Butzer |
| GRG 390S | Environment, Development and Food Production | Doolittle |
| GRG 391 | Cross-Border Water Management | Eaton |
| GRG 395D | Latin American Cultures, Environment, and Development | Knapp |
| GRG 396T | Cross-Border Water Management | Eaton |
| GRG 396T | Ecology & Environmental Policy | Crews |
| GRG 396T | Environmental Impact Assessment | Paterson |
| GRG 396T | Landuse/Landcover Change Practicum | Crews |
| GRG 396T | Place, Politics, and Culture | Adams |
| GRG 396T | Redeveloping Contaminated Land | Paterson |
| GRG 396T | Urban Environmental Analysis | Butler/Sletto |

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| GRG 493K | Remote Sensing of the Environment | Crews |
| <u>Geology</u> | | |
| GEO 391 | Cross-Border Water Management | Eaton |
| GEO 391 | Texas Energy Policy | Eaton |
| <u>History</u> | | |
| HIS 392 | Environmental History | Bsumek |
| <u>Landscape Architecture</u> | | |
| LAR 382K | Environmental Policy and Ethics | Steiner |
| LAR 385 | Environmental Readings | Steiner |
| LAR 385 | Environmental Impact Assessment | Paterson |
| LAR 385 | Redeveloping Contaminated Land | Paterson |
| LAR 388 | Agenda 21: Sustainable Urbanism | Almy |
| LAR 388 | Housing, Landscape and Urbanism | Almy |
| <u>Latin American Studies</u> | | |
| LAS 381 | Citizenship and Social Policy in Latin America | Roberts |
| LAS 381 | Evaluation of Social Politics in Latin America | Potter |
| LAS 381 | Planning and Development in Latin America | Sletto |
| LAS 388 | Latin American Cultures, Environment, and Development | Knapp |
| <u>Legal Environment of Business</u> | | |
| LEB 380 | Energy Law | Spence |
| LEB 380 | Environmental Regulation of Business | Spence |
| <u>Management</u> | | |
| MAN 385 | Management and Sustainability Practices | Doggett |
| MAN 385 | Topics in Sustainable Development | Moore |
| MAN 385M | Managing and Marketing in the Global Arena | Doggett |
| <u>Middle Eastern Studies</u> | | |
| MES 381 | Cross-Border Water Management | Eaton |
| <u>Philosophy</u> | | |
| PHL 386 | Philosophy of Science: Decision Theory and Practice | Sarkar |
| PHL 388 | Environmental Philosophy | Sarkar |
| <u>Public Affairs</u> | | |
| P A 388K | Business, Government, and Public Policy | Spence |
| P A 388K | Energy and Environmental Policy Challenges | Groat |
| P A 388K | Energy Law | Spence |
| P A 388K | International Economic Development | Jha |
| P A 388K | International Environmental Governance | Jha |
| P A 388L | Natural Resource Policy | Eaton |
| P A 388R | Environmental Regulation of Business | Spence |
| P A 682 | Cross-Border Water Management | Eaton |

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| P A 682 | Texas Energy Policy | Eaton |
| P A 682A | Sustainable Energy Roadmap for Austin | Eaton |
| P A 693 | Political Economy: Environmental Economics | Gamhkar |
| <u>Sociology</u> | | |
| SOC 384M | Evaluation of Social Politics in Latin America | Potter |
| SOC 395D | Citizenship and Social Policy in Latin America | Roberts |
| SOC 395D | Economic Development and Social Change | Roberts |

Examples of Thematic Courses of Study

The following examples illustrate the wide range of thematic courses of study available to participants and related courses from the Approved Course list. Participants are not limited to these themes and are encouraged to develop individual themes that reflect their specific academic interests.

Example 1 - Sustainable Low-Income Housing Design

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|----------|--|
| ARC 386M | Sustainable Design & Development Workshop |
| C E 389 | Design of Energy-Efficient and Healthy Buildings |
| CRP 388A | Affordable Housing Development and Design |
| SOC 395D | Economic Development and Social Change |

Example 2 - Sustainable Water Management

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| C E 397 | Transboundary Water Resources |
| CRP 387C | Infrastructure Planning |
| GRG 384C | Watershed Systems and Environmental Management |
| GEO 391 | Cross-Border Water Management |

Example 3 - Sustainable Business Theory

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|----------|---|
| CRP 385C | Sustainable Urban Economic Development Planning |
| ECO 384N | Natural Resource Economics |
| LEB 380 | Environmental Regulation of Business |
| P A 388K | Business, Government and Public Policy |

Example 4 - Sustainable Development Issues in Latin America

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| GRG 396T | Land Use/Land Cover Change Practicum |
| LAS 381 | Evaluation of Social Politics in Latin America |
| P A 388K | International Economic Development |
| SOC 395D | Citizenship and Social Policy in Latin America |

Example 5 - Sustainable Energy Policy

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| ECO 384N | Environmental Economics |
| GEO 391 | Texas Energy Policy |
| EER 396 | Energy and Environmental Policy Challenges |
| P A 388K | Energy Law |

Example 6 - Sustainable Technological Development

ARC 386M Society, Nature, and Technology
CHE 384 Engineering Sustainable Technology
MAN 385 Topics in Sustainable Development
PHL 386 Philosophy of Science: Decision Theory and Practice

Example 7 – Civic Environmentalism

ARC 386M Sustainable Design and Development Workshop
BIO 384K Natural Resource Management
CRP 381 Introduction to Urban Ecology
CRP 384 Participatory Methods in Community Planning

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. When should I submit an application for the program?*

You should submit an application at least two semesters before you intend to graduate. If you plan to graduate in the spring or summer, you should submit your application before the first day of the fall semester. If you plan to graduate in the fall, you should submit your application before the first day of the spring semester.
- 2. If I meet the program requirements, will my application automatically be accepted?*

Not necessarily. This is a competitive program and not all applications will be accepted due to administrative limitations and University policies. However, the Faculty Steering Committee will attempt to include all students who meet the program requirements and demonstrate a strong interest in sustainability and sustainable development issues.
- 3. Can I apply courses to the program that I have completed in previous semesters?*

Yes, you can fulfill the program's course requirements with courses you have successfully completed in previous semesters in the same degree program. However, these courses must be included on the Approved Course list or be approved by the Faculty Steering Committee.
- 4. Can I substitute a course that is not on the Approved Course list?*

Possibly. If you find a course that has a substantial focus on sustainability or sustainable development, please send the course title and description to the program coordinator and request that it be considered by the Faculty Steering Committee.
- 5. Are there other portfolio programs at UT?*

Yes, there are several other portfolio programs available at UT in a variety of subjects. Students interested in this portfolio program may also be interested in programs such as Integrated Watershed Science, Mexican American Studies, and Societal Impacts of Science & Technology. The Graduate School maintains a current list of all portfolio programs at www.utexas.edu/ogs/docport/index.html.

6. *Will my participation in the program be reflected on my transcript?*
Yes, students who successfully complete the program requirements will have a statement added to their transcripts that reads, "With Certification in the Graduate Portfolio Program in Sustainability".
7. *If accepted, what are there deadlines for completing the program requirements?*
All program requirements must be completed within a year of your graduation date from UT. If you do not complete the program requirements in this time period, you will be dropped from the program.
8. *What is sustainability anyway?*
Sustainability is interpreted in various ways and it is not necessarily helpful to provide a rigid definition. However, advocates of sustainability and sustainable development would probably agree that the concepts involve the simultaneous consideration of interrelated issues in the long-term. The intent of this program is to engage students and faculty members from across campus in a broad discussion of how long-term, holistic perspectives can be employed to solve social, environmental, political, and economic problems in ways that are equitable and effective.
9. *Where can I find out more about sustainability activities at UT?*
See the Center for Sustainable Development's website at <http://soa.utexas.edu/csd/> for more information on sustainability and sustainable development research at UT.
10. *If I have further questions, who can I contact?*
Contact Meghan Kleon, Advisor for the Graduate Portfolio Program in Sustainability at meghanferankleon@mail.utexas.edu.

