SUSTAINABILITY

The field of sustainability explores the ways in which we maximize both environmental and social well-being while solving complex challenges. Solving real-life problems require the skills and perspectives of people from multiple disciplines and backgrounds. A sustainability dual major provides the skills and knowledge needed to understand these systems, identify relevant environmental and social issues, and become agents of change in a complex world.

Students from any UNH college or major can pair the sustainability dual major with the first major. From local to global, you’ll learn to analyze, evaluate, critique, and create new ideas and models around sustainability. As a cross-disciplinary field of study and practice, you’ll make connections across issues of science and ethics, policy and technology, and culture and history to better understand and take action on pressing issues of our time.

You will learn to:

- Describe and recognize the ecological and social foundations of sustainability
- Examine specific grand challenges of sustainability, such as climate change, agriculture, and energy
- Analyze sustainability case studies at local, regional, and global scales
- Engage with the challenges of sustainability at the UNH campus and surrounding region
- Work in interdisciplinary teams
- Apply a systems perspective towards analyzing sustainability problems
- Explore the role of values and ethics in sustainability
- Learn how to work with partners in defining problems, producing and analyzing data, and developing solutions
- Complete a capstone project in sustainability
- Hone leadership skills and prepare for a career in the expanding sustainability field

https://sustainableunh.unh.edu/

Programs

- Sustainability Dual Major (http://catalog.unh.edu/undergraduate/special-university-programs/sustainability/sustainability-dual-major)

Courses

Sustainability (SUST)

SUST 401 - Surveying Sustainability
Credits: 2
This interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary course explores the history of sustainability and the varied and changing meanings of the concept. It focuses on the principles of sustainability in support of the long-term welfare of humans and the earth system. Students discuss and debate a set of global grand challenges, their local and national ramifications, and how to connect knowledge to action. To count towards the SDM, it must be followed by SUST 401B at Shoals Marine Lab.

SUST 401B - Surveying Sustainability Lab
Credits: 2
This week long intensive course takes place at the Shoals Marine Laboratory, and must be preceded by SUST 401A. This course is focused on using the Isles of Shoals archipelago as a case study of the ecological, economic, and social aspects of sustainability, as explored through a systems framework.

SUST 501 - Sustainability Perspectives and Methods
Credits: 4
Sustainability Perspectives and Methods will explore the multiple ways in which we measure, assess and use concepts of sustainability. We begin by establishing the cross-cutting perspectives and methods that run throughout sustainability science including transdisciplinarity, systems thinking, stakeholder-driven research, and solutions-based projects. The course builds on this foundational knowledge to delve more deeply into sustainability challenges as examined through specific perspectives including the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences.

SUST 600 - Sustainability Independent Study
Credits: 1-4
SUST 600 will provide an independent study to students who are interested in studying a topic in sustainability in depth. Due to the highly personalized nature of SUST 600, the specific readings, activities and assignments will vary based on student interests and disciplinary backgrounds. At a minimum, students will be guided in how to prepare a project proposal, place their work within the current literature on the topic, and complete a final project.

SUST 605 - Sustainability Internship
Credits: 1-4
SUST 605 will provide credit for practical work or a project experience in sustainability. The purpose of SUST 605 is to gain practical experience working in a sustainability field while simultaneously achieving specific learning goals pre-identified by the student and faculty mentor.

SUST 750 - Sustainability Capstone
Credits: 4
The Sustainability Capstone is the culminating experience in a series of three core courses for the Sustainability Dual Major. The objective of SUST 750 is to synthesize the knowledge obtained in other core and elective courses taken for the Sustainability Dual Major and apply it to a project. In doing so, students will explore areas of interest, reflect on undergraduate learning experiences, and experience the interdisciplinary aspects of sustainability issues.

Attributes: Writing Intensive Course
Faculty

https://sustainableunh.unh.edu/sdm