SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is about balancing environmental stewardship, social well-being, and economic vitality to meet our present needs while ensuring the ability of future generations to meet their needs. At its core, sustainability is a collective commitment to valuing human dignity for all people and ensuring ecological integrity of places that support us.

Students from any UNH college or major can pair the sustainability dual major with their first major. You'll learn to analyze, evaluate, and create new ideas and models around sustainability. As a cross-disciplinary and applied 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. Solving real-life problems requires 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.

Sustainability dual major (SDM) students will:

Comprehend grand challenges

Students will gain knowledge of the fundamental aspects of sustainability challenges, such that they understand the problems and develop solutions to complex issues.

Think in systems

Students will have an ability to analyze and synthesize the interconnections among environmental, social, and economic aspects of complex systems, as well as how problems manifest at different scales (local to global) and at different times (connections between past, present, and future).

Advocate for values

Students will be able to identify, assess, respect, and navigate the diverse values, interests, and types of knowledge inherent in sustainability challenges, while simultaneously addressing power imbalances and promoting social justice.

Apply knowledge to a lifetime of action

Personal practice: Students will understand how sustainability impacts their lives and can assess how their actions impact sustainability at personal, institutional, and societal levels.

Professional practice: All students will, regardless of major, understand how their professional work contributes to sustainable communities, and can apply disciplinary and other forms of knowledge to contribute to sustainable solutions.

Interpersonal practice: Students will learn how to collaborate across disciplines and across stakeholder groups to jointly determine project goals, create knowledge, and develop solutions to sustainability challenges.

https://sustainableunh.unh.edu/

Programs

- Sustainability Dual Major

Courses

Sustainability (SUST)

SUST 401 - Surveying Sustainability
Credits: 4
This interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary course explores the history of sustainability and the varied and changing meanings of the concept. It focuses on the principles and challenges 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. Sustainability is explored through case studies, experiential learning, individual research and team projects.

SUST 401A - Surveying Sustainability
Credits: 2
This 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.

Co-requisite: SUST 401B

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.

Co-requisite: SUST 401A

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. Prereq: SUST 401.

Attributes: Writing Intensive Course

SUST 600 - Sustainability Independent Study
Credits: 1-4
SUST 600 will provide an independent study to students who are interested in studying of 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. Prereq: SUST 401. Permission required.

Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 8 credits.
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. Prereq: SUST 401. Permission required.  
**Repeat Rule:** May be repeated for a maximum of 8 credits.

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. Prereq: SUST 401, SUST 501. Permission required. Writing intensive.  
**Attributes:** Writing Intensive Course

Faculty  
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