

Undergraduate Academic Assessment Plan 2012 2013

Sustainability Studies

College of Liberal Arts
and Sciences

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Sustainability Studies

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Undergraduate Academic Assessment Plan

Mission Statement

The Bachelor of Arts in Sustainability Studies teaches students about the dynamic relationship between environmental health, economic welfare, and social justice in a changing world. It provides the knowledge and skills students require to understand the interdependence of these three goods and investigate how they best can be pursued over the long term on local, national, and global levels. The BASS embodies UF's and CLAS's mission and commitment to excellence in pedagogy and scholarship and seeks to contribute to the sustainability of the campus, the local community, Florida, the nation, and the world.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

Existing SLOs for this degree:

Content

1. Broad knowledge of sustainability scholarship, including natural scientific, social scientific, and humanistic approaches.
2. Knowledge of the relationship of sustainability to Ethics, Culture and Human Behavior; Economics, Law and Policy; Production Systems and the Built Environment; Ecology and Environmental Stewardship.

Critical Thinking

3. Critical assessment of sustainability principles and practices.

Communication

4. Effective written and/or oral communication of a range of approaches, frameworks, principles, and practices of sustainability.

Revised SLOs for the 2013-14 undergraduate catalog:

Content

1. Define and explain sustainability scholarship, including natural scientific, social scientific, and humanistic approaches.
2. Define and explain the relationship of sustainability to Ethics, Culture and Human Behavior; Economics, Law and Policy; Production Systems and the Built Environment; Ecology and Environmental Stewardship.

Critical Thinking

3. Critically assess sustainability principles and practices.

Communication

4. Effectively write and/or oral communicate a range of approaches, frameworks, principles, and practices of sustainability.

New/Revised SLOs, 2013-14*	Link to 2012-13* SLOs
Content	
Define and explain sustainability scholarship, including natural scientific, social scientific, and humanistic approaches.	Broad knowledge of sustainability scholarship, including natural scientific, social scientific, and humanistic approaches.
Define and explain the relationship of sustainability to Ethics, Culture and Human Behavior; Economics, Law and Policy; Production Systems and the Built Environment; Ecology and Environmental Stewardship.	Knowledge of the relationship of sustainability to Ethics, Culture and Human Behavior; Economics, Law and Policy; Production Systems and the Built Environment; Ecology and Environmental Stewardship.
Critical Thinking	
Critically assess sustainability principles and practices.	Critical assessment of sustainability principles and practices.
Communication	
Effectively write and/or orally communicate a range of approaches, frameworks, principles, and practices of sustainability.	Effective written and/or oral communication of a range of approaches, frameworks, principles, and practices of sustainability.

*undergraduate catalog dates

Curriculum Map

Curriculum Map for:

Sustainability Studies

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Key: Introuduced

Reinforced

Assessed

Courses SLOs	Facets of Sustainability IDS 2154	CLAS Sustainability Core Courses ANT 2402 POS 2032 AMH2631 CLA 2521 REL 2071 GLY2038 BSC 2862	Sustainability in Action IDS 4942	Additional Assessments
Content Knowledge				
#1	I R	R	A Presentation	
#2	I R		A Presentation	
Critical Thinking				
#3	I R	R	A Presentation	
Communication				
#4	I R	R	A Presentation	

Assessment Cycle

Assessment Cycle Chart

Assessment Cycle for:

Sustainability Studies

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Analysis and Interpretation:

Completed by May of designated year

Improvement Actions:

Completed by January of subsequent year

Dissemination:

Completed by March of subsequent year

Year	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18
SLOs						
Content Knowledge						
#1	x	x	x	x	x	x
#2	x	x	x	x	x	x
Critical Thinking						
#3	x	x	x	x	x	x
Communication						
#4	x	x	x	x	x	x

Methods and Procedures

SLO Assessment Matrix

The SLO Assessment Matrix is new for the 2012-13 Academic Assessment Plans. We have populated the matrix to the extent possible with the information we have available. Please complete the matrix.

Assessment Method - For each SLO, please enter the assessment method you are using – exam (course, internal, or external), project, paper, presentation, performance, etc.

Measurement – list the measurement procedure you use for this outcome. It can be a faculty-developed rubric with the minimum acceptable level identified, an exam score and the minimum passing score, or other measurement. **Required for 2012-13: Include at least one example of a rubric used to assess an SLO.**

SLO Assessment Matrix for 2012-13

2012-13 Student Learning Outcome	Assessment Method	Measurement Procedure
Define and explain sustainability scholarship, including natural scientific, social scientific, and humanistic approaches.	Presentation	Receive a 73/100 (C) or higher to pass
Define and explain the relationship of sustainability to Ethics, Culture and Human Behavior; Economics, Law and Policy; Production Systems and the Built Environment; Ecology and Environmental Stewardship.	Presentation	Receive a 73/100 (C) or higher to pass
Critically assess sustainability principles and practices.	Presentation	Receive a 73/100 (C) or higher to pass
Effectively write and/or orally communicate a range of approaches, frameworks, principles, and practices of sustainability.	Presentation	Receive a 73/100 (C) or higher to pass

In Sustainability Studies, SLOs are periodically assessed in the courses in which they are introduced or reinforced.

These assessments are primarily direct, occurring in the format of graded examinations, short and long writing assignments, individual and group projects, presentations, and internships.

Each course and instructor conducts some combination of these assessments.

The assessments vary significantly based on the course and instructor. As instructors are encouraged to develop and revise syllabi to better achieve SLOs, both the content and assessment measures in courses may vary from year to year even when taught by the same instructor.

EDS 2154: Facets of Sustainability, the gateway course for all majors, introduces and reinforces SLOs 1-3, and gives opportunities but does not require the development of oral communication skills (SLO 4).

Content knowledge, critical thinking, and written communication skills are reinforced and assessed in the Core courses.

All SLOs are formally assessed in final student presentations conducted before both internal and external reviewers in IDS 4942 *Sustainability in Action*, the capstone course required of all majors. Here students offer a multi-media presentation to their peers, the course instructor, and an external reviewer from the community (SLO 4). In their presentations, students summarize their integration of academic knowledge from all 4 clusters into the internship practice (SLO 1 & 2), and offer a critical assessment of their internship goals, challenges, and accomplishments while outlining key insights that they will take into their future academic or professional careers (SLO 3). As this formal examination is conducted each year in the capstone course, it will provide assessment data on all 4 SLOs annually.

Indirect assessments are gained through 1) an Exit Interview conducted each year with all Majors at the conclusion of the capstone course; 2) through the retention/graduation rates provided by CLAS, and 3) through job/graduate school placement data gained periodically from alumni communications.

Assessment Oversight

The Sustainability Studies Oversight Board is responsible for assessment of the program.

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