

## Honors Opportunities in Sustainability

The School of Sustainability (SOS), together with the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability, provides innovative, interdisciplinary education and research opportunities for students to learn about and help solve environmental, social, and economic challenges that are critical to sustaining communities and ecosystems around the world.



The undergraduate programs introduce students to the concept of sustainability in the context of real-world problems at local, regional, and global levels. The programs stress diverse and holistic approaches in which students learn about the factors that affect the sustainability of environmental, economic, and social systems. In this transdisciplinary program, students will be capable of communicating and learning across a number of disciplines as they build a foundation for solving some of the world's most critical challenges.

Our degree programs include a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) or Science (B.S.) in Sustainability, both of which are flexible, interdisciplinary, solutions-oriented programs wherein students explore the sustainability of human societies and the natural environment on which they depend. The B.A. in Sustainability is best suited to students inclined towards social sciences, humanities, planning, and related fields. The B.S. in Sustainability is best suited to those inclined towards natural sciences or engineering. The curriculum includes differences in additional coursework, particularly in math (B.S.) and a second language (B.A.). The tracks or areas of focus that students can pursue in each of the degree programs include the following.

### B.A. Tracks:

- Society and Sustainability
- Policy and Governance in Sustainability
- International Development and Sustainability
- Sustainable Urban Dynamics

### B.S. Tracks:

- Sustainable Energy, Materials, and Technology
- Economics of Sustainability
- Sustainable Ecosystems



## Careers in Sustainability

Sustainability graduates are prepared for admission into strong graduate and professional schools or may assume positions in industry, consultancy, utilities, regulatory agencies, non-profits, non-governmental organizations, or local, state or federal government. Career options depend on the student's area of focus in the program. Recent graduates have gone on to work in government agencies, consulting firms, major corporations, non-profits, and educational organizations. Visit our [Careers in Sustainability](#) page to find out more. School of Sustainability majors are encouraged to work directly with the school's Career Services Associate, [Marsha Gonzaga](#).

# More Opportunities in the School of Sustainability (SOS)

## Research & Thesis Opportunities

Faculty members in SOS employ and advise students in conducting academic research on a wide array of topics, from economics and equity in international development to motivations and constraints for water or energy conservation. These positions entail paid jobs and potential Honors thesis projects, as well as broader learning experiences. Course credit for independent research is also possible. Use the [Expert Search](#) to find more information on faculty expertise and interests, and to review a list of potential Honors advisors.

## Internships & Work Experience

ASU's Sustainability program strongly supports students in their efforts to participate in real-world learning experiences, including volunteerism, internships, and participating in on-campus organizations. Students may work directly with the SOS Internship and Experiential Education Specialist to develop a sustainability internship or find available internships, volunteer opportunities, and research projects on [SustainabilityConnect](#).

## Honors Classes & Contracts

SOS offers a range of courses to engage students in learning about sustainability for Honors credit, including an Honors-only section of SOS 111 Sustainable Cities. Students can also request Honors Contracts for any SOS class taught by a faculty member. Workshop courses further allow students to develop hands-on experiences in collaborative settings with community partners.

## Scholarships & Awards

The School recognizes excellence in learning through a variety of financial and other awards, from grants and loans to [scholarships and fellowships](#).

## Public Presentations & Discussions

Throughout the year, SOS holds public presentations and discussions with sustainability scholars from ASU and elsewhere around the world, including our [Wrigley Lecture Series](#). Topics range widely, from human vulnerability and adaptation to climate changes to the development of sustainable energy technologies, and so much more. Honors Sustainability students are often invited to special engagements with speakers.

## Sustainability Academy

The [School of Sustainability Academy](#) is a community of high-achieving, socially embedded sustainability students. The academy fosters academic success, leadership skills, community engagement, and persistence to graduation and reaching goals beyond graduation. Academy students will participate in Camp SOS and other special events, and have access to peer and sustainability industry or academic mentors.

## Honor Society for Sustainability

The Honor Society for Sustainability is a network of sustainability scholars that have demonstrated academic excellence and are committed to solving global sustainability challenges. HSS has two primary goals for its members: to give back to the community through service, and to provide pre-professional development opportunities through guest speakers, networking mixers with alumni and business representatives, and faculty engagement. Two \$500 scholarships are available each year to HSS members.

## Sustainability Digest

The Global Institute of Sustainability distributes a weekly *Sustainability Digest* that summarizes upcoming lectures, community activities, work opportunities, and much more. [Subscribe today](#).

To learn more, visit the School of Sustainability in Wrigley Hall. You can make an appointment with our Undergraduate Advisors to discuss course offerings and degree program requirements using our online [appointment scheduling tool](#). Alternatively, visit our [web page](#) or personally contact our SOS Faculty Honors Advisor, [Dr. Kelli Larson](#).

# School of Sustainability Honors Thesis Guide

As you get started with your thesis or creative project—ideally by your junior year, be sure to review the basic information provided by Barrett [here](#). Keep in mind that thesis projects can be research-oriented or they can be applied, practical projects that design and/or implement a solution to sustainability problems. In reality, many projects have both research and applied elements.

## Identifying a Faculty Director

Honors students are strongly encouraged to identify a thesis topic and adviser (first reader) by the end of their junior year. In order to develop a feasible project, students should contact faculty members with expertise or interests in the area in which they would like to work. Students can search for faculty experts [here](#).

As you contact professors, here are some tips for increasing their responsiveness. First, personalize your emails to individual faculty, rather than sending a generic email to several professors. Let them know which areas of their expertise or research are applicable to your thesis interests. Second, briefly note your interests or ideas for your thesis while also letting them know your timeline for graduating. Third, include your availability to expedite scheduling an in-person meeting. It could be useful to attach your resume so they can get a sense of your professional experiences and skillsets.



To discuss your thesis ideas or to help identify relevant faculty members for your goals and interests, you may also contact the Faculty Honors Advisor, [Kelli.Larson@asu.edu](mailto:Kelli.Larson@asu.edu).

## Meeting Committee Requirements

Students must choose a tenure-track professor as the adviser (or “first reader”) of their Honors thesis committee. A “second reader” is required, but this person does not have to be a faculty member at ASU. A third reader might come from other universities or the broader community, including government personnel and organizational representatives, but is not required. Readers from outside the ASU faculty must be approved by the student’s thesis director.

Although only two committee members are required, three members may be appropriate in cases where additional expertise or assistance is needed. This is especially true for students who are tackling interdisciplinary projects for their thesis project and/or for students who have an outside member serve on their committee. Ultimately, however, the Honors thesis committee is agreed upon by the student and his or her advisor/director.

## Register for Honors Thesis Course

Any student working with SOS faculty may register for SOS 492 and 493. SOS students working with a faculty member outside of the School of Sustainability should register under the departmental prefix of their faculty director.

Prior to enrolling in SOS/ HON 492 or 493, all students must complete a thesis/creative project information session. The workshop can be completed in person or online via Blackboard ([more information](#))

Students may enroll in 3 credits of **SOS 492: Honors Directed Study** and 3 credits of **SOS 493: Honors Thesis** (6 credits total). It is up to each student and their faculty director as to whether or not they register for SOS 492 prior to 493. SOS 493 and qualifying HON 493 projects may be used to satisfy the SOS 498 Capstone Workshop requirement. Students using SOS/HON 493 to satisfy the SOS 498 requirement may still take SOS 498 for elective credit.



## Register for Honors Thesis Course (cont.)

In order to register for SOS 492: Please provide a short overview describing the research or project, and an email of approval from the faculty director.

In order to register for SOS 493: Provide a copy of the approved prospectus.

Registration materials and questions about registering for classes should be directed to the School's Internship and Experiential Education Coordinator, [Caroline Savalle](#).

## Scheduling a Thesis/Creative Project Defense

The School of Sustainability assists SOS Honors students in room reservations and promotion of their thesis presentation to the ASU community.

Students registered in SOS 493 may reserve a conference room in Wrigley Hall for their thesis presentation.

- The defense day and time must be confirmed with all faculty on the committee and with Barrett, The Honors College prior to reservation.
- Room reservations should be made at least two weeks prior to the defense, preferably earlier. Rooms in Wrigley Hall not guaranteed to be available on the date/time requested.
- Contact [caroline.savalle@asu.edu](mailto:caroline.savalle@asu.edu) for room reservation requests. Include title of thesis, abstract, committee information, date & time of presentation, and AV needs in your request.