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, Curtis Shaw.
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. The Walton Sustainability Solutions Initiatives provides scholarships to Sustainability majors and minors through the Global Sustainability Studies Program, enabling summer sustainability studies abroad.

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.

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 and take a self-guided tour of the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute 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.
Logistics for Honors Students in Sustainability

Honors Thesis Credits
Students may enroll in 3 credits of SOS 492: Honors Directed Study and 3 credits of SOS 493: Honors Thesis. 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; work with a Sustainability advisor for approval and to update your DARS. Students using SOS/HON 493 to satisfy the SOS 498 requirement may still take SOS 498 for elective credit. Questions about registering for classes should be directed to the School’s Internship and Experiential Education Coordinator, Caroline Savalle.

In order to register for SOS 492, we need at least an email of approval from the faculty director and a short paragraph that describes the student’s project. A copy of the student’s prospectus is also required before he or she can get an override to register for SOS 493. You can send these materials to Caroline Savalle.

Any student working with SOS faculty may register for SOS 492 and 493. SOS students working with a Sustainability Scientist and Scholar (or any other faculty member from another unit) should register under the departmental prefix of their director.

Prior to enrolling in HON 492 or 493, all students must complete a thesis/creative project information session. Students may complete this requirement in a few different ways: 1) HON 498: Thesis Prep Course, which is a one-credit course offered on the downtown campus; 2) one of the Thesis Workshop Sessions periodically offered by Barrett; or 3) the on-line workshop offered through Barrett via ASU Blackboard (for more information on these options, see http://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/thesis-and-creative-project/)

Committee Requirements
Students must choose a tenure-track faculty member as the director of their Honors thesis committee. At least one additional committee member (“reader”) is required, but this person does not have to be a faculty member at ASU. Other readers might come from the broader committee, including government personnel and organizational representatives. Committee members from outside the ASU faculty must be approved by the student’s thesis director.

Although only two committee members are required, three members are recommended 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.

Thesis Preparation
Honors students are strongly encouraged to identify a thesis topic by their junior year, at the latest. 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. To discuss your thesis ideas broadly, or to help identify relevant faculty members for your goals and interests, you may also contact the Faculty Honors Advisor, Kelli.Larson@asu.edu.