Sustainability is meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Accomplishing this goal requires an understanding of human and environmental systems and the complex interactions between them.

Because sustainability embraces many disciplines, methodologies, and practices, certificate students take courses across four general areas: changing environments and human health; energy, climate, and built environments; the power of culture and society; and ethics, economics, and public policy.

Students who earn this certificate will be better prepared to address some of the most pressing issues of our time (e.g., climate change, food security, social equity, clean energy, and the loss of biological diversity).

This certificate draws on resources from a number of departments at the University of Iowa to create a program that gives you the knowledge and skills to contribute to a more sustainable future. It complements majors in the social and natural sciences, the humanities, engineering, and business.

“Sustainable development is the central challenge of our times.”

-Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon of the United Nations

Requirements

Students complete three introductory courses (ENVS:1080 Intro to Environmental Science, GEOG:2013 Intro to Sustainability, and GEOG:1070 Contemporary Environmental Issues), four courses chosen from breadth electives categories, and one project course. Students are often able to count some courses taken for the certificate toward their major, minor, or GEA requirements. Students must maintain a GPA of at least 2.00 in all certificate course work. A maximum of 6 s.h. of approved transfer credit may be counted toward the certificate.

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