



## Sustainability Minor

### Sustainability Minor

The minor in Sustainability empowers students to shape a just and sustainable world through core concepts in (1) systems thinking, (2) justice, (3) sustainability knowledge, (4) integration, and (5) acting for positive change. The sustainability curriculum follows the structure of the Triple Bottom Line Approach (Society/Equity, Economy, Environment/Nature) and includes consideration of the impacts of our actions, personally and collectively, on others, as well as a sense of self-efficacy to work toward improving conditions that foster well-being of people and the environment now and into the future. Inherent in the sustainability worldview is an understanding of definitions of sustainability and the complexity of sustainability challenges across cultures.

### Requirements

The minor in Sustainability requires Five Units, plus an Acting for Positive Change Requirement with embedded reflection. Grade point average of coursework comprising the minor must be no less than 2.00, with no course grade below C- (1.70). Units include:

SUST 101: Introduction to Sustainability  
SUST 345: Global Sustainability: Society, Economy, Nature

1 course in Economic Sustainability, chosen from:

ECON 211 Economic Development in Asia, Africa, and Latin America  
ECON 230 Environmental Economics  
ECON 234 Urban Economics  
ECON 330 Environmental and Resource Economic Theory  
MGMT 348 Environmental Management  
MGMT 353 Sustainability and Accountability in Business  
MKT 329 Sustainable Marketing  
GEOG 370 Economic Geography and Globalization

1 course in Environmental Sustainability, chosen from:

BIOL 109 Introduction to Ecology  
BIOL 111 Marine Biology of the Chesapeake Bay  
BIOL 199 Introduction to Biological Thinking (selected sections, including Coastal Marine Ecology, Conservation Biology, and Biological Invasions)  
CHEM 110 Pollutants in the Environment  
ENVR 201 Introduction to Environmental Studies  
GEOG 215 Geography of the James River Watershed  
GEOG 250 Planet Earth: Wind, Water, Fire  
GEOG 315 Landscape Ecology  
GEOG 322 Global Impact of Climate Change

1 course in Social Sustainability, chosen from:

GEOG 220 Ecotourism  
GEOG 210 Planet Earth: People and Place

PHIL/ENVR 269 Environmental Ethics  
ENGL 299 Imagining Nature  
GEOG 320 Power, Space, Territory: Geographies of Political Change  
GEOG 333 Geographies of Amazonia  
ENVR 362 Environmental Law and Policy

Acting for Positive Change Requirement can be fulfilled through the following, with associated reflection approved and supervised by the Chair of the Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability:

Directed Research

- UR students are currently researching topics including climate change adaptation and mitigation, environmental justice, forest carbon, university greenhouse gas offsets, community solar, green finance, and environmental services. Foci for 2022-23 year include global and local topics like climate change in the Amazon, South Africa as a regional trade hub, decolonization and energy transition in Puerto Rico, the health of the James River and Chesapeake Bay, temperature and air quality disparities in Richmond, and mega-landfills in Virginia.

Internship Opportunities

- The University Renewable Energy Education Program (U-REEP) provides experiential solar education. Students can enroll for in for-credit internships or be hired, depending on timing and eligibility.
- Environmental justice internships are frequently available with the Virginia Environmental Justice Collaborative (VEJC).
- Interns with the City of Richmond Office of Sustainability contribute to RVAgreen2050 and related initiatives.
- University of Richmond's Office of Sustainability hires student interns to work on key issues like food, solid waste, transportation, and energy.

Sustainability Study Abroad

- UR students attend international programs with sustainability opportunities in locations including Australia, Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Madagascar, New Zealand, South Africa, Vietnam, and more.

\*Triple Bottom Line electives in Economic, Environmental, and Social Sustainability cannot be double counted toward the Environmental Studies or Geography Majors or Minors.

Questions should be directed to the Chair of the Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability, Todd Lookingbill [tlooking@richmond.edu](mailto:tlooking@richmond.edu)