

Online Sustainability Course

0.5 bonus points available

Rationale

This credit recognizes institutions that promote education for sustainability by making a sustainability course freely available online.

Criteria

Institution offers a free, sustainability-focused course on the public internet, e.g., a massive open online course (MOOC) or the equivalent with a primary and explicit focus on sustainability. To qualify, students must have enrolled in the course during the previous three years.

To qualify, a course must have a dedicated instructor, include instructional materials and assessments, and have an established structure (e.g., an expected time commitment, a syllabus or calendar, and a mechanism for learner engagement). Continuing education courses that are free and otherwise meet the criteria are included.

Scoring

An institution earns 0.5 bonus points for offering a free, *sustainability-focused course* on the public internet. Partial points are not available.

Reporting Fields

Required

- ☐ Has the institution offered a free, sustainability-focused course on the public internet in which students were enrolled within the previous three years?
If yes, provide:
 - ☐ Title and a brief description of the institution's free, online sustainability course
 - ☐ Website URL where information about the free, online sustainability course is available (e.g., a syllabus)

Optional

- ☐ Number of individuals taking the institution's free, online sustainability course in the most recent year offered
- ☐ Additional documentation to support the submission (upload)
- ☐ Data source(s) and notes about the submission
- ☐ Contact information for a responsible party (an employee who can respond to questions regarding the data once it is submitted and available to the public)

Standards and Terms

Sustainability-focused course

To count as sustainability-focused, the course title or description must indicate a primary and explicit focus on sustainability. This includes:

- Foundational courses with a primary and explicit focus on sustainability (e.g., Introduction to Sustainability, Sustainable Development, Sustainability Science).
- Courses with a primary and explicit focus on the application of sustainability within a field (e.g., Architecture for Sustainability, Green Chemistry, Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Business). As sustainability is an interdisciplinary topic, such courses generally incorporate insights from multiple disciplines.
- Courses with a primary and explicit focus on a major sustainability challenge (e.g., Climate Change Science, Environmental Justice, Global Poverty and Development, Renewable Energy Policy). The focus of such courses might be on providing knowledge and understanding of the problems and/or the tools for solving them.

The course title or description does not have to use the term “sustainability” to count as sustainability-focused if the primary and explicit focus of the course is on the interdependence of ecological and social/economic systems or a major sustainability challenge.