

# AC 3: Undergraduate Program

3 points available

## Rationale

This credit recognizes institutions that have formal, undergraduate-level degree programs focused on sustainability. Developing such programs signals an institution's commitment to sustainability. Such programs also provide a path for students to study sustainability topics in depth, which better prepares them to address sustainability challenges. Formal academic programs also provide a home for sustainability scholars within the institution.

## Applicability

This credit applies to all institutions that have *undergraduate* majors, academic programs, or the equivalent.

## Criteria

Institution offers at least one:

- Sustainability-focused program (*major, degree, or certificate program*) for undergraduate students AND/OR
- Undergraduate-level, sustainability-focused *minor or concentration* (e.g., a concentration on sustainable business within a business major).

To count, a major, degree/certificate program, minor, or concentration must have a primary and explicit focus on the concept of sustainability or the interdependence of ecological systems and social/economic systems.

Extension certificates and other certificates that are not part of academic degree programs do not count for this credit; they are covered in the Continuing Education credit in Public Engagement.

## Scoring

An institution earns the maximum of 3 points available for this credit for having at least one sustainability-focused degree program or the equivalent for undergraduate students. Partial points are available. An institution with no sustainability-focused degree program that has at least one sustainability-focused minor, concentration or certificate earns 1.5 points (half of the points available for this credit).

## Reporting Fields

Required

- ☐ Does the institution offer at least one *sustainability-focused* major, degree, or certificate program for undergraduate students (i.e., an interdisciplinary academic program that has a primary and explicit focus on the concept of sustainability or the interdependence of ecological systems and social/economic systems)?

If yes, provide:

- Name of the sustainability-focused undergraduate degree program
- A brief description of the undergraduate degree program
- Website URL for the undergraduate degree program
- Does the institution offer one or more sustainability-focused minors or concentrations for undergraduate students?
  - If yes, provide:
    - Name of the sustainability-focused undergraduate minor or concentration
    - A brief description of the undergraduate minor or concentration
    - Website URL for the undergraduate minor or concentration

### Optional

- For up to two additional sustainability-focused undergraduate degree programs, provide:
  - Name of the sustainability-focused undergraduate degree program
  - A brief description of the undergraduate degree program
  - Website URL for the undergraduate degree program
- The name and website URLs of all other sustainability-focused, undergraduate degree programs
- For up to two additional sustainability-focused undergraduate minors or concentrations, provide:
  - Name of the sustainability-focused undergraduate minor or concentration
  - A brief description of the undergraduate minor or concentration
  - Website URL for the undergraduate minor or concentration
- The name and website URLs of all other sustainability-focused undergraduate minors or concentrations
- 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)

## Measurement

### Timeframe

Report on current program status and offerings at the time of submission. Planned degree programs or degree programs that have been canceled are not eligible for this credit.

### Sampling and Data Standards

Not applicable.

## Standards and Terms

### Major, degree, or certificate program

An academic program or subject area that a student may formally choose to focus on during her or his studies.

### Minor or concentration

An academic subject area that a student may formally choose to have a secondary focus on during her or his studies. A minor or concentration is typically not required, but allows a student to take additional courses in a subject different from, or complementary to, her or his major subject area of focus.

**Sustainability-focused program**

Sustainability-focused programs are interdisciplinary academic programs that have a primary and explicit focus on the concept of sustainability or the interdependence of ecological systems and social/economic systems. The courses required for the successful completion of the program educate students about how different dimensions of sustainability relate to and support each other in theory and practice. The sustainability focus of such a program should be explicit in the program title or description.

**Undergraduate students**

Undergraduate students are students enrolled in courses of study leading up to the level of a baccalaureate, i.e., 4- or 5-year bachelor's degree programs, associate's degree programs, or vocational or technical programs below the baccalaureate.