

EN 7: Continuing Education

Rationale

This credit recognizes institutions that provide continuing education courses and programs in sustainability to the broader community. These offerings may educate community members on sustainability topics or provide the training and recognition people need to obtain, perform, and advance their position in green jobs.

Applicability

Applicable to all institutions.

Points available

A maximum of 3 points are available for this credit.

Criteria

7.1 Continuing education offerings in sustainability

An institution earns 3 points when it has at least one **continuing education** course or education program that is **sustainability-focused**. Partial points are available. An institution that does not have a sustainability-focused continuing education offering, but does have at least one continuing education offering that incorporates sustainability content or addresses a **sustainability challenge** earns 1.5 points.

Measurement

Report on the current status of the institution's continuing education offerings, i.e., **courses and education programs** that are targeted to community members who are not otherwise enrolled as students (e.g., working people seeking further education or professional credentials). This may include offerings that are targeted to both students enrolled for credit and community members.

To qualify as sustainability focused, the primary focus of the course or program must be on either the concept of sustainability or the interdependence of ecological and social/cultural/economic systems. This focus must be evidenced by its published title and/or description, either explicitly (e.g., "Introduction to Sustainability") or implicitly, by addressing a sustainability challenge using a systems approach (e.g., "Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security").

Documentation

Report the following information in the online Reporting Tool.

- Does the institution have at least one continuing education course or program that is sustainability-focused? (required)

If Yes, the following field is also required:

- Narrative and/or website URL providing an overview of the sustainability-focused continuing education course offerings
- Does the institution have at least one continuing education offering that is focused on a topic other than sustainability, but incorporates sustainability content or addresses a sustainability challenge? (required). This may include, for example, courses and programs that are focused on issues of ecological integrity or social justice, that are designed to provide a direct pathway to green jobs, and/or that have established sustainability learning outcomes.

If Yes, the following field is also required:

- Narrative and/or website URL providing an overview of the institution's continuing education offerings that incorporate sustainability content or address sustainability challenges

Glossary

Continuing education – Non-credit courses and education programs that train community members and help build knowledge about particular subjects. Continuing education is inclusive of non-credit, community education, further education, and extension courses and programs. Examples include non-degree career training, workforce training, credential maintenance courses, formal personal enrichment courses, self-directed learning and experiential learning (on and off campus). In some cases, non-credit students may earn continuing education units, certification, or other evidence of completion to meet personal or professional requirements.

Course – A unit of instruction comprising a sequence of educational activities in a particular field or range of related fields of education. A course may also be referred to as a “module”, “unit”, or “subject” and is often one academic term in length, led by one or more instructors, and has a fixed roster of students. A course may be taken singularly or combined with other courses offered as part of an education program. [Adapted from the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED).]

Education program – A coherent set or sequence of educational activities designed and organized to achieve predetermined learning objectives or accomplish a specific set of educational tasks over a sustained period.

Sustainability challenge – An issue or situation that threatens or undermines ecological integrity, racial equity and social justice, or the ability of future generations to meet their needs (e.g., biodiversity loss, poverty and inequality, and climate change), OR a goal or objective that contributes to the resolution of such an issue or situation (e.g., ecosystem health, universal human rights, and renewable energy generation). To identify sustainability challenges, it may be helpful to reference the [targets embedded in the Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#), the principles outlined in the [Earth Charter](#), and/or the [Doughnut of social and planetary boundaries](#).

Sustainability-focused – The term sustainability-focused is used to indicate that a primary and explicit focus on the integrated concept of sustainability or the interdependence of ecological and social/cultural/economic systems is required.