

Sustainability Minor FAQ's

What if I want to study abroad?

CIPA offers many opportunities to engage in sustainability-related coursework around the world. From immersion learning to field projects, these international options can be a great enhancement to an Individualized course of study in sustainability.

Why would I minor in Sustainability?

It's not just a buzzword! Training in sustainability helps you discern between "greenwashing" and substantive efforts to remediate inequities in business practices, evaluate energy production and consumption, assess the role of human capital, and understand the human impact on the natural world. Increasingly, employers in a variety of fields are recognizing the value of sustainability as a necessary economic ethos.

How do I choose courses?

There are two core courses for the minor: Foundations (IDS 206) and a Capstone (IDS 391). The remainder of your coursework can be selected from an extensive list of classes approved to satisfy the minor, including many CIPA options. Students may also petition to have a course accepted for the minor if they can demonstrate a relevant learning outcome. The minor requires 20 credit hours of sustainability-related coursework.

Why is the minor interdisciplinary?

The challenges and solutions surrounding issues of sustainability are complex, and require multiple perspectives to be best understood.

There is no single department at a university which can encompass all of the disciplines related to sustainability.

Students are empowered to engage with interconnected issues utilizing the strengths and methodologies of multiple departments. The natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities all bring valuable perspectives to identifying and evaluating sustainability-related issues.

How will the sustainability minor assist my career options?

We now live in the Anthropocene, an era defined by human impact. Sustainability is a rapidly growing specialty that has applications in many careers: clean energy, technology, education, management, political science, business and more. The interdisciplinary structure of the Sustainability Minor helps you develop tools to think critically and creatively about the complex issues facing today's world. Your Capstone project and your portfolio are designed for your personal and professional development, and to help you stand-out in a competitive environment.

Will I have the opportunity to do independent research?

Yes! There are many ways to pursue specialized areas of interest that relate to sustainability. Students may use their Capstone course to build on research projects, internships, or independent study that originated elsewhere, or choose to apply a sustainability perspective to coursework in a class that they've petitioned to be approved for the minor