

SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES, BA

Roosevelt University's Sustainability Studies (SUST) program is an interdisciplinary and environmentally-focused undergraduate degree, with major and minor options. Founded in 2010, it was the first such sustainability-themed bachelor's degree program in the Chicago area. Its overall goals include:

- Engaging students in the pressing ecological, economic, political, and social concerns surrounding climate change, energy production, food systems, resource consumption, transportation, urban development, water supply and quality, waste and recycling, and other topics.
- Fostering students' environmental literacy using classroom and field-based instruction in the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities.
- Exploring social justice issues on a range of fronts, including environmental justice, resource allocation, urban development, and social equity.
- Positioning Roosevelt University as a leader in sustainability education, particularly in relation to social justice and sustainable urban development.

Students graduating with a major in Sustainability Studies will have an interdisciplinary understanding of the varied dimensions of sustainability, both from a local and global perspective; will be fluent in articulating how sustainability issues relate to a matter of the environment, the economy, and social equity; and will demonstrate proficiency in critical thinking, reading, writing, and research skills. **More specifically, students will learn how to:**

- Identify and explain the central sustainability problems of the 21st century in multiple arenas, including energy, transportation, food production, waste management, water availability, conservation, and general consumption.
- Draw on a foundation of scientific, environmental, and quantitative literacy in order to understand and assess the science behind major sustainability problems, such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, and the threats to natural resources.
- Apply the scientific method and quantitative literacy skills to the study of natural and social ecosystems.
- Recognize the local, national, and global social justice implications of resource allocation, food production, energy consumption, and waste production.
- Understand the political processes and policy actors central to progress in sustainability.
- Understand the importance of leadership as central to social change and technical innovation with respect to creating more sustainable communities.
- Apply knowledge about sustainability to their areas of personal interest and/or work professions.

Requirements

The overall requirements for the BA in Sustainability Studies include seven core Sustainability courses, one Sustainability elective, two relevant electives in a related discipline or interdisciplinary area, selected general education courses, and general electives. Grades of C- or higher are required in all major courses. SUST majors are strongly encouraged to pursue a minor in a related field of interest after consulting with an academic advisor.

Core requirements: ENG 101 COMPOSITION I: CRITICAL READING & WRITING is a pre-requisite for all 200-level SUST courses; the university writing requirement is a pre-requisite for all 300-level SUST courses.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Core		
SUST 210	SUSTAINABLE FUTURE	3
SUST 220	WATER	3
SUST 230	FOOD	3
SUST 240	WASTE	3
SUST 310	ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE	3
SUST 320	SPRAWL, TRANSPORT, PLANNING	3
SUST 330	BIODIVERSITY	3
SUST Elective		
Select one of the following:		3
SUST 340	POLICY, LAW, ETHICS	
SUST 350	SERVICE AND SUSTAINABILITY	
SUST 360	WRITING URBAN NATURE	
SUST 390	SPECIAL TOPICS IN SUSTAINABILITY	
SUST 394	INDEPENDENT STUDY	
SUST 395	SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES INTERNSHIP	
Other Requirements		
Relevant electives ¹		6
General Education, University Writing Requirement, and Electives		
Courses to total 120 ²		69
Total Credit Hours		120

¹ Two electives, chosen in consultation with an advisor, from these subject areas: SUST, BCHM, BIOL, CHEM, CJL, ECON, ENVS, HOSM, MATH, OLED, PHSC, POS, SOCJ, or SOC.

² SUST majors and minors are encouraged to take **SUST 101 Humans & Nature** as their CORE Ideas Across Disciplines course requirement (see CORE Requirements below).

CORE Requirements (General Education)

Code	Title	Credit Hours
First Year Success Course or Transfer Success Course		
FYS 101 or TRS 101	FIRST YEAR SUCCESS COURSE TRANSFER SUCCESS 101	1
Communication Requirement		
ENG 101	COMPOSITION I: CRITICAL READING & WRITING	3
ENG 102	COMPOSITION II: INTRODUCTION TO ACADEMIC RESEARCH	3
LIBS 201	WRITING SOCIAL JUSTICE (Transfer students with acceptable communication credit may be exempt from this requirement.)	3
Ideas Across Disciplines		
3 credits in coursework categorized as Ideas.		3
Humanities and Fine and Performing Arts		

9 credits from the following subject areas: African-American Studies, Art History, English (excluding ENG 101 and ENG 102), History, Languages, Music, Philosophy, Theatre, Speech and Women's and Gender Studies 9

Mathematics

MATH 110 QUANTITATIVE LITERACY (or above) 3

Science

One biological science and one physical science required (at least one must be a four-hour lab). (Not applicable for science majors) 7-8

Social Sciences

9 credits from the following subject areas: African-American Studies, Anthropology, Economics, History, Journalism, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies 9

Experiential Learning

6 credits from coursework categorized as Experiential Learning.

Total Credit Hours 41-42

These quantitative requirements also apply to degrees in the College of Arts and Sciences:

- Students must earn a minimum of 120 semester hours.
- Students may apply no more than 60 credit hours of 100-level courses toward the degree.
- Students must apply no fewer than 60 credit hours of 200- and 300-level courses toward the degree.
- Students must have at least 18 credit hours (of the 60 credit hours above) at the 300 level.
- Students may transfer in no more than 70 credit hours from community colleges.
- Students must take their final 30 hours at Roosevelt University. Note that some majors have additional requirements for RU hours.
- Students must have a grade point average of 2.0 or higher to graduate. Note that some majors have additional GPA requirements.
- Students may apply no more than 51 hours in the major (BA) or 57 hours in the major (BS)

Your degree map is a general guide suggesting courses to complete each term on the academic pathway to your degree. It is based on the most current scheduling information from your academic program. Your program's degree map is reviewed annually and updated as schedules change (although you retain the same course requirements as long as you are continuously enrolled in your degree program).

Always work closely with your academic advisor to understand curriculum requirements and scheduling, as each student's academic plan can look slightly different.

Year 1

Fall	Credit Hours Spring	Credit Hours
FYS 101	1 ENG 102	3
ENG 101	3 SUST 210	3
MATH 110	3 Ideas Across Disciplines ²	3
Humanities #1	3 Humanities #2	3
Social Science #1	3 BIOL 111 or 112 ³	4

Physical Science ²	3	
	16	16

Year 2

Fall	Credit Hours Spring	Credit Hours
SUST 220	3 LIBS 201	3
Humanities #3	3 SUST 230	3
Social Science #2	3 Social Science #2	3
General Elective ¹	3 General Elective ¹	3
Experiential Learning #1 ⁴	3 General Elective ¹	3
	15	15

Year 3

Fall	Credit Hours Spring	Credit Hours
SUST 240	3 SUST 310	3
Relevant Elective ⁵	3-5 Relevant Elective ⁵	3-5
Experiential Learning #2 ⁴	3 General Elective ¹	3
General Elective ¹	3 General Elective ¹	3
General Elective ¹	3 General Elective ¹	1
	15-17	13-15

Year 4

Fall	Credit Hours Spring	Credit Hours
SUST 320	3 SUST 330	3
SUST 250 (or General Elective) ¹	3 SUST 3XX ⁶	3
General Elective ¹	3 General Elective ¹	3
General Elective ¹	3 General Elective ¹	3
General Elective ¹	3 General Elective ¹	3
	15	15

Total Credit Hours 120-124

¹ Or course towards an optional Minor.

² SUST majors and minors are encouraged to take SUST 101 Humans & Nature to satisfy this requirement

³ One Natural Science course must have a lab.

⁴ Experiential Learning class must be 200/300 level and can be a SUST course or taken outside the major. SUST options include SUST 250, 330 (at FMNH), 350, and 395

⁵ Should be selected from these areas: SUST, BCHM, BIOL, CHEM, CJL, ECON, ENVS, HOSM, MATH, OLED, PHSC, POS, SOCJ, or SOC

⁶ Any course in this discipline at 300-level.