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 sustainability 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, online, 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.
- Establishing 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; be fluent in articulating how sustainability issues relate to matters of the environment, the economy, and social equity; and demonstrate proficiency in critical thinking, reading, writing, and research. 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 eight core Sustainability courses, two Sustainability electives, selected general education courses, and general electives. Grades of C- or higher are required in all SUST core and elective courses. SUST majors are strongly encouraged to pursue a minor and/or double major 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**
--- | --- | ---
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 370 | MAPPING FOR SUSTAINABILITY | 3
SUST Electives | | 6
Select two of the following:
SUST 250 | THE SUSTAINABLE UNIVERSITY | 3
SUST 340 | POLICY, LAW, ETHICS | 3
SUST 350 | SERVICE AND SUSTAINABILITY | 3
SUST 360 | WRITING URBAN NATURE | 3
SUST 361 | URBAN ECOLOGY | 3
SUST 390 | SPECIAL TOPICS IN SUSTAINABILITY | 3
SUST 394 | INDEPENDENT STUDY | 3
SUST 395 | SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES INTERNSHIP | 3

**General Education, University Writing Requirement, and Electives** | 90
Courses to total 120
Total Credit Hours | 120

1 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**
--- | --- | ---
FYS 101 or TRS 101 | FIRST YEAR SUCCESS COURSE or TRANSFER SUCCESS 101 | 1
ENG 101 | COMPOSITION I: CRITICAL READING & WRITING | 3
ENG 102 | COMPOSITION II: INTRODUCTION TO ACADEMIC RESEARCH | 3
COMM 101 | PUBLIC SPEAKING (or program specific CORE communications course) | 3

**Ideas Across Disciplines**
3 credits in coursework categorized as Ideas.

**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, Communication and Women’s and Gender Studies

**Mathematics**
Sustainability Studies, BA

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

**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

**Experiential Learning**
6 credits from coursework categorized as Experiential Learning.

Total Credit Hours 47-48

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Supplementary notes:

1. Higher level of Math may be required by major
2. Students must earn at least 120 semester hours.
3. Some majors have additional requirements for RU hours.
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. SOC 101 and SOC 300 recommended

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**Year 1**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<td>FYS 101</td>
<td>1 SUST 101 (or another Ideas Across Disciplines course)²</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENG 101</td>
<td>3 SUST 210</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH 110</td>
<td>3 ENG 102</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humanities #1</td>
<td>3 Humanities #2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Science #1⁵</td>
<td>3 Biological Science¹</td>
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**Year 2**

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<td>SUST 240</td>
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<td>Humanities #3</td>
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Total Credit Hours 15

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**Year 3**

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<tr>
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<td>3 General Elective⁴</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Elective⁴</td>
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</table>

Total Credit Hours 15

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**Year 4**

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<tr>
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<td>3 General Elective⁴</td>
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Total Credit Hours 15

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Supplementary notes:

1. One Natural Science course must have a lab.
2. SUST majors and minors are encouraged to take SUST 101 Humans & Nature to satisfy the Ideas Across Disciplines CORE requirement. Alternatively, another Ideas course may fulfill this requirement.
3. 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.
4. Or course toward an optional Minor and/or Double Major.
5. SOC 101 and SOC 300 recommended