

Title: *Sustainability Path in GE courses*

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Purpose: Foster and expand the coverage of sustainability in student coursework.

Description: As Charles Redman, who is a founding member of the ASU School of Sustainability said when speaking of faculty who got involved in the initial planning “the challenges of the times required a more interdisciplinary and aggressive approach than currently existed.” (p 231) Many of our students are attracted to HSU because of their desire to change the world for better, yet they often see it as saving a species or conserving/restoring ecosystems. As an academic institution, the greatest impact we can have is to create change agents and the one of the tools we have at our disposal is curriculum. Providing them with a path to explore sustainability from different perspectives will deepen their understanding of the triple bottom line (environment, ethics, economic) aspects and encourage them to approach the issue with curiosity and make more sense of the complexity and multidisciplinary aspect of sustainability.

Recommendation: A comparison of the current list of sustainability-related and focused courses to the GE courses suggests students currently have various options in most GE categories. Several steps would need to be taken.

1. Include in the catalog and on the HSU website a couple of recommended pathways.
2. Include in the listing of GE courses the SR/SF designated courses so it is easier for the students to identify courses with sustainability content.
3. There are a couple of GE areas where there are limited SR/SF courses. See appendix. Identify ways to encourage and support faculty in these areas to incorporate sustainability. For example, another recommendation from the Curriculum and Research Working Group is to initiate projects that elevates the “What is Sustainability” conversation.

- **Scale and Scope** Open to all undergraduate students
- **Timing** Inclusion in AY 17/18 Catalog and AY 16/17 for faculty support
- **Key Participants** All interested academic departments, faculty and staff

Summary of Estimated Costs, Benefits and other Impacts:

- Costs
 - Faculty time
 - Staff time
- Benefits
 - Opportunity for students to develop competency in sustainability studies that complements and enhances in-depth knowledge learned from a major area of study.
 - The minor will provide skills useful to work with non-profits, government agencies, businesses, and institutions of education.
- Other Impacts
 - *Any negative impacts to consider?*

References:

Redman, C. 2013. Transforming the Silos: Arizona State University's School of Sustainability. Sustainability in Higher Education, Stories and Strategies for Transformation. Barlett, P. and G. Chase, ed.

Appendix:
See uploaded Excel File