Minor in SUSTAINABILITY

Contact information:

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Sustainability implies meeting current human needs in a way that preserves natural capital for future generations.

**MISSION**

To train students at the University of Notre Dame with the personal and professional skills to:

(a) comprehend, appreciate, integrate and contribute to diverse fields of knowledge to solve present and looming national and international problems requiring the responsible and equitable use of natural resources;
(b) converse and collaborate effectively on sustainability with others from widely different backgrounds and perspectives; and
(c) provide local, national and international leadership that incorporates sustainability thinking when addressing wide-ranging global problems of the 21st century.

**MINOR IN SUSTAINABILITY AT NOTRE DAME**

One of the gravest challenges humankind will face in the 21st century is the challenge of forging a new relationship with the natural world. Current levels of human activity are rapidly depleting natural capital. Symptoms of this depletion include increased air and water pollution, global warming, aquifer depletion, declining ocean fisheries, shrinking forests, shrinking wildlife habitats, and species extinction. The current level and nature of human activity is not sustainable, and if not changed will have dire consequences for future generations.

The minor will start in fall 2011. Through a multidisciplinary approach the program will prepare students to serve as leaders in their communities — local, national, and international — by making constructive and substantive contributions to the development of more sustainable practices for the benefit of their own personal and professional lives, the lives of others, and the lives of future generations.

**I Gateway Course**

“Principles of Sustainability” (required), an interdisciplinary course taught every semester by at least three faculty.

**II Distribution Requirements**

Students will select from a controlled list of approved courses totaling at least 3 classes of at least 9 credits. Students must take two courses outside of their College and all distribution courses outside of their major. They also must take courses from at least two of the categories below:

i) Sustainable design, including engineering, architecture and other solutions to environmental problems

ii) Impact assessment, including the science of environmental problems and historical, narrative, and sociological descriptions of those impacts

iii) Social institutions that affect environmental problems and sustainable solutions to those problems, including business and economics, law, politics, sociology, and religion

iv) Individual behavior and values that affect environmental problems and sustainable solutions to those problems, including psychology, ethics, and religious values

**III Capstone Experience**

This experience can be composed of research, community or service learning, or a campus project. It can be pursued individually or in interdisciplinary groups.