Five College Certificate in Sustainability Studies

Overview
Sustainability will be essential to the formulation of sound environmental, economic, and social progress in the twenty-first century. The Five College Sustainability Studies Certificate program is designed to engage students in a structured course of study that will draw on courses from across the campuses in a range of disciplines. Students will also complete an internship, independent research project, or advanced course work in sustainability studies. On each participating campus, program advisors will work with students to design a course of study that fulfills program requirements and is tailored to students’ interests and faculty strengths at the Five Colleges.

Requirements for the Certificate

Courses
- A minimum of seven courses. At least five of the courses must be above the introductory level, and two of those courses must be at the advanced level.
  - Three core courses, one from each of the following areas: Environmental Sustainability; Sustainable Economy and Politics; and Sustainable Society and Culture.
  - A minimum of three courses in one of the following five concentration areas: Agriculture and Food Systems; Energy Systems, Climate, and Water; Green Infrastructure, Design, and Technology; Politics and Policy; and Culture, History, and Representation. At least one of the concentration area courses must be at the advanced level. (One of the required courses for the concentration may also be counted toward the core courses requirement.)
  - Another one course from a different concentration area.

Other
- Experiential Component: Students will work with their campus program advisor to identify and complete an internship or independent research project that addresses a contemporary, “real world” problem. This component may be an internship, thesis, independent study, or other suitable activity approved by the student’s program advisor. Alternatively, students may work with their program advisor to identify a suitable advanced course within their concentration area.
- Capstone Symposium: Advanced students will present work fulfilling this requirement at an annual symposium. For these presentations, students will be encouraged to consider the ways in which their projects address the core areas of sustainability and their linkages.

Interested students must submit to their campus program advisor a declaration of intent, outlining a potential course of study, by the second semester of their sophomore year. They will complete and submit applications during fall of sophomore year.

Faculty/Contact
The program advisors at Mount Holyoke are: Doug Amy (politics), Jens Christiansen (economics), Catherine Corson (environmental studies), Holly Hanson (history and africana studies; on leave Spring 2016), Martha Hoopes (biological sciences), Girma Kebbede (geography), Robert Schwartz (history), and Lauret Savoy (environmental studies, on leave Spring 2016). For more complete information, including courses available on other campuses, see https://www.fivecolleges.edu/sustain

See Also
- Environmental Studies
- Nexus in Development Studies