

UNIT REPORT

Sustainability Studies (BA) - 01.Reviewer's Report - Academic Data

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Sustainability Studies (BA)

B.A. Sustainability Studies Mission

Mission:

The Bachelor of Arts in Sustainability Studies teaches students about the dynamic relationship between environmental health, economic welfare, and social justice in a changing world. It provides the knowledge and skills students required to understand the interdependence of these three goods and investigate how they best can be pursued over the long term on local, national, and global levels. The BASS embodies UF's and CLAS's mission and commitment to excellence in teaching, research, and service to the state, nation and world by advancing the pedagogy and professionalization of students and their contributions to sustainability and civic life.

Program Type and Level: Bachelor (includes all bachelors level degrees)

Start: 07/01/2022

End: 06/30/2023

Program: Sustainability Studies (BA)

Program CIP: 30.3301

Site Information: On Campus (Residential)

If Other Site: :

Responsible Roles: Leslie Thiele (thiele@ufl.edu)

PG 1 Sustainability Studies

Goal: The program goal is to better serve the pedagogical needs of students by adding new courses to the curriculum.

Program: Sustainability Studies (BA)

Evaluation Method:

We assessed the number of new courses.

Results:

The undergraduate coordinator reviewed the results and decided to add 5 new cluster courses to the curriculum.

FNR3020 Professional Practice in Natural Resources
JOU4314 Environmental Journalism
PHC 4309 Climate Change, the Environment, and the Future of Public Health
PHC 4320: Environmental Health Concepts in Public Health
PUR 4442 Public Interest Communications

SLO 1 Sustainability scholarship

Outcome: Define and explain sustainability scholarship, including natural scientific, social scientific, and humanistic approaches.

SLO Area (select one): Content (UG)

Assessment Methods Checklist: Presentation(s)

Assessment Method Narrative:

The presentations of students were evaluated according to their responses to the following requirement:

- Define and explain sustainability scholarship, including natural scientific, social scientific and humanistic approaches.
 - What sustainability scholarship (e.g. academic books or journal articles) has most helped you both understand and practically advance your sustainability internship activities? Explain how.

SLO Not Assessed This Year:

Threshold of Acceptability: 70

How many students did you assess for this outcome?: 50

How many students met the outcome?: 48

What percentage of students met the outcome?: 96

Does this meet your threshold of acceptability?: Yes

Results:

The threshold of acceptability was met, as determined by a capstone course presentation assessed by the faculty rubric (below). The student responded to this question in the presentation for the evaluation of SLO 1.

- Define and explain sustainability scholarship, including natural scientific, social scientific, and humanistic approaches.
 - What sustainability scholarship (e.g. academic books or journal articles) has most helped you both understand and practically advance your sustainability internship activities? Explain how.

96% (48 of 50) of graduating students successfully passed.

The rubric for the evaluation of SLO1 was as follows:

5 points - Has the student clearly identified the relevant sustainability scholarship?

10 points - Has the student clearly indicated how this scholarship was useful in better understanding his/her internship activities?

10 points - Has the student clearly indicated how this scholarship was useful in practically advancing his/her internship activities?

Students earned 18 or more points to pass.

The results revealed that students had command of sustainability scholarship. The assessment method functioned well.

SLO 2 Sustainability in context

Outcome:

Define and explain the relationship of sustainability to Ethics, Culture and Human Behavior; Economics, Law and Policy; Production Systems and the Built Environment; Ecology and Environmental Stewardship.

SLO Area (select one): Content (UG)

Assessment Methods Checklist: Presentation(s)

Assessment Method Narrative:

The presentations of students were evaluated according to their responses to the following requirement:

- Define and explain the relationship of sustainability to 1) Ethics, Culture and Human 2) Behavior; Economics, Law and Policy; 3) Production Systems and the Built Environment; 4) Ecology and Environmental Stewardship (these are the four Clusters).
 - How have specific cluster courses helped you both understand and practically advance your sustainability internship activities?

SLO Not Assessed This Year:

Threshold of Acceptability: 70

How many students did you assess for this outcome?: 50

How many students met the outcome?: 48

What percentage of students met the outcome?: 96

Does this meet your threshold of acceptability?: Yes

Results:

The threshold of acceptability was met, as determined by a capstone course presentation, of which 96% (48 of 50) of graduating students successfully passed.

Students answered this question: How have specific cluster courses in the area of Ethics, Culture and Human Behavior; Economics, Law and Policy; Production Systems and the Built Environment; Ecology and Environmental Stewardship helped you both understand and practically advance your internship activities?

The rubric for the evaluation of SLO2 was as follows:

5 points - Has the student clearly identified the relevant cluster courses?

10 points - Has the student clearly indicated how these courses proved useful in better understanding his/her internship activities?

10 points - Has the student clearly indicated how these courses were useful in practically advancing his/her internship activities?

Students earned 18 or more points to pass.

The assessment method functioned well. The results revealed that the students had a strong understanding of ethics and culture as it relates to sustainability.

SLO 3 Critical assessment

Outcome: Critically assess sustainability principles and practices.

SLO Area (select one): Critical Thinking (UG)

Assessment Methods Checklist: Presentation(s)

Assessment Method Narrative:

The presentations of students were evaluated according to their responses to the following requirement:

Critically assess sustainability principles and practices.

- Which sustainability principles and practices has your internship helped you better understand, pursue and promote? Explain how.

SLO Not Assessed This Year:

Threshold of Acceptability: 70

How many students did you assess for this outcome?: 50

How many students met the outcome?: 48

What percentage of students met the outcome?: 96

Does this meet your threshold of acceptability?: Yes

Results:

The threshold of acceptability was met, as determined by a capstone course presentation concerning the student's internship.

Students responded to: "Which sustainability principles and practices has your internship helped you better understand, pursue and promote? Explain how." 48 of 50 students passed based on the faculty rubric. 96% of graduating students successfully passed.

Students answered this question: Which sustainability principles and practices has your internship helped you better understand, pursue and promote? Explain how.

The rubric for the evaluation of SLO3 was as follows:

5 points - Has the student clearly identified the relevant sustainability principles and practices?

10 points - Has the student clearly indicated how his/her internship helped him/her better understand these principles and practices?

10 points - Has the student clearly indicated how his/her internship helped him/her better pursue and promote these principles and practices?

Students earned 18 or more points to pass.

The assessment method functioned well. The results revealed that students were able to critically assess the learning that took place through their internship.

SLO 4 Communicate effectively

Outcome: Effectively write and/or orally communicate a range of approaches, frameworks, principles, and practices of sustainability.

SLO Area (select one): Communication (UG)

Assessment Methods Checklist: Presentation(s)

Assessment Method Narrative:

- The oral presentations of students were evaluated according to their responses to the following requirement:
 - Effectively communicate a range of approaches, frameworks, principles, and practices of sustainability that you exhibited during your sustainability internship.

SLO Not Assessed This Year:

Threshold of Acceptability: 70

How many students did you assess for this outcome?: 50

How many students met the outcome?: 48

What percentage of students met the outcome?: 96

Does this meet your threshold of acceptability?: Yes

Results:

The threshold of acceptability was met, as determined by a capstone course presentation concerning an internship, of which 96% (48 of 50) of graduating students successfully passed.

The rubric for the evaluation of SLO 4 was as follows:

10 points - Has the student well identified a range of approaches, frameworks, principles, and practices of sustainability?

15 points - Has the student well communicated how these approaches, frameworks, principles, and practices of sustainability were relevant to his/her internship experience?

Students earned 18 or more points to pass.

The assessment method functioned well. The results revealed that students could communicate their learning of principles and practices of sustainability through their internship.

Sustainability Studies (BA) Use of Results for Improvement Item

Improvement Types Checklist: Added one or more courses

Use of Results for Improvement Narrative - Required:

The Director of Sustainability Studies and the Sustainability Studies Oversight Board reviewed the results. Five more sustainability-related courses were added to the curriculum based on the recognition by the reviewers that additional courses were needed. The Sustainability Studies Oversight Board included faculty members from the College of Design, Construction, and Planning, History, Anthropology, Economics, Psychology, Geography, and English.

Program Results Not Reported This Year:

Program Results Reporting Complete: true

B.A. Sustainability Studies Detail

Providing Department: Sustainability Studies (BA)

Assessment Cycle:

Assessment Cycle for:

Sustainability Studies

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Analysis and Interpretation:

Completed by May 31 of designated year

Improvement Actions:

Completed by January 31 of subsequent year

Dissemination:

Completed by March 15 of subsequent year

Year	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25
SLOs						
Content Knowledge						
#1	x	x	x	x	x	x
#2	x	x	x	x	x	x
Critical Thinking						
#3	x	x	x	x	x	x
Communication						
#4	x	x	x	x	x	x

SLO Assessment Rubric:

The Sustainability Studies Capstone course, Sustainability in Action (IDS 4942), lists the SLOs on its syllabus, and provides the following requirements and grading scheme for the Final Presentation:

Your oral presentation must contain the following components:

1) Introduction

- A brief background of your organization, including its history, mission, and primary activities (1 minute)

2) Responsibilities and Projects

- Describe your internship responsibilities and any major projects or reports you were working on (1 minute)

4) Internship Pros and Cons

- Give us the good and the bad of your tasks and experiences (1 minute)

5) Personal Growth (2 minutes)

- What would you do differently if you started the internship over again, and what lessons you will take with you to your next job?

Explain how you implemented one or more of the “Ideas for Action” from the Clifton “Strengths Insight and Action-Planning Guide” in the last month of your internship.

Optional but highly recommended: Conclude with your Mission Statement, and state how you lived your mission through your internship and how you intend to pursue your mission in the future.

Your oral presentation contributes to meeting the Sustainability Studies Program’s Student Learning Outcomes, especially the outcome of effectively communicating a range of approaches, frameworks, principles, and practices of sustainability.

Your written submission should contain the five above-listed components of your oral presentation, as well as a final section of 300-500 words that you will not present orally which relates your internship experience to the three remaining Student Learning Outcomes.

- Define and explain sustainability scholarship, including natural scientific, social scientific and humanistic approaches.
What sustainability scholarship (e.g. academic books or journal articles) has helped you understand and advance your internship activities? Explain how.
- Define and explain the relationship of sustainability to Ethics, Culture and Human Behavior; Economics, Law and Policy; Production Systems and the Built Environment; Ecology and Environmental Stewardship.
How have specific cluster courses helped you understand and advance your internship activities?
- Critically assess sustainability principles and practices.
Which sustainability principles and practices has your internship helped you better understand, pursue or promote? Explain how.

Rubric for Evaluation of Sustainability Studies Student Learning Outcomes

SLO 1: Define and explain sustainability scholarship, including natural scientific, social scientific and humanistic approaches

Students answer this question: What sustainability scholarship (e.g. academic books or journal articles) has most helped you both understand and advance your internship activities? Explain how.

The rubric for evaluation of SLO1 is as follows:

5 points - Has the student clearly identified the relevant sustainability scholarship?

10 points - Has the student clearly indicated how this scholarship was useful in better understanding his/her internship activities?

10 points - Has the student clearly indicated how this scholarship was useful in practically advancing his/her internship activities?

SLO 2: Define and explain the relationship of sustainability to Ethics, Culture and Human Behavior; Economics, Law and Policy; Production Systems and the Built Environment; Ecology and Environmental Stewardship.

Students answer this question: How have specific cluster courses in the area of Ethics, Culture and Human Behavior; Economics, Law and Policy; Production Systems and the Built Environment; Ecology and Environmental Stewardship helped you both understand and practically advance your internship activities?

The rubric for evaluation of SLO2 is as follows:

5 points - Has the student clearly identified the relevant cluster courses?

10 points - Has the student clearly indicated how these courses proved useful in better understanding his/her internship activities?

10 points - Has the student clearly indicated how these courses were useful in practically advancing his/her internship activities?

SLO 3: Critically assess sustainability principles and practices.

Students answer this question: Which sustainability principles and practices has your internship helped you better understand, pursue and promote? Explain how.

The rubric for evaluation of SLO3 is as follows:

5 points - Has the student clearly identified the relevant sustainability principles and practices?

10points - Has the student clearly indicated how his/her internship helped him/her better understand these principles and practices?

10 points - Has the student clearly indicated how his/her internship helped him/her better pursue and promote these principles and practices?

SLO 4: Effectively communicate a range of approaches, frameworks, principles, and practices of sustainability.

The rubric for evaluation of SLO4 is as follows:

10 points - Has the student well identified a range of approaches, frameworks, principles, and practices of sustainability?

15 points - Has the student well communicated how these approaches, frameworks, principles, and practices of sustainability were relevant to his/her internship experience?

Assessment Oversight:

The Sustainability Studies Oversight Board is responsible for assessment of the program.

Name	Department Affiliation	Email Address	Phone Number
Jack Davis	History	davisjac@ufl.edu	352-273-3398
Jane Southworth	Geography	jsouthwo@ufl.edu	
Terry Harpold,	English	tharpold@ufl.edu	
Michelle Phillips	Economics	michellephillips@ufl.edu	
Rick Stepp	Anthropology	stepp@ufl.edu	352-392-0262
Ron Chandler	Psychology	ronchandler@ufl.edu	
Hal Knowles	Design, Construction, and Planning	hknowles@ufl.edu	
Leslie Paul Thiele	Political Science/Director	thiele@ufl.edu	352-273-2380

Methods and Procedures - Undergraduate and All Certificate Programs:

SLO Assessment Matrix

Student Learning Outcome	Assessment Method	Measurement Procedure
Define and explain sustainability scholarship, including natural scientific, social scientific, and humanistic approaches.	Presentation	Receive a 73/100 (C) or higher to pass
Define and explain the relationship of sustainability to Ethics, Culture and Human Behavior; Economics, Law and Policy; Production Systems and the Built Environment; Ecology and Environmental Stewardship.	Presentation	Receive a 73/100 (C) or higher to pass
Critically assess sustainability principles and practices.	Presentation	Receive a 73/100 (C) or higher to pass
Effectively write and/or orally communicate a range of approaches, frameworks, principles, and practices of sustainability.	Presentation	Receive a 73/100 (C) or higher to pass

In Sustainability Studies, SLOs are periodically assessed in the courses in which they are introduced or reinforced.

These assessments are primarily direct, occurring in the format of graded examinations, short and long writing assignments, individual and group projects, presentations, and internships.

Each course and instructor conducts some combination of these assessments.

The assessments vary significantly based on the course and instructor. As instructors are encouraged to develop and revise syllabi to better achieve SLOs, both the content and assessment measures in courses may vary from year to year even when taught by the same instructor.

IDS 2154: Facets of Sustainability, the gateway course for all majors, introduces and reinforces SLOs 1-3, and gives opportunities but does not require the development of oral communication skills (SLO 4).

Content knowledge, critical thinking, and written communication skills are reinforced and assessed in the Core courses.

All SLOs are formally assessed in final student presentations conducted before both internal and external reviewers in IDS 4942 *Sustainability in Action*, the capstone course required of all majors. Here students offer a multi-media presentation to their peers, the course instructor, and an external reviewer from the community (SLO 4). In their presentations, students summarize their integration of academic knowledge from all 4 clusters into the internship practice (SLO 1 & 2), and offer a critical assessment of their internship goals, challenges, and accomplishments while outlining key insights that they will take into their future academic or professional careers (SLO 3). As this formal examination is conducted each year in the capstone course, it will provide assessment data on all 4 SLOs annually.

Indirect assessments are gained through 1) an Exit Interview conducted each year with all Majors at the conclusion of the capstone course; 2) through the retention/graduation rates provided by CLAS, and 3) through job/graduate school placement data gained periodically from alumni communications.

Curriculum Map - Undergraduate Degree Programs:

Curriculum Map for:

Sustainability Studies

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Key: **I**ntroduced

Reinrforced

Assassed

Courses SLOs	Facets of Sustainability IDS 2154	CLAS Sustainability Core Courses ANT 2402 POS 2032 AMH2631 CLA 2521 REL 2071 GLY2038 BSC 2862	Sustainability in Action IDS 4942	Additional Assessments
Content Knowledge				
#1	IR	R	A Presentation	
#2	I R		A Presentation	
Critical Thinking				
#3	I R	R	A Presentation	
Communication				
#4	I R	R	A Presentation	

Research :

Research is limited to that conducted in individual courses in which students write research papers.

SLO Measures - Graduate and Professional Programs:

N/A

Assessment Timeline - Graduate and Professional Programs:

N/A