



Master of Science in
**Sustainability
Management**

Features

- Study with Earth Institute, Columbia University faculty and leading practitioners, who are experts in sustainability, management and environmental science.
- Receive practical training based on a comprehensive, flexible program of study, which includes hands-on experience with real-world sustainability projects.
- Join a large alumni network of sustainability professionals, who use management, finance, and quantitative analysis to transform organizations.

Program Objectives

The M.S. in Sustainability Management, a joint program of the Earth Institute and the School of Professional Studies, draws from Columbia University's excellence in sustainability and the experience of leading practitioners to train problem-solving professionals. Organizations turn to our graduates for help in taking on the singular challenge of our time: transforming the economy so that it allows a high standard of living without destroying the planet that sustains us.

In response to the increasing challenges all organizations face — from reducing energy and water use to managing scarce resources — the program combines academic leadership, scientific rigor, and professional practice in a dynamic, interdisciplinary, and flexible course of study.

As the demands placed on Earth's resources continue to grow, so must the problem solving capacity of managers. The program provides students with the knowledge and skills they need to manage environmental performance while accounting for the economic, legal, political, social, and technological dimensions of their work.

Columbia University's Earth Institute blends research in the physical and social sciences, education, and practical solutions to help guide the world onto a path toward sustainability. The people who make up the Earth Institute are earth scientists, economists, business and policy experts, specialists in public health and law, researchers, teachers and students.

The School of Professional Studies offers innovative and rigorous programs that focus on the principles of cross-disciplinary knowledge, lifelong learning and an agile response to a changing environment. Its programs combine theory with practice, leverage the expertise of students and faculty, and connect global constituencies.

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“The program energized me and made me feel like part of an active movement that is growing to tackle the most pressing climate-related challenges. I learned how to use scientific tools as well as the power of people to work towards shared sustainability goals.”

— Alumna **Avantika Goswami**



The Curriculum

The 36-point program includes course work in five required areas of study. Indicative courses under each of the five areas are listed below:

1. Integrative Courses in Sustainability Management (9 points)

These courses draw on general and financial management, policy, science, and quantitative analysis to teach students how to solve the types of problems that they will encounter as sustainability practitioners.

- Sustainability Management (Required)
- Integrative Capstone Workshop (Required)
- Writing about Global Science for the International Media
- Earth Institute Practicum
- Ethics and Values for Sustainability Management
- Practicum in Innovative Sustainability Leadership

2. Economics and Quantitative Analysis (9 points)

The economics requirement reflects the need to understand the financial costs and benefits of sustainability practices. The quantitative analysis requirement gives students the necessary tools to utilize data in analyzing issues and identifying solutions to problems.

- Economics of Sustainability Management
- Energy and Sustainable Development
- Cost-Benefit Analysis
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for Sustainability Management

- Sustainability Metrics
- Statistics for Sustainability Management
- Decisions Models & Management
- Sustainable Investing and Economic Growth

3. The Physical Dimensions of Sustainability Management (9 points)

The physical dimensions area of study teaches students about the connections between environmental inputs (i.e., natural resources) and outputs (i.e., energy), and the effects of those processes on the natural environment. The emphasis in this area of study is on understanding the environmental impacts from organizational activities.

- Building Energy Workshop
- Sustainability Science
- The Science of Sustainable Water
- Earth's Climate System
- The Science of Urban Ecology
- Sustainable Cities
- Analysis for Energy Efficiency
- Water Resources and Climate

4. The Public Policy Environment of Sustainability Management (3 points)

Public policy shapes the management of sustainability in both public and private organizations. Sustainability practitioners must be able to understand and analyze policy, and its effects on what they are able to do. Students must also be prepared to react to future policy developments.

- Policy and Legal Context of Sustainability Management
- International Environmental Law
- Water Governance
- Access, Innovation in the Transportation Transition

5. General and Financial Management (6 points)

The general and financial management area of study teaches the skills that are essential to shaping the behavior of an organization, and thus to carrying out effective sustainability initiatives. Students learn to use the tools to shape organizational culture and employee behavior, even as new environmental challenges arise. Financial management courses provide a foundation in finance and financial models, including how environmental markets provide incentives to advance sustainability.

- Sustainability Communication Strategy and Reporting
- Global Environmental Markets
- Sustainable Finance
- Sustainable Operations
- Financing the Green Economy
- Sustainable Agriculture



“A decade from now, all excellent managers will be sustainability managers. Just as the definition of excellent management today includes effective financial, human, and information management, soon it will also include effective sustainability management.”

— Steven Cohen, Director, M.S. in Sustainability Management

Integrative Capstone Workshop in Sustainability Management

Students, in this course, undertake a sustainability project for a realworld client, under the supervision of a faculty advisor. By practicing sustainability management, students integrate and apply each element of the curriculum -- management, quantitative analysis, science, and policy. In the process, the students experience the constraints under which sustainability managers operate, and they gain valuable, practical experience. The students work in teams, on a pro bono basis, for public and nonprofit organizations, both in the United States and abroad. The projects involve a variety of salient sustainability issues, including energy efficiency, renewable energy, lowcarbon transportation, sustainable investing. For more information on the Capstone Workshop projects, please visit the website: www.sustainability.ei.columbia.edu/curriculum.

Professional Development

Helping students and alumni meet their professional goals is a top priority of the program. Both students and alumni have access to a wealth of professional development services from Columbia's Earth Institute and the School of Professional Studies. The School operates a Career Management program which offers job search tools and resources. The Earth Institute augments these services with a broad sustainability-specific professional development program, which comprises internships, sustainability skill-building, access to leading practitioners, and specialized job search strategies and tools.

Our Faculty

Our faculty includes Earth Institute scientists and renowned practitioners in fields ranging from climate change planning to sustainable finance. The faculty draw from their research and from their practical experience to teach students both the fundamental principles of sustainability management, as well as the latest innovations in the field. They provide the necessary practical training in sustainability management to a new generation of problem-solving professionals.

Our Students

Sustainability Management students represent a cross-section of the industries and organizations currently incorporating sustainable initiatives into their day-to-day operations, as well as those who are looking to change careers. The program's students are dedicated not only to learning the management and scientific principles of sustainability, they are passionate about putting their education into practice. About 70% of our students enroll in the program on a part-time basis and complete the program in up to 9 semesters, and 30% of our students enroll in the program on a full-time basis and complete the program in three semesters.

Fellowship funding

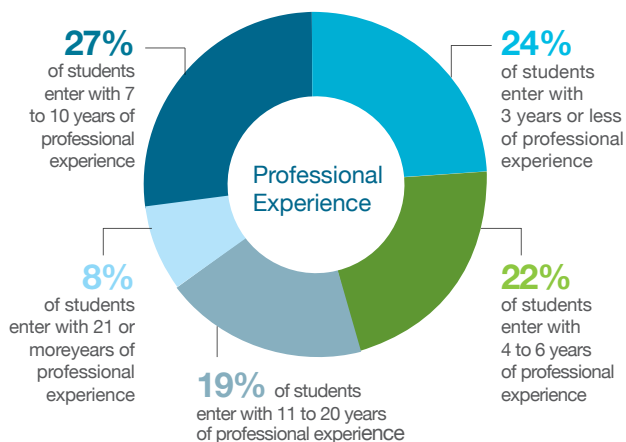
The Earth Institute and the M.S. in Sustainability Management program offer up to \$72,000 in fellowship funding annually. The Admissions and Fellowship Committee award fellowships based on applicants' demonstrated financial need and academic and professional merit. More information is available on the website.

Our Alumni

The M.S. in Sustainability Management has graduated more than 600 students, creating a formidable network of sustainability professionals. Our alumni hold leading positions in large private firms, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations both in the United States and abroad.

Examples of current alumni roles:

- Sustainability Manager, Amazon
- Head of Sustainable Business Operations, Bloomberg LP
- Head of Sustainability, JetBlue Airlines
- Manager, Corporate Sustainability Strategy, Coach
- Sustainability Manager, Natural Resources Defense Council
- Senior Program Manager, NYC Mayor's Office of Recovery and Resiliency
- Manager, Brand Responsibility, Metrics & Reporting, Patagonia





Admissions

TIME COMMITMENT

The M.S. in Sustainability Management is offered as both a full- and part-time program. Courses are held primarily in the evenings, and the degree can be completed without daytime courses. The program is designed to enable part-time students to maintain full-time employment while enrolled in the program.

WHO SHOULD APPLY

The M.S. in Sustainability Management is ideal for professionals currently working in, or aspiring to be in management positions in fields such as operations, consulting, sustainable finance and investing, and low-carbon transportation. The program is designed for those who have some form of sustainability responsibility in their current position, or who are looking to integrate sustainability into their organizations' operations, or are who wish to change career paths.

Admission is selective. College-level science, math, and economics are preferred. Practitioner experience is greatly valued, and accomplishments in the fields of sustainability management are considered.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Prospective students are encouraged to apply early.

- Fall Admission: Final deadline is **May 15**
- Spring Admission: Final deadline is **November 1**


HOW TO APPLY

For complete information about how to apply to the program, please visit the Earth Institute Website at sustainability.ei.columbia.edu


APPLICATION MATERIALS CHECKLIST

Only complete applications are reviewed.

- Completed application form
- \$95 application fee
- Transcripts from all postsecondary schools attended
- Professional résumé
- Statement of academic purpose addressing: your purpose and interest in pursuing a degree in sustainability management; how the degree program fits into your overall professional growth, focusing in particular on the connection between the program and your academic and/or professional experience
- Two letters of recommendation written by teachers or professional colleagues who are well positioned to comment on your intellectual strengths and professional promise

An aerial photograph of a city street at dusk, featuring a prominent teal overlay that tapers from the top left to the bottom right. The scene shows multi-story buildings, a street with traffic, and trees. The text is overlaid on the teal portion of the image.

The Program graduates innovative sustainability practitioners, who have the knowledge and skills to transform the way that organizations do business.



PROGRAM CONTACT

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