



# Certificate in Sustainability Studies

## Student FAQs

### **Q: What makes the Certificate in Sustainability Studies unique?**

A: This is the first program of its kind offered at UCalgary. The model is new and innovative because the sustainability component can be integrated into most undergraduate degree programs at no extra cost. In turn, undergraduate students have the opportunity to complete their degree program in the context of a broader interdisciplinary understanding of sustainability. Few other Canadian universities have developed certificate models for sustainability education, giving UCalgary undergraduate students the opportunity to be among the first to graduate from such a program.

### **Q: Am I eligible for the Certificate in Sustainability Studies and is there an additional cost?**

A: Most undergraduate students can integrate certificate requirements into their degree program at no extra cost. Programs not eligible for the certificate include Law, Nursing, Social Work, Undergraduate Medical Education and Veterinary Medicine. Certain specialized programs may require additional time and courses to complete certificate requirements. Students unsure if they can embed certificate requirements into their degree program are encouraged to speak with their faculty academic or program advisor.

**Program Office:** Faculty of Environmental Design,  
Professional Faculties Building, Room 2182

**Email:** [sustainability.cert@ucalgary.ca](mailto:sustainability.cert@ucalgary.ca)

### **Q: I am a graduate student. Can I pursue this certificate?**

A: Graduate students are not eligible for the program. However, as a graduate student you can still enrol in sustainability-related or focused courses, or pursue a graduate degree in sustainability. Explore our course and degree offerings at [ucalgary.ca/sustainability](http://ucalgary.ca/sustainability).

### **Q: What are the benefits of pursuing the certificate?**

A: Students who earn the Certificate in Sustainability Studies will graduate with the knowledge and skills to become sustainability leaders in their career paths and communities. Graduates will be equipped with:

- a strong understanding of the role they can play in achieving the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals committed to by over 190 world leaders
- the knowledge and research skills for applied problem-solving of sustainability issues
- hands-on experience in understanding and defining real-world solutions to real-world problems — locally, nationally and internationally
- experience in tackling sustainability issues and being exposed to interdisciplinary problems and modes of thinking in both theory and practice

**Q: What is required to complete the Certificate in Sustainability Studies?**

A: Students must complete 18 units (3.0 full-course equivalents) as part of the 120 units typically required by a bachelor's degree program, as follows:

- 12 units (2.0 full-course equivalents) of core courses that must be completed in sequential order
  - **SUST 201:** Exploring Sustainability<sup>1</sup>
  - **SUST 401:** Sustainability Research Methods<sup>2</sup>
  - **SUST 403:** Sustainability Research Project
  - **SUST 501:** Capstone in Sustainability Studies

*Note: You must be registered in the certificate program to enrol in SUST 501.*

- 6 units (1.0 full-course equivalent) of electives with at least 3 units (0.5 full-course equivalents) taken at or above the 300 level. Students can choose from over 220 undergraduate level courses that have been identified as sustainability-related or focused offered across over 45 disciplines to complete this component of the certificate. View the course list at [ucalgary.ca/sustainability/certificate](http://ucalgary.ca/sustainability/certificate).

**Q: What's the shortest time-frame I could complete the certificate requirements within?**

A: The certificate takes two years to complete, and the required core courses must be taken in sequential order. **SUST 201** and **SUST 403** are offered exclusively during the fall semesters, while **SUST 401** and **SUST 501** will be offered during the winter semesters.

**Q: What if I took courses required by the certificate before it became officially available in 2017? Do those count?**

A: Yes. These include core courses UNIV 207 (now **SUST 201**) and UNIV 401.30 (now **SUST 401**) and any of the over 220 sustainability-related or focused undergraduate level courses identified as eligible towards the elective portion, which can be viewed at [ucalgary.ca/sustainability/certificate](http://ucalgary.ca/sustainability/certificate).

**Q: When and how do I register in the Certificate in Sustainability Studies?**

A: Students are encouraged to speak with their faculty academic or program advisor as early as possible in their degree program — first or second-year — prior to applying for the certificate to avoid taking additional courses beyond their degree and/or certificate requirements. Students may register for the certificate through the “Change of Program” feature available in their Student Centre. Please be advised that the “Change of Program” feature is only available between October 1 and February 1 of each year, so schedule discussions with your faculty academic or program advisor before or within this window to ensure your registration is recorded. For more information on how to change your program, visit [ucalgary.ca/registrar/student-centre](http://ucalgary.ca/registrar/student-centre). You are also invited to express your interest in the certificate through the program administrator at [sustainability.cert@ucalgary.ca](mailto:sustainability.cert@ucalgary.ca). Once you do, you will be provided with key dates, upcoming events/opportunities and course information through our email listserve. If you are in a structured or specialized program, we strongly encourage you to speak with your faculty academic or program advisor prior to applying for the certificate.

**Q: How will the Certificate in Sustainability Studies show on my final degree parchment?**

A: The certificate will be noted on both your parchment paper and transcript. You will receive a single parchment which will note both your degree and the Certificate in Sustainability Studies.

Ask your advisor how you can complement your degree with the Certificate in Sustainability Studies. [ucalgary.ca/sustainability/certificate](http://ucalgary.ca/sustainability/certificate).

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<sup>1</sup> Formerly UNIV 207: Exploring Sustainability

<sup>2</sup> Formerly UNIV 401.30: Sustainability Research I