
***Proposing a Course for the
GE CLAS Core Sustainability
Requirement***

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The GE CLAS Core requirement in Sustainability provides a 21st century education for students that is both forward-looking and self-reflective.

- **Creating a sustainable future is a “grand challenge” of our time.**
- **Sustainability is at the intersection of at least three different systems and therefore requires an interdisciplinary and systems-thinking approach to understand.**



APPROVED GENERAL EDUCATION CLAS CORE CHANGES

COMMUNICATION AND LITERACY

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (3 s.h.)

INTERPRETATION OF LITERATURE (3 s.h.)

RHETORIC (4 s.h.)

WORLD LANGUAGES

(s.h. varies by language and student achievement. All students must complete 2 years of language in high school to be admitted to UI and 60% of UI students use 4 years of HS work to complete this requirement.)

SUSTAINABILITY

Students completing the Sustainability requirement simultaneously complete one additional GE requirement as indicated on the Sustainability course: Natural Sciences; Quantitative or Formal Reasoning; Social Sciences; Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; or Values and Culture (3 s.h.- 4 s.h.)

NATURAL, QUANTITATIVE, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

NATURAL SCIENCES (7 s.h. with one lab)

QUANTITATIVE OR FORMAL REASONING (3 s.h.)

SOCIAL SCIENCES (3 s.h.)

CULTURE, SOCIETY, AND THE ARTS

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES (3 s.h.)

INTERNATIONAL AND GLOBAL ISSUES (3 s.h.)

LITERARY, VISUAL, AND PERFORMING ARTS (3 s.h.)

VALUES AND CULTURE (3 s.h.)

Sustainability GE Area Outcomes

Courses study the interconnectedness of human actions across complex natural systems, focusing on consequences and their evolution over time and by place. These outcomes will be interwoven with the other GE Area outcomes.

Foundational Understanding

Students identify concepts and terminology associated with sustainability and systems-thinking.

Systems Thinking

Students investigate the interconnectedness of human and natural systems, applying systems-thinking and evidence-based approaches.

Application to Everyday Life

Students evaluate how their actions affect and are affected by society's ability to meet sustainability goals.

Content Approach

Students investigate an institutional and/or cultural processes **OR** students investigate natural systems processes.

GE CLAS Core: A Call for Proposals

- Students entering UI Summer 2022 and onward will be required to complete the Sustainability requirement.
- Students who entered UI before this date are not held to the requirement.
- GE course proposals are due annually by September 3 and January 16.
- Exceptions are made for late proposals, but this could affect the semester the course is first offered with GE status.

Creating a Proposal for GE Course Status: Information and Tips

- Proposals are reviewed by a faculty committee (GECC) during the fall and spring semesters.
- If proposal is approved by GECC, then it moves to UEPCC for final approval before obtaining GE Core status in the course catalog.
- CLAS Core GE courses should be taught once every two years.
- Familiarize yourself with the overall goals of the CLAS Core GE program and course attributes of GE courses:

<https://clas.uiowa.edu/faculty/goals-and-course-attributes>

Elements: GE Sustainability Proposal

- Cover Letter
- Section One: Systems Thinking Approach to Sustainability
- Section Two: Strategies for Learning
- Section Three: Practice with Essential Tools
- Section Four: Course Attributes
- Section Five: Appendix (Syllabus with clear grading scheme and all required sections, representative assignments and assessments)
- See <https://clas.uiowa.edu/faculty/proposing-course-ge-clas-core-status>

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

