

SUSTAINABILITY (BA)



This program was approved for students entering the university in the Summer 2024–Spring 2025 catalog year. For more information about catalog year, go to Catalog Year Information (<https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/university-wide-unit-specific-policies/catalog-year/>).

Bachelor of Arts in Sustainability

Unit: College of Arts and Sciences (<http://www.louisville.edu/a-s/>)

Program Website: Sustainability (<https://louisville.edu/upa/programs/bachelors-of-sustainability/>)

Academic Plan Code(s): See Track Requirements tab.

Program Information

The Bachelor of Arts in Sustainability is designed to train students to research, identify, implement, and monitor sustainable practices, processes, systems, and framework in human habitats. Graduates will be equipped to contribute to sustainability service and research that benefits the local, national, and global communities.

Completion of this degree requires work to be submitted for the department's Learning Outcomes Measurement. For details, contact department.

Degree Summary

Code	Title	Hours
	General Education Requirements (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) ¹	31
	College/School Requirements	22
	Program/Major Requirements ¹	27
	Track Requirements	9
	Supporting Courses	32
Minimum Total Hours		121

¹ Some credit hours from the General Education Requirements may be satisfied by courses defined by the program, in which case additional electives will be required to complete the minimum hours for the degree. See the Degree Requirements tab for specific coursework.

Specific coursework information can be found on the Degree Requirements tab.

Accelerated BA Sustainability/MA in Interdisciplinary Studies: Concentration in Sustainability

Sustainability majors who are considering pursuing a master's degree (MA) in Interdisciplinary Studies with a concentration in Sustainability can speed up the process by applying some of their undergraduate credit toward a master's degree. Students accepted into the Accelerated BA/MA program take three graduate courses (9 credit hours) as an undergraduate that apply toward both the bachelor's degree and eventual master's degree.

Special Requirements for Accelerated Master's Degree Program Admission

1. An undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or better
2. Completion of URBS 131, 231, 232, 303, 331 with a minimum GPA of 3.0

Core courses should include URBS 631, SUST 602, and research methods.

The fifth year consists of graduate coursework leading to completion of the Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies: Concentration in Sustainability. The accelerated curriculum allows students to apply 9 credit hours of graduate core course work taken during their undergraduate studies towards the completion of both the BA and Master's degrees.

Advising to ensure the requirements are met without extraneous credit hours is imperative and strongly recommended for timely degree completion and financial considerations for the accelerated degrees. Please be sure to consult with advisors and the director of the master's program.

Accelerated BA Sustainability/Master of Urban Planning (MUP)

Sustainability majors who are considering pursuing a master's degree in Urban Planning (MUP) can speed up the process by apply some of their undergraduate credit toward a master's degree. Students can apply 12 credit hours of graduate coursework taken during their undergraduate studies towards the completion of both the BA and MUP degrees.

Students should apply to this program in their junior year but are recommended to speak to the director of the BA in Sustainability, the director of the MUP, and A&S advising earlier. Students must have an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 to be admitted to the accelerated program.

For more information, please see the admissions tab and the track requirements tab.

Departmental Admission Requirements

Admission to the BA in Sustainability requires a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0.

The Change Major Request form can be found under the Academic Progress tile on ULink.

Admission and Application to the Accelerated Sustainability BA/Master of Urban Planning (MUP)

Students who are interested in either of the accelerated program will fill out an application with the Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUGS) at

any time. The application will be held until the student has completed at least 60 credit hours but less than 90 credit hours (usually in their 6th semester). At this point they will be formally "admitted" to the accelerated program. The student must have a GPA of 3.00 to be admitted to the accelerated program.

General Education Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Requirements (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)*		31
The following courses are required by the program and satisfy the respective General Education Requirement(s):		
URBS 131	Introduction to Sustainability - SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
URBS 331	Sustainable Built Environment - D1 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
URBS 303	Quantitative Research Methods in Sustainability and Urban Studies - QR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	

*All degrees require the completion of the University-wide General Education Program (link provided above). Some General Education requirements may be met in the requirements for the major or supporting coursework, in which case additional electives may be required to complete the minimum hours for the degree.

College/School Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Arts & Sciences Requirements		
GEN 100	Student Success Center First Year Experience	1
or GEN 101	Arts & Sciences First Year Experience	
Foreign Language ¹		12
Electives in Humanities or Natural Sciences ²		9
WR - two approved courses at the 300 level or above		
Minimum Total Hours		22

Program/Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Department of Urban and Public Affairs		
<i>Sustainability Core:</i>		
URBS 131	Introduction to Sustainability - SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
URBS 231	Environmental Management	3
URBS 232	Behavioral Dimensions of Environmental Decision-Making	3
URBS 331	Sustainable Built Environment - D1 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3

URBS 303	Quantitative Research Methods in Sustainability and Urban Studies - QR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
URBS 431	Policy and Governance in Sustainability - WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
URBS 432	Sustainable Social-Ecological Systems	3
URBS 505	GIS for Planning & Policy	3
URBS 440	Sustainability Internship - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
or URBS 445	Independent Study in Sustainability - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	

Minimum Total Hours 27

Code	Title	Hours
Supporting Courses		
Natural and Social Science electives ⁴		18
Electives ⁵		14
Minimum Total Hours		32

Code	Title	Hours
Track Requirements (See Track Requirements tab)		9

At least 50 of the total minimum hours required must be at the 300 level or above.

Code	Title	Hours
Culminating Undergraduate Experience (Graduation requirement)		
Requirement fulfilled by completing one of the following:		
URBS 445	Independent Study in Sustainability - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
URBS 440	Sustainability Internship - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	

¹ Completion of the intermediate level of a single foreign language

² In addition to courses counted toward General Education; 6 hours must be at 300 level or above

³ May be incorporated into other degree requirements

⁴ Outside of courses used to meet major requirements with 15 hours at the 300 level or above (in addition to courses counted toward General Education)

⁵ Students who satisfy General Education Requirements by courses defined by the program will require additional electives to complete the minimum hours for the degree.

Track Requirements

Policy and Governance in Sustainability

Academic Plan Code(s): SUSTBA_PGS

Code	Title	Hours
Track Requirements		
Select one of the following courses:		3

POLS 335	Global Environmental Politics	
POLS 348	Environmental Policy	
URBS 615	Environmental Policy	
PGS Electives, select two of the following courses:		6
CJ 430	Environmental Crime	
GEOG 340	Environmental Conflict in the United States: Historical Foundations & Contemporary Problems - D1 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SBH (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
SOC 315	Environmental Sociology	
URBS 302	Foundations of Urban Administration	
URBS 311	Urban Policy	
URBS 490	Special Topics	
URBS 663	Economic Development	
Minimum Total Hours		9

Sustainable Societal and Urban Systems

Academic Plan Code(s): SUSTBA_SUS

Code	Title	Hours
Track Requirements		
ENVS 360	Global Environmental Change	3
SUS Electives, select two of the following courses:		6
ANTH 332	Ecology, Politics and Culture	
ECON 360	Environmental Economics	
ENVS 363	Climate Science	
ENVS 365	Biogeography	
ENVS 571	GIS and Water Resources	
URBS 301	Planning for Innovative and Equitable Cities and Regions	
URBS 490	Special Topics	
Minimum Total Hours		9

Sustainable Societies

Academic Plan Code(s): SUSTBA_SS

Code	Title	Hours
Track Requirements		
GEOG 361	Sustainable Human Environments - WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
SS Electives, select two of the following courses:		6
ANTH 352	Food and Body Politic	
BIOL 440	Global Change Ecology - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	

GEOG 300	Globalization and Diversity - D2 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
PHIL 328	Environmental Ethics	
SOC 305	Urban Sociology	
SOC 380	Animals and Society	
URBS 312	Dogs in Society: An Interdisciplinary Examination of the Human-Canine Connection - SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
URBS 490	Special Topics	

Minimum Total Hours **9**

Accelerated BA Sustainability-Master of Urban Planning (MUP)

Code	Title	Hours
Accelerated Pathway Courses		
URBS 505	GIS for Planning & Policy ¹	3
URBS 601	Planning Theory & History ²	3
URBS 603	Applied Research Methods ²	3

¹ URBS 505 is both a Sustainability Core course and an Accelerated Pathway course that counts toward the 9 credit hours shared between the undergraduate and graduate degree.

² Accelerated Pathway course credits in URBS 601 and URBS 603 will be used to satisfy 6 of the 18 credit hours that are typically taken as Natural and Social Science Electives.

Flight Plan

Year 1		Hours
Fall		
GEN 100 or GEN 101	Student Success Center First Year Experience or Arts & Sciences First Year Experience	1
ENGL 101	Introduction to College Writing - WC (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
URBS 131	Introduction to Sustainability - SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
General Elective		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences - S		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Arts & Humanities Global Diversity - AHD2		3
Hours		16
Spring		
ENGL 102	Intermediate College Writing - WC (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
URBS 231	Environmental Management	3
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences with Lab - B		4
General Education: Cardinal Core Oral Communication - OC		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Social & Behavioral Sciences Historical Perspective US Diversity - SBHD1		3
Hours		16

Year 2		
Fall		
URBS 303	Quantitative Research Methods in Sustainability and Urban Studies - QR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
URBS 232	Behavioral Dimensions of Environmental Decision-Making	3
Arts and Humanities-AH		3
Foreign Language 1		4
Natural Science or Social Science Elective		3
Hours		16
Spring		
URBS 331	Sustainable Built Environment - D1 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
Foreign Language 2		4
Natural Science or Social Science elective (300 level or above)		3
Humanities or Natural Science elective		3
Natural Science or Social Science elective (300 level or above)		3
Hours		16
Year 3		
Fall		
URBS 431	Policy and Governance in Sustainability - WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
Foreign Language 3		4
Humanities or Natural Science WR elective (300 level or above)		3
Natural Science or Social Science elective (300 level or above)		3
Natural Science or Social Science elective (300 level or above)		3
Hours		16
Spring		
URBS 432	Sustainable Social-Ecological Systems	3
URBS 505	GIS for Planning & Policy	3
Sustainability Track elective 1		3
Foreign Language 4 (if needed) or general elective		3
General elective		3
Hours		15
Year 4		
Fall		
Sustainability Track elective 2		3
URBS 440	Sustainability Internship - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
or URBS 445	or Independent Study in Sustainability - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
Humanities or Natural Science elective (300 level or above)		3
General elective		3
General elective		3
Hours		15
Spring		
Natural Science or Social Science WR elective (300 level or above)		3
Sustainability Track elective 3		3
General elective		3
General elective		2
Hours		11
Minimum Total Hours		121

Flight Plan for Accelerated BA-MUP

The accelerated flight plan is the same as the stand-alone flight plan for the BA listed in the table above for years 1 and 2.

Year 1		
Fall		
GEN 100	Student Success Center First Year Experience	1
or GEN 101	or Arts & Sciences First Year Experience	
ENGL 101	Introduction to College Writing - WC (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
URBS 131	Introduction to Sustainability - SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
General elective		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences - S		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Arts & Humanities Global Diversity - AHD2		3
Hours		16
Spring		
ENGL 102	Intermediate College Writing - WC (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
URBS 231	Environmental Management	3
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences with Lab - B		4
General Education: Cardinal Core Oral Communication - OC		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Social & Behavioral Sciences Historical Perspective US Diversity - SBHD1		3
Hours		16
Year 2		
Fall		
URBS 303	Quantitative Research Methods in Sustainability and Urban Studies - QR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
URBS 232	Behavioral Dimensions of Environmental Decision-Making	3
General Education: Cardinal Core Arts & Humanities - AH		3
Foreign Language 1		4
Natural Sciences or Social Science elective		3
Hours		16
Spring		
URBS 331	Sustainable Built Environment - D1 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
Foreign Language 2		4
Natural Science or Social Science elective (300 level or above)		3
Natural Science or Social Science elective (300 level or above)		3
Humanities or Natural Science elective		3
Hours		16
Year 3		
Fall		
URBS 431	Policy and Governance in Sustainability - WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
Foreign Language 3		4
Humanities or Natural Science WR elective (300 level or above)		3
Sustainability Track elective 1		3
General elective		3
Hours		16
Spring		
URBS 432	Sustainable Social-Ecological Systems	3
Sustainability Track elective 2		3
Humanities or Natural Science elective (300 level or above)		3
General elective		3
General elective		3
Hours		15
Year 4		
Fall		
URBS 601	Planning Theory & History	3

URBS 603	Applied Research Methods	3
General elective		3
General elective		3
Hours		12
Spring		
URBS 440	Sustainability Internship - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
URBS 505	GIS for Planning & Policy	3
Sustainability Track elective 3		3
General elective		3
General elective		2
Hours		14
Minimum Total Hours		121

The Flight Plan outlined above is intended to demonstrate one possible path to completing the degree within four years. Course selection and placement within the program may vary depending on course offerings and schedule, elective preferences, and other factors (study abroad, internship availability, etc.). Please consult your advisor for additional information about building a flight plan that works for you.

Degree Audit Report

Degree Audit reports illustrate how your completed courses fulfill the requirements of your academic plan, and which requirements are still outstanding. Degree audits also take transfer credits and test credits into account. "What-if" reports allow you to compare the courses you have completed in your current academic plan to the courses required in another academic plan. Should you have questions about either report, please consult with your academic advisor.

Flight Planner

The Flight Planner tool is available for you to create a personalized Flight Plan to graduation. Advisors have access to review your Flight Planner and can help you adjust it to ensure you remain on track to graduate in a timely manner.

To create these reports:

1. Log into your ULink account.
2. Click on the Academic Progress tile.
3. Select the appropriate report.
 - a. To run a Degree Audit report, click on "View my Degree Audit."
 - b. To create a What-if report, click on "Create a What-if Advisement Report."
 - c. To run a Flight Planner report, click on "Use My Flight Planner."

Click [here](https://ulink.louisville.edu) to run a Degree Audit report, create a What-if report, or run a Flight Planner report. (<https://ulink.louisville.edu>)