
SUSTAINABILITY CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

2019
ANNUAL
REPORT

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ
sustainability.ucsc.edu

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Fostering meaningful dialog and engagement in sustainability, justice, & inclusion.

The Sustainability Certificate Program provides a unique opportunity for UCSC employees to explore issues, concepts and strategies for building a more sustainable and inclusive campus through the lens of multiple disciplines and perspectives.

The staff and faculty in our program have ventured beyond their departments to share knowledge, expertise and curiosity with one another. The result is a rich learning community that leverages and highlights the unique resources of our campus. Our instructors are experts in a variety of sustainability topics, from renewable energy, regional planning & ecological anthropology to psychology, buddhism and environmental

justice. Brought together under one program, participants are able to make connections between the many facets of sustainability and consider their interrelationships when identifying solutions to sustainability challenges.

As UCSC strives to meet its carbon neutrality, zero waste, and water conservation goals while balancing the needs of a growing and diverse student body, we need approaches to sustainability that recognize diverse lived experiences and support people's abilities to meet their own basic needs. The Sustainability Certificate Program provides a forum for a meaningful exploration of these important and relevant issues and trends.

"Fascinating and eye-opening content which challenged so many of our basic assumptions."

"(I) was very impressed with the content and the instructors, both from a depth and presentation point of view."

-Past Participants

Summary

The 2019 program engaged 72 staff participants representing 41 departments or units across campus. 31% of participants graduated in one year.

72

PARTICIPANTS

89% identified as staff and 11% as graduate students.

23

GRADUATES

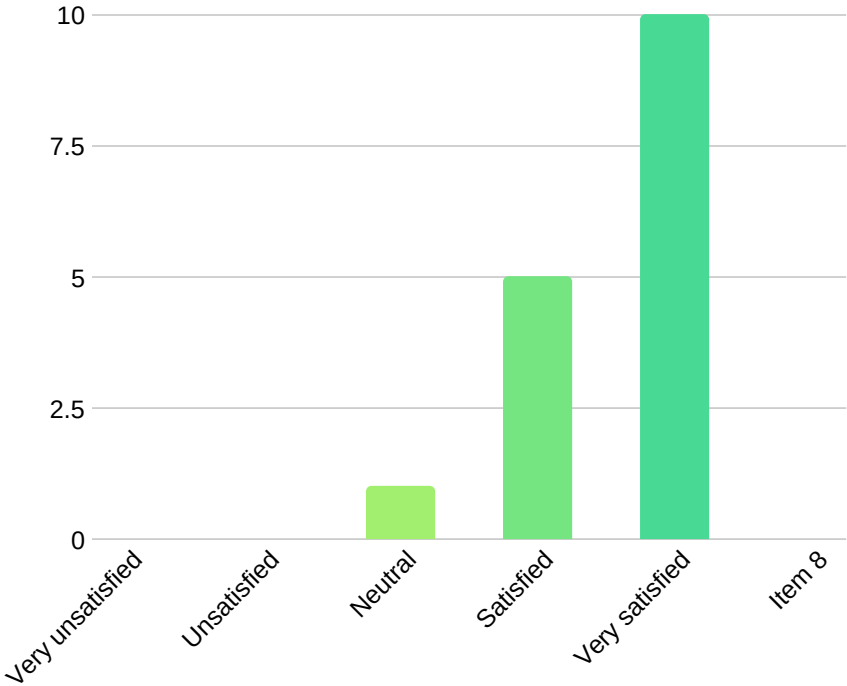
Representing 41 campus departments and units. This represents a 76% increase in the graduation rate from the 2017-18 academic year.

SURVEY RESULTS

Summary

22% of program participants completed a program evaluation. 94% of respondents were satisfied with their experience in the program, and 6% were neutral.

PROGRAM SATISFACTION



36%

OF RESPONDENTS

Said the program would be most improved by having a course or include in existing courses, an opportunity for participants to collaborate on a campus sustainability project together.

LOOKING AHEAD

Our goals for the 2019-20 Certificate Program include:



INCREASE COURSE OFFERINGS

We utilize program feedback to identify educational needs; for 2019-20 we'll be offering a course on Zero Waste and bringing in new instructors.



IMPROVE MARKETING

Continue to find avenues to promote the program beyond the initial fall enrollment outreach, to increase awareness of this opportunity across campus.



FILL GAPS

Using feedback from instructor and student evaluations, we will continue to look for instructors and perspectives that broaden our curriculum. Next year we'll be bringing in instructors from the City of Santa Cruz.



EVALUATE PROGRAM

We will continue to evaluate the courses, instructors and program to ensure that as we grow, the quality of the program is also enhanced.

"This program expanded my knowledge of sustainability and connected me with a lot of new faces on campus. I really enjoyed all of the topics and conversations in each class."

"The courses I took (were) really great; (they were) thought-provoking, gave me tools to take back to my department, encouraged discussion & participation."

- Past Participants

2019 COURSES

Sustainability in the UC

This course provides a general overview of sustainability efforts at UCSC, from policy and operations, to student initiative and programming, to academics and co-curricular activities. We will contextualize the UCSC campus' lens into sustainability within the larger context of the campus sustainability movement across institutions of higher education. Small group discussion and hands-on activities will engage participants proactively throughout the session. Instructor: Elida Erickson, Sustainability Office.

Sustainable Cities & Social Equity

We have become an urban planet, with most major economic, social, and environmental processes shaped by how our cities grow and change. Promoting more sustainable urban growth is critical for the planet's future, but there are important equity concerns in how we move towards more sustainable urban growth. This course will examine overall global patterns of urbanization and plans for development more sustainable cities, but will focus on California cities. We'll look at state legislation designed to promote more sustainable cities, and the social equity impacts of the urban planning processes that have emerged in recent years. Instructor: Dr. Chris Benner, Professor of Environmental Studies.

Climate Change & Justice

The people who have historically benefited the most from the burning of fossil fuels are not the same people who will bear the most severe consequences from climate change's impacts. This course will examine global and local climate impacts of climate change, and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of various efforts around policy and technology to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The course will also explore the social and environmental impacts of climate change and fossil fuel extraction, with a focus on indigenous rights and forest protection in Ecuadorian Amazon. Instructors: Christina Thomure, Capital Planning; Kevin Koenig, Amazon Watch.

Fostering Sustainable Behavior

Creating a more sustainable campus requires engaging people in behaviors that reduce waste and conserve resources, as well as more complex behaviors required to shift institutional norms and foster a more just, equitable and sustainable culture. The common response to this realization emphasizes needing to "change people's behavior." This course will challenge the premise that people need "fixing" and provide a framework for exploring what psychology can tell us about how to best foster sustainable behaviors that endure over time. Participants will gain tools for developing and evaluating engagement strategies within their role in the University setting. Instructor: Shauna Casey, Sustainability Office

2019 COURSES

Implementing Sustainability

This workshop will utilize a mix of organizational theory and its practical application to define organizational context, identify key stakeholders and decision points, develop strategies for engagement and identifying incremental methods for accomplishing long range goals. The session will utilize strategic goals from the campus sustainability plan to help anchor the experience in personal sustainability goals. Instructor: Andrea Hesse, Academic Divisional Computing.

Intersections Between Diversity & the Environment

A core value at UCSC is our commitment to environmental sustainability, conservation, and a “green” ethic. It is such a foundational principle that it is assumed that all members of our campus community share the same understanding of sustainability, and that it is an unqualified good. This class/workshop/elective explores how certain forms of environmentalism, including those in the mainstream, have perpetuated discrimination and exclusion based on race, class, ethnicity, gender, place of origin, and other characteristics. We share the results of research conducted with undergraduates to highlight how these issues have manifested at UCSC and how they affect student success, sense of belonging, and retention. We also expand our discussion to include how low- income, people of color disproportionately bear the brunt of environmental degradation, contamination, and scarcity. Finally, we discuss how our campus and larger community can be more environmentally just, from forms of communication and interaction, to curricular and co-curricular programs. Instructors: Dr. Flora Lu, College 9 & 10 Provost and Professor of Environmental Studies; Elida Erickson, Sustainability Office; Dr. Rebecca Hernandez, American Indian Resource Center.

Sustainability Justice & Happiness

This workshop will explore the relationship between sustainability, social justice, and personal happiness. It will have three parts. First, it will explore how our personal consumption choices feed global and planetary problems. Second, it will examine how these choices impact on our sense of happiness and wellbeing. Thirdly, it will help identify changes in our daily lives that can heal the planet, and ourselves. Instructor: Dr. Ravi Rajan, Professor of Environmental Studies.

Green Offices

This course provides an introduction and overview for getting your office Green Office Certified. We'll help you establish a green team within your office, schedule waste, energy, and water assessments; and introduce the Sustainability Behaviors survey required to complete your certification. In order to receive credit for this course, participants must attend this session and then complete the Green Office certification for your office. Instructor: Shauna Casey, Sustainability Office.

2019 COURSES

Greening Campus Events

A green event is one that is organized with a focus on minimizing waste and promoting sustainable practices at every step of the planning process. Utilizing the UC Santa Cruz Green Events Planning Guide, this workshop will provide participants real-world strategies and resources for hosting an accessible, low-impact event. Hand-picked vendors will provide sustainable samples and examples of the best choices for sustainable event materials and food. Instructor: Kristen Lee, Sustainability Office.

Sustainable Procurement Strategies

This class will highlight what leading organizations, including UC, are doing in the area of sustainable procurement. Since every purchase we make has the ability to impact human health and the environment, why not make product choices that minimize or eliminate these impacts? Sustainable procurement is much more than buying copy paper with recycled content (although that's a great start); it includes measuring supplier performance, adopting policies on sustainable purchasing standards, and ensuring equity in our procurement practices. Third party product certifications will also be discussed, as there are many established programs that can be counted on including Green Seal, EPEAT, and LEED. Instructor: Darin Matthews, Procurement & Supply Chain.

Mindful Sustainability

Many of us strive to live in sustainable ways. Yet, we find that daily distractions often affect our ability to stay attuned to the present and be mindful of the decisions that would be most sustainable. The root of the word 'sustainable' means 'being supported from below.' Given this meaning of sustainability, how can we be more grounded in our sustainable practices? This course will explore our connections to our everyday world and how to ground ourselves in the present. We will explore the following questions: Why is it so difficult to remain focused on the sustainable issues at hand? How can I be more connected to others and the natural world around me? How can I remind myself to be more present in any given moment, so that the decisions I make are more grounded in my care for the planet? Instructor: Jeffrey Kiehl, Adjunct Professor, Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences & Environmental Studies.