Co-Curricular Activities

UC Santa Cruz has a broad range of co-curricular activities available to students interested in learning about and practicing sustainability concepts. The term, “co-curricular” refers to the broad spectrum of university-related activities that take place outside of the regularly-scheduled, classroom-taught courses. Quantitative measurements in this category, as is the case with Curriculum, are difficult to define. Instead, a glimpse is offered into the various types of opportunities available to students that serve to augment, parallel, or apply the classroom learning provided within the structure of UCSC coursework.

Summary of Activities and Performance

- Student organizations – Several student organizations are highly active in the campus sustainability movement, including the Student Environmental Center (SEC), a student branch of the California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG), the Student Coalition for Responsible Electronic Waste (SCREW), and others.

- The Student Environmental Center organizes and hosts the Annual Campus Earth Summit, initiated in 2002, at which break-out groups create a Blueprint for a Sustainable Campus. This provides an opportunity for any campus member to converse about sustainability issues and contribute to the Blueprint, the guiding document for several student organizations.

- The Campus Sustainability Council, a subcommittee of student government, grants approximately $240,000 in funds annually to various organizations for sustainability projects related to the Blueprint for a Sustainable Campus.

- Most administrative and academic committees, some of which oversee sustainability-related activities on campus, have designated spaces for voting student representatives. However, this fact is not well-known to the student body.

- Campus departments or units often hire student staff or take on interns to assist with operations, which creates an excellent experiential learning opportunity as well as improving operational capacity.

- Several academic programs have learning components related to sustainability that occur outside of a classroom setting. These programs are described in greater detail under Co-Curricular Opportunities later in this section.

- Several research Centers and Institutes (see the Research Programs and Facilities Indicator in this section) at UCSC focus on research pertaining to sustainability issues, and provide opportunities for students to participate in that research.

2008 Campus Earth Summit
Challenges

• More resources are needed for staff to adequately support the growing number of student organizations and to manage the funding that is allocated to the organizations through student fees (see Student Organizations: Support later in this section).

• There are many simultaneous activities on campus, with no apparent system for consistently disseminating information for participation and collaboration.

• Students report difficulty communicating with the Student Committee on Committees, the branch of student government that makes official appointments to campus committees.

Performance Indicators

Overview of Selected Programs

Program in Community and Agroecology (PICA)
Through a two-unit discussion class, as well as living and working at the PICA gardens located on campus in the Lower Quarry, students discuss issues concerning sustainable food systems and how they relate to community, social justice, and farming practices. PICA allows participants who live at the Village, an on-campus housing complex next to the UCSC Farm, to become active parts of a community oriented to awareness and learning concerning sustainable food systems. As part of the academic program, PICAns take part in both informal and structured gardening, cooking, and learning activities at the Village and the Farm. More information, go to http://ucscpica.org/.

Food Systems
UCSC has many opportunities for students who are interested in food systems to not only learn about sustainable agriculture, but become involved in making the campus’ food system more sustainable. The following are only a few of these opportunities available to UCSC students:

• The Food Systems Working Group (FSWG)
• Gardening internships.
• Students for Organic Solutions (SOS) campaign with the Student Environmental Center.
• Lifelab Science Program (environmental education program for schools).
• Santa Cruz County Food Systems Network.
• The UCSC Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS).

More information is available at http://casfs.ucsc.edu/.

Education for Sustainable Living Program (ESLP)
ESLP, an award-winning student-created and student-led course and lecture series, hosted by College Eight, offers a unique opportunity for students to discuss and implement principles of sustainability. The lecture series, offered every spring quarter since 2004, is open to the public and brings internationally acclaimed speakers to UCSC to share their ideas, stories, and activities.

All students, approximately 250 annually, attend the lecture series. Approximately 100 of those students earn two units of credit by also completing associated writing assignments and participating in a student-led discussion group. The other 150 students earn five units of credit by enrolling in a student-led Action Research Team (ART) project. During winter quarter, approximately 30 students receive five credits for participation in a youth-led training seminar in which they plan the ART project that they then lead in the spring quarter course. Each ART leader must have a syllabus and reading list for their ART course, and leads the class to undertake a project on or off campus that pertains to a particular aspect of sustainability.

Why This Indicator?

Much of the learning value of a university education does not come from classroom experiences. There is a growing consensus that creating opportunities for internship and field experience is an important part of preparing students for the workforce. Allowing students to earn course credit for such experiences ensures that valuable field experience does not have to be in addition to a full course load, but can be part of the curriculum.
Global Information Internship Program (GIIP)
The goal of this program is to spread use of the Internet and the associated skills throughout the developing world. Through a yearlong series of lectures and labs, students learn leadership and information technology (IT) skills, which culminate in the development and execution of a project designed to facilitate use of technologies by a non-governmental organization or small business abroad. Several of the organizations GIIP works with are related to sustainability. More information is available at http://giip.ucsc.edu/.

College Eight Core Course and Sustainability Projects
Each of the ten colleges within UCSC requires that all residents complete the Core Course that defines the theme of that college. The theme of College Eight is Environment and Society, and its Core Course has both academic and service-learning components that focus on sustainability. The newly-introduced, award-winning Sustainability Projects complement the classroom component of the Core Course, and are a requirement for each of the over 400 first-year students at the college. This program allows students to choose to participate in one of five on- or off-campus field projects. The academic component of the College Eight core course, Environment and Society, focuses on the relationships between various human cultures and the natural world. More information is available at http://eight.ucsc.edu/.

Field Studies and Internship Opportunities
Internships serve to enhance classroom learning with field work or community service. In addition to academic research, students work with an organization, locally or abroad, to gain firsthand experience of work in their field of study. The Environmental Studies Internship Office places over 300 interns per year, all of which participate in projects related to sustainability. An example is the Life Lab Science Program, which allows UCSC students to teach local elementary school students about the environment through interactive gardening projects. The campus Arboretum and Natural Reserves also provide internship opportunities for students to learn about site maintenance and plant science. The Community Studies Department likewise has a very active internship program, and many of their students’ field studies relate to sustainability. More information is available at http://envs.ucsc.edu/internships/.

Sierra Institute
This program introduces students to outdoor experiences as a venue for learning about the environment. The Sierra Institute, based in Humboldt, is a for-credit outdoor learning program that gives students fifteen units for an academic year quarter of learning, traveling, and outdoor activities. More information is available at http://www.humboldt.edu/~sierra/.

Office of Physical Education, Recreation, and Sports (OPERS) Outdoor Recreation
The outdoor recreation trips organized and run by OPERS include day and weekend trips and ongoing classes that are not for credit. This program hosts special events every Earth Day, offers workshops on sustainability topics such as composting, organic farm tours, and a spring break trip that involves visiting Native American reservations and learning about their approach to sustainability. Free bicycle repair and bicycle licenses are available at the East Field House every Thursday, in addition to bike lights for purchase at wholesale prices. Use of OPERS vans are donated for certain sustainability events. More information is available at http://www2.ucsc.edu/opers/.

Chancellor’s Undergraduate Internship Program (CUIP)
CUIP is a competitive internship program that provides departments and units on campus with the opportunity to hire students to assist with projects on campus. Compensation to selected students is provided by payment of student fees by the Chancellor’s Office and the unit or units hosting the project. While the projects are not necessarily related to sustainability, many previous sustainability projects, including this assessment, were supported through this program. The project experience is augmented and paralleled by a 2-unit class, in which students are introduced to campus infrastructure and administrators, and encouraged to communicate and collaborate in their work. In 2006-2007, six of the approximately 30 projects through CUIP were related to campus sustainability. More information is available at http://intern.ucsc.edu/cuip/.
Involvement in Campus Operations and Infrastructure

Why This Indicator?

When it comes to education concerning sustainability, the University itself is the perfect laboratory. As evidenced by this assessment, a myriad of issues concerning sustainability are manifest in the functioning of any such institution, and granting students access to information and Decision Making structures helps to empower and educate them in ways not available in the classrooms.

On-Campus Internships and Paid Work

The operation of the UCSC campus presents an excellent opportunity for students to learn-by-doing and give back to the University. Many campus units have sustainability concerns in their purview. For example, the Physical Plant and its various units, including the Recycling Office, Site Stewardship Program, Energy Management, and Environmental Health and Safety, as well as the UCSC Arboretum, the Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems, and the Campus Natural Reserve offer paid positions or internship opportunities for student workers. In 2007, a pilot Sustainability Internship Program was initiated through the UCSC Sustainability Office, currently a two-year pilot office within Physical Plant, to facilitate student involvement, mentorship, and education through work with several projects and units on campus.

Annual Campus Earth Summit

Organized annually by the Student Environmental Center, the Annual Campus Earth Summit allows students, faculty, and staff to interact in working groups that focus on various topics concerning campus sustainability. The 2008 Summit, held in January, was the seventh annual event. The findings of these groups are assembled into the Blueprint for a Sustainable Campus, the guiding document for the Campus Sustainability Council, SEC, and ESLP. These working groups sometimes continue to meet, and have generated positive results from the ability of students and staff to interact and collaborate to improve the efficiency and practices of campus operations.

Campus Committees

Most administrative and academic committees, including those whose decisions affect campus sustainability, have voting seats available for interested undergraduate and graduate students. This allows students to learn about decision-making processes in a bureaucratic setting and to participate directly in the policymaking or recommendation functions of the University. Students can apply to be appointed to most committees through the Student Union Assembly’s Student Committee on Committees (SCOC). More information on the SCOC is available at http://sua.ucsc.edu/scoc/.

The following is a sample of committees that students interested in sustainability may find of interest:

- Advisory Committee for Facilities
- Campus Sustainability Subcommittee
- Dining and Housing Master Planning Committee
- Campus Natural Reserve
- Campus Welfare Committee
- Transportation Advisory Committee

2008 Annual Campus Earth Summit

The following groups participated in organizing the 2008 Annual Campus Earth Summit event:

- Business and Administrative Services
- Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems
- College Eight
- College Nine/Ten
- Education for Sustainable Living Program
- Environmental Health and Safety
- Food Systems Working Group
- Physical Plant
- Pilot Sustainability Office
- SHR Training and Development
- STEPS Institute for Innovation in Environmental Research
- Student Environmental Center

2008 Campus Earth Summit Planning Committee
Co-Curricular Activities

Student Organizations and Student-Run Cooperatives

Why This Indicator?

Students learn from each other, just as they do from their professors, and student organizations help to bring power and voice to student interests related to sustainability. Student organizations are also an excellent way to ensure that staff and administrators have an avenue of communication to students for collaboration on campus projects, including those that are related to sustainability.

Student Organizations

Note: This is an attempt to capture the most active and relevant student organizations and is not comprehensive. Some important organizations may have been omitted.

The Student Environmental Center

Since 2001, the Student Environmental Center (SEC) has been committed to collaboration with the administration to create a sustainable campus. They host the Annual Campus Earth Summit, are connected to the statewide California Student Sustainability Coalition (CSSC), and participate in creating policy changes. They also founded and support ESLP (see Co-Curricular Opportunities). The SEC currently has four subgroups that discuss issues concerning green building, transportation, waste prevention, and food systems. It initiated the passing of the student fee referendum for funding sustainability projects, now administered by the Campus Sustainability Council (CSC). SEC has long been active in collaborative efforts to improve the campus’ sustainability practices. They receive over $90,000 in annual funding from CSC and oversee a full-time Sustainability Programs Manager staff position. More information is available at http://enviroslug.org.

Friends of the Community Agroecology Network (FoCAN)

FoCAN is a student group that supports the work of the Community Agroecology Network (CAN). CAN is a faculty-initiated and partially student-run non-profit that facilitates local and national sales of coffee from several organic, cooperative growers in Central America. Because CAN brokers purchase directly between growers and consumers, there are no “middle-men.” This ensures that the coffee growers and the consumers are treated fairly. CAN also sponsors undergraduate and graduate interns to go to Central America and work directly with the growers to help ensure the success of the program. CAN coffee is served in the UCSC dining halls. More information is available at http://www.communityagroecology.net/.

The Campus Sustainability Council

After passage of a student fee referendum (see Appendix G) for funding student projects on campus, the Campus Sustainability Council was created in 2003. This elected group of students, a subcommittee of the Student Union Assembly, oversees the allocation of approximately $240,000 collected annually through student fees. Of this, less than $70,000 is available for one-time projects with the rest being permanently or semi-permanently allocated to specific organizations. Funds are allocated through a winter and spring funding round to registered student organizations for projects related to campus sustainability. Positions on the Council, elected seats based on College affiliation, give interested students the opportunity to participate in funding allocation processes, enforce accountability measures, and make difficult decisions concerning funding of other student organizations. More information is available at http://sua.ucsc.edu/csc/.

California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG)

CALPIRG is a statewide group that works to defend citizens’ rights through consumer advocacy and environmental and educational activism. The UCSC chapter of CALPIRG creates opportunities for internships and volunteer work on various issues, including homelessness, forest protection, and renewable energy. CALPIRG wrote and promoted the successful student fee referendum that led to UCSC’s purchase of Renewable Energy Credits for all the electricity used on campus. They employ one full-time staff person each year.

Student Coalition for Responsible Electronic Waste (SCREW)

This group works with the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition and Toxic-Free UC to promote education about the importance of recycling e-waste, and to ensure that students are informed about where e-waste bins are located around campus.

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The Green Campus Program (GCP)
Beginning as part of the Alliance to Save Energy, the GCP provides internship opportunities for students to help implement energy efficiency projects on campus. As of 2007, the GCP projects had saved UCSC over $30,000 in energy costs and included installing bi-level lighting in stairwells and replacing hundreds of incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescents. More information is available at http://www.ucsc.edu/about/sustainability/greencampus.shtml.

Student-Run Cooperatives
Bike Cooperative
This student-owned, operated, and run non-profit sells and repairs bikes and teaches bike maintenance skills. More information is available at http://bikecoop.ucsc.edu/.

The Kresge Food Cooperative
This is a cooperatively-owned and run food outlet on campus. The store is located at Kresge College that specializes in selling sustainable and organic produce and bulk goods. It also serves as a community center for alternative culture. More information is available at http://www2.ucsc.edu/kresge/commlife/food.shtml.

Support by Student Organization Advising and Resources (SOAR)
The purpose of the Student Organization Advising and Resources (SOAR) is to facilitate productive student engagement. SOAR's office supports more than 150 student organizations on campus including those listed above and several other sustainability-related groups with complex needs. SOAR helps manage fiscal accounts, keep records, advise student organizers one-on-one, and ensure that all events and activities comply with University policy.

SOAR plays a crucial role in raising the capacity and professionalism of student organizations. Without SOAR, student groups would be forced to reinvent the organizational wheel each year in their quest to turn good intentions into activities and activism. SOAR provides those crucial aspects of organizational development that would otherwise be absent from the student landscape: contextual knowledge, organizational learning, and continuity.

However, SOAR's work has recently become more challenging for various reasons:
- SOAR currently has two full-time staff, three part-time staff and advisors, and a small number of student workers. Before it was reorganized, SOAR had ten staff (though it also oversaw additional areas).
- SOAR's advising and oversight responsibilities have increased substantially:
  - Student programs are up by over 400% since 2003; student-initiated outreach programs have increased by over 150% since 2005; and the number of student organizations has increased by 52% since 2002.
  - SSOs have initiated complex activities. To support this growth, SOAR is called on to provide policy development and increased staff oversight (e.g., negotiations with off-campus organizations and service providers; purchase and maintenance of equipment; tracking paid internships; etc.)
  - SSOs have created career staff positions. The hiring and supervision of career staff by students is uncommon in the UC system. SOAR is called on to oversee student-governed recruitment and supervision of staff to ensure fair hiring and compliance with contracts. SOAR also works with Human Resources staff to ensure students are trained in personnel policies.
  - SSOs are developing new organizational structures in the midst of conducting complex projects. To support this development, SOAR meets with students and is creating organizational development, financial, and leadership trainings.

More information on SOAR and support for student organizations can be found on SOAR's website at: http://soar.ucsc.edu/.
Research Programs and Facilities

Why This Indicator?

Centers, institutes, and other campus programs provide opportunities through financial sponsorship and facilities for faculty, graduate, and undergraduate researchers from many disciplines to work together to produce research documents and publications that can be used as resources by policymakers and other interested parties. In addition, centers and institutes distribute grants and fellowships for graduate and post-doctoral students, work with local organizations, host lectures and events, and build and maintain databases of the collected information.

Summary

There are numerous centers, institutes, and other facilities and programs on campus, each of which focuses on specific, interdisciplinary areas of study. This assessment cannot describe the work of these undertakings in depth. However, a cursory description of the research component of University life, as exemplified by these organizations is provided. More information on these programs can be found in the UCSC 2006-2008 General Catalog (pages 59-74).

This assessment identified more than 25 entities that address sustainability-related issues. This list may not be comprehensive, but it provides a sense of the breadth of activity at UCSC:

- Arboretum
- California Institute for Quantitative Biomedical Research
- Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS)
- Center for Global, International, and Regional Studies (CGIRS)
- Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society (CITRIS)
- Center for Justice, Tolerance, and Community (CJTC)
- Center for Tropical Research in Ecology, Agriculture, and Development (CenTREAD)
- Geographic Information Systems Laboratory
- Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics
- Geospatial Visualization Laboratory
- Institute for Quantitative Biosciences (QB3)
- Institute of Marine Sciences
- Life Lab Science Program
- Monterey Bay Education, Science, and Technology Center at Fort Ord
- Museum of Natural History Collections (MNHC)
- Natural Reserve System:
  - Año Nuevo Island Reserve
  - Campus Natural Reserve
  - Fort Ord Natural Reserve
  - Landels-Hill Big Creek Reserve
  - Younger Lagoon Reserve
- Physical and Biological Sciences Division Facilities:
  - Earth Systems Modeling Laboratory
  - Greenhouses
  - Molecular Ecology and Evolutionary Genetics Facility
- Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group
- Science, Technology, Engineering, Policy, and Society (STEPS) Institute
- University of California Observatories/Lick Observatory

Highlighted Programs

Center for Global, International and Regional Studies (CGIRS) and Sustainability Engineering and Ecological Design (SEED)

CGIRS is involved in initiating SEED which is defined here as the planning, development and deployment of technological and social systems and institutions that can protect the earth’s ecological systems, for this and future generations. SEED is a five-year curriculum plan to mobilize growing student, campus, and broader interest in environmental challenges and related social concerns. The goal is to build links with the business community, to bridge the divide between Engineering and Social Sciences, and to foster new research initiatives in environmental informatics. The first course was offered fall quarter of 2007 titled EE80S: Sustainability Engineering and Practice, co-taught by the SEED organizers listed above. More information is available at http://www2.ucsc.edu/cgirs/.

Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS)

CASFS hosts a world-renowned agroecology apprenticeship program, which has trained hundreds of students from all over the world in the principles of sustainable agriculture. This program has since brought its talents to many areas of the world, including...
Santa Cruz County. Many of the organic farms in the area have received information and assistance through CASFS apprentices and other outreach mechanisms. CASFS, a division of Social Sciences, engages in education, research, and public service, and hosting events related to sustainable food systems. In particular, CASFS is leading the cutting edge of collaborative farm-to-institution social science research and applied programs toward evolving both models of co-curricular learning and UCSC’s food system. More information is available at http://casfs.ucsc.edu/.

Center for Tropical Research in Ecology, Agriculture, and Development (CenTREAD)
CenTREAD is a coalition of graduate students and faculty at UCSC committed to fostering the interdisciplinary research and training needed to understand tropical environmental issues and develop ecologically-based, economically viable, culturally respectful, nonexploitative solutions that serve as a foundation for future generations. CenTREAD has focused on training graduate students and professionals from tropical countries to return as leaders in sustainability and conservation in their native countries, in addition to supporting graduate training and research by UCSC graduate students working in the tropics. More information is available at http://centread.ucsc.edu/.

Science, Technology, Engineering, Policy, and Society (STEPS) Institute for Innovation in Environmental Research
The focus of the STEPS Institute is to fund research projects and events that create dialogue and connections between UCSC’s research and policymakers, non-governmental agencies, and other research laboratories. The goal of the institute is to link long-term interdisciplinary environmental research in science, technology, engineering, policy, and society.

Current research emphasizes three major themes that affect sustainability: effects of global change, conservation of biodiversity, and alteration of the earth’s water systems. More information is available at http://www.steps.ucsc.edu/

Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics
Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics approaches topics of nature-human interactions from the perspective of natural systems’ effects upon humanity. This institute encompasses four research Centers: Center for Dynamics and Evolution of the Sea Land Interface (CDELSI), Center for Origin, Dynamics and Evolution of Planets (CODEP), Center for Study of Imaging and Dynamics of the Earth (CSIDE), and Center for Remote Sensing (CRS). These centers facilitate the research of the institute and help to promote valuable interdisciplinary work. More information is available at http://igpp.ucsc.edu/.

Institute for Quantitative Biosciences (QB3)
Institute for Quantitative Biosciences (QB3) hosts interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research and partners with the private sector to seek solutions to biomedical problems. The institute addresses a variety of topics, from atomic and molecular structures and applications to pharmaceuticals to environmental mitigation techniques and technologies. More information is available at http://www.qb3.org/.

The Institute of Marine Sciences
The Institute of Marine Sciences focuses much of its research on ocean health and the effects of human pollutants on marine systems. Because of UCSC’s proximity to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the campus and the affiliated Long Marine Lab facilities provide excellent opportunities for researchers to study oceanic ecology. More information is available at http://ims.ucsc.edu/
Opportunities and Recommendations

Further integrate co-curricular learning into the curriculum.
- Explore opportunities to expand the number of courses that include experiential learning and leadership training components.
- Develop new opportunities for students to apply co-curricular work toward major, general education, and/or unit requirements.
- Provide resources and support the development of independent majors relating to sustainability.
- Explore more formal support for internship opportunities in order to further integrate them into the UCSC academic experience.
- Explore development of a certificate program demonstrating to future employers that students had practical/applied experience in sustainability as it relates to their majors.

Continue outreach and education efforts concerning co-curricular opportunities.
- Increase outreach to the student body concerning the various co-curricular programs on campus and the skills and experiences offered.
- Increase student awareness of opportunities to participate in the operation and decision-making processes at the University.

Improve coordination of student groups.
- Increase strategic approach and collaboration between student organizations to help create a unified voice.
- Expand communication, organization, and shared events and resources with off-campus Santa Cruz community groups related to sustainability.

Ensure that SOAR can properly support the growing number of student sustainability organizations.
- Evaluate resources allocated to SOAR to ensure that it has adequate funding to advise and support the student organizations and associated activities, including sustainability-related groups.
- Coordinate with SOAR, student groups, and especially the Campus Sustainability Council to help develop a web-based master calendar of co-curricular events related to sustainability. For instance, requesting that applicants for Sustainability Council funding post group events to the calendar (under the purview of the Sustainability Council) will increase awareness of events and foster inter-group communication.

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