

Sustainability Minor



Recognizing the innovative role artists and designers can play in solving these pressing challenges, the Sustainability minor provides students with a broad understanding of the social, political, economic and environmental issues impacting the future of humanity and our planet. Students will study and develop strategies and systems, as applicable to art and design, which can meet the needs of current generations without compromising those of future generations.

Eligibility

Open to all BFA majors. Students must be on track in their major and in good academic standing, with no more than 6 credits behind and a cumulative GPA of 2.0.

Required Courses

CAIL201	Human Ecology	3.0	(fall or spring)
NSCI305	Science and Sustainable Design	3.0	(spring only)
LIBS441	Sustainability Capstone*	3.0	(fall only)
	Sustainability Elective**	3.0	(any semester)
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Total Credits

15.0

* Students who have a dedicated capstone for their major will complete one capstone course that combines both their major and minor.

** A limited choice of Creative Action, Liberal Arts and Sciences and Studio Elective courses across the College will count towards the Sustainability minor Electives, as determined each semester by the Interdisciplinary Studies Director, Sustainability Minor Area Head, and Department Chairs. See the Minors Course List. See all majors, Creative Action and Liberal Arts and Sciences for Course Descriptions.

Each enrolled student will receive an individual Academic Plan that outlines how this minor fits into their major.

For more information about the Sustainability minor contact:

**Michele Jaquis, Professor & Director
Interdisciplinary Studies
Ahmanson 606
(310) 846 - 2632
mjaquis@otis.edu
www.otis.edu/minors**

**Claudia Hernández Romero, Associate
Professor, Liberal Arts & Sciences
Sustainability Minor Area Head
cromero@otis.edu
www.otis.edu/sustainability-minor**

Sustainability Minor

Program Learning Outcomes:

Sustainability Minor student work will demonstrate:

Grow

Disciplinary knowledge and skills

Understanding and application of the practices, theories and science of sustainability.

Proficiency in industry-standard skills, technologies, and processes • Capacity to identify and solve creative problems

Proficiency in both creative and conventional research methodologies, including material and form exploration, interviewing, observation, and data analysis to define, investigate and solve sustainability-related problems from multiple perspectives.

Cross-disciplinary awareness and practice • Audience-focused research, historical context, and field-specific discourse

Understanding of the social, political, economic and environmental issues that impact the future of our planet and all its inhabitants, and the role artists and designers can play in securing sustainable futures.

Dare

Innovation • Experimentation and play • Challenge to the status quo

Produce works of art and design that address or solve sustainability issues in ways that are innovative, environmentally conscious, socially responsive, culturally relevant, and economically viable.

Bravery in their work and their interactions with others

Bravery in using their positions as artists and designers to advocate for a more just and sustainable world.

Reflect

Capacity to communicate (orally, written, and/or visually) about their practice

Ability to clearly articulate the relationship between their major and sustainability concerns and how these studies will help them achieve personal and professional goals.

Capacity to seek, assemble, evaluate, and ethically apply information and ideas from diverse sources

including data and evidence that support their arguments for social and environmental change.

Analysis of both ethical and aesthetic impacts of art and design

Evaluate the impacts of human actions, including one's creative practice, on the environment and other beings.

Connect

Understanding of themselves as parts of a larger whole made up of human and non-human beings.

Understanding the interconnectedness of everything on the planet, advocating for equitable access to resources and opportunities for all members of society, human and non-human.

Awareness of positionality – in the world, their field, their communities.

Understanding of how one's own lived experiences, geographic locations and cultures shape one's understanding of sustainability challenges locally and globally.

Ability to work well, collaborate, and build relationships across differences in identity, perspective, aesthetics and disciplines

Collaboratively using art and design to solve complex problems related to issues of social and environmental justice.

Integration of skills and concepts:

Successfully integrate skills, information and concepts between their majors and Sustainability minor, while understanding and articulating their positionality in their chosen fields.

Shine

Ability to define aspirations, future goals and their role within the creative economy.

Defined aspirations, future goals and their role within the creative economy through the lens of sustainability.

Awareness of audience and ability to cultivate relationships with others in their chosen fields. • Compelling presentation and exhibition skills, through Annual Exhibition, Capstone, and portfolios.

Successful completion of sustainable and impactful projects that resonate with specific audiences and promote meaningful dialogue and action.

Career readiness, as evidenced by strong interpersonal skills, self-advocacy, adaptation, autonomy, initiative, and willingness to both receive and offer feedback.

Ability to take initiative, adapt, and contribute meaningfully to discussions and collaborations, while assessing strengths, weaknesses and areas for growth personally and professionally.