

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT, M.S.

With a focus on the interconnectedness of social equity, the environment, the economy, and aesthetics, the customizable M.S. in Sustainability and Environment is designed for professionals pursuing sustainability in any field. The program is intended for students interested in sustainability-related careers in governmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector, as well as professionals already working in sustainability or related fields. Students in the program develop skills in critical and systems thinking, problem-solving, communication, and navigating relevant research. Specifically, students are trained in identifying problems and potential solutions; analyzing quantitative data and scientific literature; developing research/business proposals; and effectively communicating through oral, written, and online multimedia formats.

The degree requires 36 credit hours, of which 18 are required core courses (all offered asynchronously online) and 18 are electives chosen in consultation with the advisor. Nine of the elective credits must be interdisciplinary and come from outside the Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability (GES). The other nine credits of electives must be from inside GES, including the required final project (either an internship, capstone, or thesis). The M.S. is designed so that it can be completed entirely online; electives may be taken either online or face-to-face. More information is available at <https://ges.uncg.edu/msse/>.

For information regarding deadlines and requirements for admission, please see the Guide to Graduate Admissions (<https://grs.uncg.edu/prospective/guide/>).

Applicants are required to have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university or appropriately evaluated credentials for non-U.S. schools. An undergraduate minimum GPA of 3.0 is preferred. GRE scores are optional.

Documents to be submitted for admission:

- Two letters of recommendation
- Resume/c.v.
- Personal statement summarizing student's background and interests
- Official undergraduate transcripts

Degree Program Requirements

Required: 36 credit hours

| Code | Title | Credit Hours |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Core Courses (18 credits) | | |
| GES 662 | Sustainability | 3 |
| GES 664 | Environment | 3 |
| GES 682 | Topics in Ethics and Aesthetics | 3 |
| GES 684 | Topics in Development and Economics | 3 |
| GES 686 | Topics in Equity and Society | 3 |
| GES 688 | Topics in Environmental Sciences | 3 |
| Department Electives (9 credits) | | |
| Select three courses (9 credits) from GES graduate courses relevant to sustainability and environment ^{1,3} | | 9 |

Interdisciplinary Electives (9 credits)

Select three courses (9 credits) from graduate courses outside of GES relevant to sustainability and environment² 9

Final Project

Select one of the following options:³

Internship (3 credits)

GES 695 Internship

Capstone (3 credits)

GES 697 Capstone in Sustainability and Environment (course pending approval)

Thesis (6 credits)

GES 699 Thesis

Total Credit Hours 36

¹ As approved by advisor. May include repeats of one or more courses from the Core Courses requirement if the topic varies.

² As approved by advisor. May include transfer credits.

³ A final project (internship, capstone, or thesis) as approved by the student's advisor is required and counts as credits towards the Department Electives. The final project satisfies the capstone experience or thesis requirements for master's degrees. Students electing the:

- Internship option must complete 3 credits in GES 695
- Capstone option must complete 3 credits in GES 697
- Thesis option must complete 6 credits in GES 699

Electives

The department and interdisciplinary electives will be customized with the student based on interests and professional needs in one of four focus areas:

- Natural Sciences (courses from e.g. biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, geography, etc.)
- Equity and Society (courses from e.g. policy, sociology, history, women's and gender studies, African and African Diaspora Studies, geography, etc.)
- Development and Economics (courses from e.g. business, economics, sustainable tourism, etc.)
- Ethics and Aesthetics (courses from e.g. philosophy, literature, art, music, theater, dance, etc.)