

# Business and Environmental Sustainability Certificate



## Beyond Green: Managing for the Future

More and more companies are focusing on environmental stewardship and workplaces are adapting to the change. It's no longer enough to know about traditional business practices. Many positions now require employees to be knowledgeable about environmentally sustainable, cost-saving measures.

Developing expertise in these areas is essential for advancement. SUNY Empire State College delivers an efficient path to success in this arena with a Certificate in Business and Environmental Sustainability. This certificate program is 16 credits and includes four 4-credit courses. One course is introductory, or foundational level and three are upper level.

This is a 16 – credit undergraduate certificate program.

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE

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## What will you learn?

The interconnectedness of economics, social responsibility and environmental impact is emphasized throughout the courses and studies. You will learn about the history, economics, law and ethics-based approaches that drive sound, forward-thinking, environmentally conscious business decisions.

## How are the courses offered?

This certificate program combines multiple study options to meet your needs, including online instruction and face-to-face meetings with Empire State College mentors. The Certificate in Business and Environmental Sustainability courses are applicable to an undergraduate degree within the business, management and economics area of study, or can be taken individually. The courses are sequential, beginning with an introductory course and culminating with the capstone course, “Managing Sustainable Organizations.”

## Course descriptions

- **Principles of Environmental Sustainability – Introductory**  
An introduction to key concepts and thinking associated with environmental sustainability. Topics include systems thinking, natural laws, ecosystem organization and functions, diversity and complexity, flexibility and adaptation. The environmental impact of human activities such as agriculture, manufacturing and transportation is also considered.
- **Ecological Economics – Advanced**  
Students learn to think critically and analytically about natural resources and the environment, economics and policy, and sustainability. Focus will be on understanding economic concepts and tools and how to apply them to real-world natural resource and environmental issues.
- **Ethics and the Ecology of Business – Advanced**  
A framework of philosophy is discussed, along with past business practices. Students go on to learn the extent to which current business practices have created conditions that are unprecedented in terms of their adverse ecological effect. Most importantly, alternatives to current unsustainable models are discussed.
- **Managing Sustainable Organizations – Advanced**  
With a focus on strategic planning and “greening” of business operations, students study the practical, as well as the theoretical foundations that ground management in the context of business and environmental sustainability. Ethical dilemmas, corporate social responsibility and leadership also will be discussed.

## Get started now

To learn how you can take advantage of this opportunity, contact the certificate program coordinator at (800) 847-3000 or e-mail [sustainabilitycert@esc.edu](mailto:sustainabilitycert@esc.edu)

To learn how to apply, visit [www.esc.edu/apply](http://www.esc.edu/apply)

If you are already a SUNY Empire State College student and wish to earn a certificate while enrolled in a degree program, talk to your mentor.