

SUSTAINABILITY (BA)



This program was approved for students entering the university in the Summer 2025-Spring 2026 catalog year. For more information about catalog year, go to Catalog Year Information (<https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/university-wide-unit-specific-policies/catalog-year/>).

Bachelor of Arts in Sustainability

Unit: College of Arts and Sciences (<http://www.louisville.edu/a-s/>)

Program Website: Sustainability (<https://louisville.edu/upa/programs/bachelors-of-sustainability/>)

Academic Plan Code(s): See Track Requirements tab.

Program Information

The Bachelor of Arts in Sustainability is designed to train students to research, implement, and monitor sustainable practices, processes, systems, and frameworks in human habitats. Graduates will be equipped to contribute to sustainability service and research that benefits the local, national, and global communities.

Completion of this degree requires work to be submitted for the department's Learning Outcomes Measurement. For details, contact department.

Degree Summary

Code	Title	Hours
	General Education Requirements (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) ¹	31
	College/School Requirements	22
	Program/Major Requirements ¹	27
	Track Requirements	9
	Supporting Courses	32
Minimum Total Hours		121

¹ Some credit hours from the General Education Requirements may be satisfied by courses defined by the program, in which case additional electives will be required to complete the minimum hours for the degree. See the Degree Requirements tab for specific coursework.

Specific coursework information can be found on the Degree Requirements tab.

Accelerated BA in Sustainability/Master of Urban Planning (MUP)

Sustainability majors who are considering pursuing a master's degree in Urban Planning (MUP) can speed up the process by applying some of their undergraduate credit hours toward a master's degree. Students accepted in the accelerated BA/MUP take four graduate courses (12 credit hours) as an undergraduate that apply toward both the bachelor's degree and the eventual master's degree. Applicants must meet the general requirements for admission to the Graduate School.

Undergraduate students interested in participating in an accelerated dual bachelor's/master's degree offered through the university's Soaring Scholar (<https://graduate.louisville.edu/academics/programs/soaring/>) program must first meet with their Academic Advisor and be accepted into the program. Once accepted, students will receive an official admission letter outlining program policies and details. They will then work with their department and academic advisor to register for classes each semester, ensuring they meet the milestones and academic progress requirements of the Soaring Scholar program. A Soaring Scholar student is considered an undergraduate student until their bachelor's degree is conferred. In their final undergraduate semester, they are expected to apply for admission to their respective master's program.

Additional questions on the accelerated BS/MUP program should be directed to the undergraduate program director or the MUP program director.

Departmental Admission Requirements

Admission to the BA in Sustainability requires a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0.

Admission to the Accelerated BA in Sustainability and Master of Urban Planning (MUP)

Students interested in pursuing the accelerated BA/MUP degree should speak with their Academic Advisor and the undergraduate program director for Sustainability as early as possible in their undergraduate career. Application to the Soaring Scholar (<https://graduate.louisville.edu/academics/programs/soaring/>) program may be made once the student has completed 60 undergraduate credit hours.

General Education Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
	General Education Requirements (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) [*]	31
The following courses are required by the program and satisfy the respective General Education Requirement(s):		
URBS 131	Introduction to Sustainability - SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
URBS 331	Sustainable Built Environment - D1 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
URBS 303	Quantitative Research Methods in Sustainability and Urban Studies - QR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	

*All degrees require the completion of the University-wide General Education Program (link provided above). Some General Education requirements may be met in the requirements for the major or supporting coursework, in which case additional electives may be required to complete the minimum hours for the degree.

College/School Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Arts & Sciences Requirements		
GEN 100 or GEN 101	Student Success Center First Year Experience Arts & Sciences First Year Experience	1
Foreign Language ¹		12
Electives in Humanities or Natural Sciences ²		9
WR - two approved courses at the 300 level or above		
Minimum Total Hours		22

Program/Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Department of Urban and Public Affairs		
<i>Sustainability Core:</i>		
URBS 131	Introduction to Sustainability - SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
URBS 231	Environmental Management	3
URBS 232	Behavioral Dimensions of Environmental Decision-Making	3
URBS 331	Sustainable Built Environment - D1 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
URBS 303	Quantitative Research Methods in Sustainability and Urban Studies - QR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
URBS 431	Policy and Governance in Sustainability - WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
URBS 432	Sustainable Social-Ecological Systems	3
URBS 505	GIS for Planning & Policy	3
URBS 440 or URBS 445	Sustainability Internship - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) Independent Study in Sustainability - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
Minimum Total Hours		27
Supporting Courses		
Natural and Social Science electives ⁴		18
Electives ⁵		14
Minimum Total Hours		32

Code	Title	Hours
Track Requirements (See Track Requirements tab)		9

At least 50 of the total minimum hours required must be at the 300 level or above.

Code	Title	Hours
Culminating Undergraduate Experience (Graduation requirement)		
Requirement fulfilled by completing one of the following:		
URBS 445	Independent Study in Sustainability - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
URBS 440	Sustainability Internship - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	

¹ Completion of the intermediate level of a single foreign language

² In addition to courses counted toward General Education; 6 hours must be at 300 level or above

³ May be incorporated into other degree requirements

⁴ Outside of courses used to meet major requirements with 15 hours at the 300 level or above (in addition to courses counted toward General Education)

⁵ Students who satisfy General Education Requirements by courses defined by the program will require additional electives to complete the minimum hours for the degree.

Track Requirements

Policy and Governance in Sustainability

Academic Plan Code(s): SUSTBA_PGS

Code	Title	Hours
Track Requirements		
Select one of the following courses:		3
POLS 335	Global Environmental Politics	
POLS 348	Environmental Policy	
URBS 615	Environmental Policy	
PGS Electives, select two of the following courses:		6
CJ 430	Environmental Crime	
GEOG 340	Environmental Conflict in the United States: Historical Foundations & Contemporary Problems - D1 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SBH (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
SOC 315	Environmental Sociology	
URBS 302	Foundations of Urban Administration	
URBS 311	Urban Policy	
URBS 490	Special Topics	
URBS 663	Economic Development	
Minimum Total Hours		9

Sustainable Societal and Urban Systems

Academic Plan Code(s): SUSTBA_SUS

Code	Title	Hours
Track Requirements		
ENVS 360	Global Environmental Change	3
SUS Electives, select two of the following courses:		6
ANTH 332	Ecology, Politics and Culture	
ECON 360	Environmental Economics	
ENVS 363	Climate Science	
ENVS 365	Biogeography	
ENVS 571	GIS and Water Resources	
URBS 301	Planning for Innovative and Equitable Cities and Regions	
URBS 490	Special Topics	
Minimum Total Hours		9

Sustainable Societies

Academic Plan Code(s): SUSTBA_SS

Code	Title	Hours
Track Requirements		
GEOG 361	Sustainable Human Environments - WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
SS Electives, select two of the following courses:		6
ANTH 352	Food and Body Politic	
BIOL 440	Global Change Ecology - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
GEOG 300	Globalization and Diversity - D2 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
PHIL 328	Environmental Ethics	
SOC 305	Urban Sociology	
SOC 380	Animals and Society	
URBS 312	Dogs in Society: An Interdisciplinary Examination of the Human-Canine Connection - SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
URBS 490	Special Topics	
Minimum Total Hours		9

Accelerated BA in Sustainability/Master of Urban Planning (MUP)

Code	Title	Hours
Accelerated Pathway Courses ¹		
URBS 601	Planning Theory & History	3
URBS 603	Applied Research Methods	3
URBS 606	Site Planning	3

¹ Soaring Scholar course credits will be used to satisfy 9 of the 18 credit hours that are typically take as Natural and Social Science electives. Students enrolled as Soaring Scholars should take the

graduate section (URBS 605) of the Sustainability core course of URBS 505. Students pursuing the accelerated BA/MUP degree will have thus completed 12 of the 21 hours of the MUP core courses as an undergraduate.

Flight Plan

Year 1		
Fall		
GEN 100 or GEN 101	Student Success Center First Year Experience or Arts & Sciences First Year Experience	1
ENGL 101	Introduction to College Writing - WC (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
URBS 131	Introduction to Sustainability - SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
General Elective		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences - S		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Arts & Humanities Global Diversity - AHD2		3
Hours		16
Spring		
ENGL 102	Intermediate College Writing - WC (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
URBS 231	Environmental Management	3
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences with Lab - B		4
General Education: Cardinal Core Oral Communication - OC		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Social & Behavioral Sciences Historical Perspective US Diversity - SBHD1		3
Hours		16
Year 2		
Fall		
URBS 303	Quantitative Research Methods in Sustainability and Urban Studies - QR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
URBS 232	Behavioral Dimensions of Environmental Decision-Making	3
Arts and Humanities-AH		3
Foreign Language 1		4
Natural Science or Social Science Elective		3
Hours		16
Spring		
URBS 331	Sustainable Built Environment - D1 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
Foreign Language 2		4
Natural Science or Social Science elective (300 level or above)		3
Humanities or Natural Science elective		3
Natural Science or Social Science elective (300 level or above)		3
Hours		16
Year 3		
Fall		
URBS 431	Policy and Governance in Sustainability - WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
Foreign Language 3		4
Humanities or Natural Science WR elective (300 level or above)		3
Natural Science or Social Science elective (300 level or above)		3
Natural Science or Social Science elective (300 level or above)		3
Hours		16

Spring		
URBS 432	Sustainable Social-Ecological Systems	3
URBS 505	GIS for Planning & Policy	3
Sustainability Track elective 1		3
Foreign Language 4 (if needed) or general elective		3
General elective		3
Hours		15
Year 4		
Fall		
Sustainability Track elective 2		3
URBS 440 or URBS 445	Sustainability Internship - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) or Independent Study in Sustainability - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
Humanities or Natural Science elective (300 level or above)		3
General elective		3
Hours		12
Spring		
Natural Science or Social Science WR elective (300 level or above)		3
Sustainability Track elective 3		3
General elective		3
General elective		3
General elective		2
Hours		14
Minimum Total Hours		121

Flight Plan for Accelerated BA in Sustainability/Master of Urban Planning

The accelerated flight plan is the same as the stand-alone flight plan for the BA listed in the table above for years 1 and 2.

Year 1		
Fall		
GEN 100 or GEN 101	Student Success Center First Year Experience or Arts & Sciences First Year Experience	1
ENGL 101	Introduction to College Writing - WC (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
URBS 131	Introduction to Sustainability - SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
General elective		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences - S		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Arts & Humanities Global Diversity - AHD2		3
Hours		16
Spring		
ENGL 102	Intermediate College Writing - WC (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
URBS 231	Environmental Management	3
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences with Lab - B		4
General Education: Cardinal Core Oral Communication - OC		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Social & Behavioral Sciences Historical Perspective US Diversity - SBHD1		3
Hours		16
Year 2		
Fall		
URBS 303	Quantitative Research Methods in Sustainability and Urban Studies - QR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
URBS 232	Behavioral Dimensions of Environmental Decision-Making	3
General Education: Cardinal Core Arts & Humanities - AH		3

Foreign Language 1		4
Natural Sciences or Social Science elective		3
Hours		16
Spring		
URBS 331	Sustainable Built Environment - D1 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
Foreign Language 2		4
Natural Science or Social Science elective (300 level or above)		3
Natural Science or Social Science elective (300 level or above)		3
Humanities or Natural Science elective		3
Hours		16
Year 3		
Fall		
URBS 431	Policy and Governance in Sustainability - WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
Foreign Language 3		4
Humanities or Natural Science WR elective (300 level or above)		3
Sustainability Track elective 1		3
General elective		3
Hours		16
Spring		
URBS 432	Sustainable Social-Ecological Systems	3
Sustainability Track elective 2		3
Sustainability Track elective 3		3
General elective		3
General elective		3
Hours		15
Year 4		
Fall		
URBS 601	Planning Theory & History	3
URBS 603	Applied Research Methods	3
URBS 606	Site Planning	3
General elective		3
Hours		12
Spring		
URBS 440	Sustainability Internship - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
URBS 605	GIS for Planning & Policy	3
General elective		3
General elective		3
General elective		2
Hours		14
Minimum Total Hours		121

The Flight Plan outlined above is intended to demonstrate one possible path to completing the degree within four years. Course selection and placement within the program may vary depending on course offerings and schedule, elective preferences, and other factors (study abroad, internship availability, etc.). Please consult your advisor for additional information about building a flight plan that works for you.

Degree Audit Report

Degree Audit reports illustrate how your completed courses fulfill the requirements of your academic plan, and which requirements are still outstanding. Degree audits also take transfer credits and test credits into account. "What-if" reports allow you to compare the courses you have completed in your current academic plan to the courses required in

another academic plan. Should you have questions about either report, please consult with your academic advisor.

Flight Planner

The Flight Planner tool is available for you to create a personalized Flight Plan to graduation. Advisors have access to review your Flight Planner and can help you adjust it to ensure you remain on track to graduate in a timely manner.

To create these reports:

1. Log into your ULink account.
2. Click on the Academic Progress tile.
3. Select the appropriate report.
 - a. To run a Degree Audit report, click on "View my Degree Audit."
 - b. To create a What-if report, click on "What-if Advisement Report."
 - c. To run a Flight Planner report, click on "Use My Flight Planner."

Click here to run a Degree Audit report, create a What-if report, or run a Flight Planner report. (<https://ulink.louisville.edu>)