

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL  
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE  
REQUEST FOR DECISION

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**PRESENTED BY:** Roy Dobson, Chair, Academic Programs Committee of Council

**DATE OF MEETING:** November 21, 2013

**SUBJECT:** School of Environment and Sustainability - Certificate in Sustainability

**DECISION REQUESTED:**

*It is recommended:*

That Council approve the Certificate in Sustainability as a certificate of proficiency from the School of Environment and Sustainability.

**PURPOSE:**

The proposal is for a new academic program at the University of Saskatchewan. New programs including Certificates of Proficiency require approval by University Council.

**SUMMARY:**

Sustainability combines the study of the environment, the economy and social systems to understand their interdependence in developing human-environment systems. The Certificate in Sustainability is intended to give students theoretical and substantive experience in sustainability-related practice, using courses which can also credit toward another degree in environmental studies or a wide range of other fields.

The program requires completion of 21 credit units including ENVS 201 (Foundations of Sustainability), ENVS 401 (Sustainability in Action) and NS 107 (Introduction to Native Studies) as well as 12 credit units in restricted electives focused on natural resources and sustainability, or community and sustainability.

The Certificate in Sustainability represents the first undergraduate-level program in this area developed by the School of Environment and Sustainability.

**New course:**

ENVS 201.3 Foundations of Sustainability

**REVIEW:**

The Academic Programs Committee discussed this program with SENS Executive Director Toddi Steelman and Soil Science professor Fran Walley at its meeting on November 6. The Committee noted that SENS had undertaken extensive consultation to develop the program and has achieved widespread support for it. The Committee agreed to recommend Council approve this certificate.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Proposal documents

Letters of support from colleges

Letter from the Provost regarding undergraduate programming in Schools

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# Proposal: Undergraduate Certificate of Proficiency in Sustainability

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School of Environment  
and Sustainability

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September 2013

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## COMMITTEE

- Toddi Steelman, Executive Director, School of Environment and Sustainability
- Maureen Reed, Assistant Director – Academic, School of Environment and Sustainability
- Charles Maulé, Professor, Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering and School of Environment and Sustainability
- Bram Noble, Professor, Department of Geography and Planning and School of Environment and Sustainability
- Fran Walley, Professor, Department of Soil Science and School of Environment and Sustainability
- Christy Morrissey, Assistant Professor, Department of Biology and School of Environment and Sustainability
- Alec Aitken, Professor, Department of Geography and Planning

## PROPOSAL IDENTIFICATION

Title of Proposal: Undergraduate Certificate of Proficiency in Sustainability

Degree: n/a

Field(s) of Specialization: Sustainability

Level(s) of Concentration: Undergraduate Certificate of Proficiency

Option(s): Natural Resources and Sustainability OR Community and Sustainability

Degree College: School of Environment and Sustainability

Home College: School of Environment and Sustainability

Contact Person: Toddi Steelman  
Executive Director  
School of Environment and Sustainability  
966-1499 (phone)  
966-2298 (fax)  
toddi.steelman@usask.ca

Date: October 11, 2013

Approved by the degree college and/or home college: October 4, 2013

Proposed date of implementation: September 2014

## TYPE OF CHANGE

Requiring approval by Council:

- ☒ A new degree-level program or template for program
- ☐ A new field of specialization in the major or honours level of concentration or template for a major or honours program
- ☐ Conversion of an existing program from regular to special tuition program
- ☐ A change in the requirements for admission to a program
- ☐ A change in quota for a college
- ☐ Program revisions that will use new resources
- ☐ A replacement program, including program deletion
- ☐ A program deletion (consult Program Termination Procedures, approved by Council in May 2001)

Requiring approval by Academic Programs Committee:

- ☐ Addition of a higher level of concentration to an existing field of specialization
- ☐ Addition of a new field of specialization at the minor level of concentration
- ☐ A change in program options
- ☐ A change in the name of a degree-level program or field of specialization
- ☐ A change in the total number of credit units required for an approved degree program

## RATIONALE

The sustainability concept addresses the complexities of human-environment systems, with a goal of reducing poverty and maintaining ecosystem services while meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising future generations' ability to meet their own needs.<sup>1</sup> Understanding the principles of sustainability and the interdependencies of the environment, the economy, and social systems can help us learn to make the changes necessary to become effective local and global citizens. The knowledge and practice of sustainability is an important component of undergraduate education that is currently missing in the University of Saskatchewan curriculum. The proposed Undergraduate Certificate in Sustainability will provide the U of S with a distinctive niche in the realm of sustainability programming.

The University of Saskatchewan offers five undergraduate degrees specializing in environment (Table 1), as well as numerous specializations within degree programs (for example, Environmental Biology) and programs which have considerable environmental content (for example, Toxicology). These programs offer students the opportunity to learn about various aspects of the environment and ways in which humans interact with it. However, integrated sustainability programming at the undergraduate level is not currently available at the University of Saskatchewan. As the School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS) has made strides towards offering such programming at the graduate level, the school now wishes to proceed with the offering of sustainability programming for undergraduate students. Such an initiative follows from advice received from the Provost's Committee on Integrated Planning, recommending that SENS become engaged in undergraduate programming, and it also dovetails with proposed actions in the draft

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<sup>1</sup> Kates, Robert W. 2011. What kind of a science is sustainability science? PNAS, Vol. 108, 49: 19449-19450.

campus sustainability plan involving implementation of sustainability programming for undergraduate students.

Table 1: University of Saskatchewan Undergraduate Degree Programs Specializing in Environment		
College	Degree	Major
College of Agriculture and Bioresources	Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (BSA)	Environmental Science
College of Agriculture and Bioresources	Bachelor of Science in Renewable Resource Management (BSc)	1) Science 2) Policy and Economics
College of Arts and Science	Bachelor of Arts and Science (BASc)	Environment and Society
College of Arts and Science	Bachelor of Science (BSc)	Environmental Earth Sciences
College of Arts and Science	Bachelor of Science (BSc)	Environmental Biology
College of Arts and Science	Bachelor of Science (BSc)	Toxicology
College of Engineering	Bachelor of Science in Engineering (BE)	Environmental Engineering

#### A Distinctive Programming Niche

Our certificate will focus on sustainability, from local to global contexts. We will leverage the importance of sustainability in the Saskatchewan context by offering two foci areas that are especially relevant to the province. These are Sustainability and Natural Resources and Sustainability and Community. Using the province as a microcosm for global change, these themes will be reinforced in the introductory and capstone courses so that students understand the interdependencies between the themes and make connections to the broader world in which they will be engaged.

#### Learning Objectives/Graduate Attributes

The Certificate in Sustainability is intended to give students theoretical, methodological, strategic, and substantive exposure to sustainability-related concepts and practice. Learning objectives for the certificate include:

1. Gaining knowledge about a diverse spectrum of sustainability-related concepts and practices including those that integrate understanding across the disciplines from the social and natural sciences, as well as engineering and the humanities. This will include the ability to explain the history of the sustainability concept, and key definitions associated with it, as well as the ability to explain sustainability in local and global contexts.
2. Identifying key trends related to sustainability patterns in local and global contexts, especially as they relate to natural resources and communities.
3. Developing an understanding of the complexities associated with interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, and transdisciplinary efforts to integrate environmental, economic, and social concerns given the institutional constraints existing within government, business, civil society, and culture at large. This includes the ability to work constructively in problem focused and/or interdisciplinary teams.
4. Learning how to critically appraise and evaluate sustainability efforts.

5. Demonstrating effective written and oral communication concerning a broad range of approaches, frameworks, metrics, principles and practices of sustainability.

## DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS

### Draft Calendar Entry

The Certificate in Sustainability is intended to give students theoretical, methodological, strategic, and substantive exposure to sustainability-related concepts and practice. The certificate is open to all students registered in undergraduate degree programs and may also be completed as a stand-alone program. Students in the certificate must complete nine credit units of required courses (ENVS 201.3: Foundations of Sustainability, ENVS 401.3: Sustainability in Action, and NS 107.3: Introduction to Canadian Native Studies). Students choose either the natural resources and sustainability focus or the community and sustainability focus for the remaining twelve credit units of courses. The certificate will allow students to engage in problem-based, experiential learning across a broad range of sustainability topics.

### Program Structure

The certificate program would be comprised of 21 credit units (7 courses) total. The courses would be structured such that all students wishing to pursue the certificate would pass through three common courses, thereby creating coherence among the cohorts within the certificate program. The introductory course, ENVS 201: Foundations of Sustainability, and the capstone course, ENVS 401: Sustainability in Action, would be taken by all students, to ground them in a common experience at the beginning and end of the program. Additionally, all students would be required to take the course in NS 107: Introduction to Canadian Native Studies. The remaining 12 credit units would be comprised of self-selected foci areas and leverage existing courses already held on campus (see Figure 1 for a schematic of sequencing).

The program would start in the student's second year with ENVS 201: Foundations of Sustainability. Students would fill out the foci areas in their second and third years, culminating with the capstone course ENVS 401: Sustainability in Action in their fourth year. Academic advising for the certificate would come through the School of Environment and Sustainability, with close consultation with the students' home colleges to ensure that advising is done seamlessly.

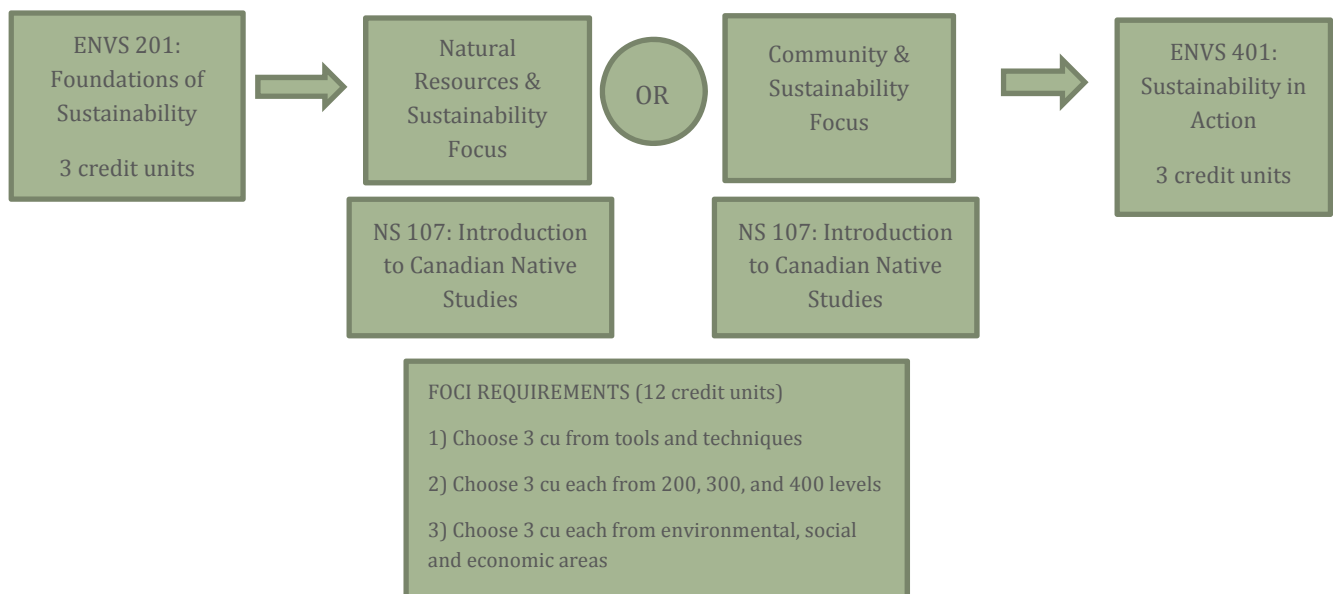
### Certificate Requirements:

1. 21 credit units of which 9 credit units would be completed through 3 common courses. The Certificate in Sustainability is intended to give students theoretical, methodological, strategic, and substantive exposure to sustainability-related concepts and practice. Twenty-one credit units are sufficient to provide broad-based exposure and depth of understanding. This structure also allows undergraduate students to begin in their second year, provides a sense of cohort within the certificate by bringing students together at key points in the program, allows students to gain substantive knowledge and skills without requiring an increase in the total course credits for undergraduate degree programs, and offers opportunities for contributing units to increase enrollments in their undergraduate courses.

2. Students must meet residency requirements as stipulated by their degree-granting college. Students taking the certificate must take ENVS 201 and ENVS 401. Transfer credits from other institutions cannot be substituted for these courses. The purpose of this is to create coherence among certificate cohorts.
3. Graduation standard: The minimum cumulative weighted average for the certificate is 62.5%. All courses attempted, which may credit toward the certificate, will be used in the calculation of the graduation average. In some cases this may mean that more than the minimum number of credit units will be included. This aligns with the practice used in the College of Arts and Science for calculating subject and overall averages, which is followed to disallow opportunity to choose only the highest grades, which favours students who have the means to take additional courses.
4. Common required courses include three undergraduate courses:  
ENVS 201: Foundations of Sustainability;  
NS 107: Introduction to Canadian Native Studies; and  
ENVS 401: Sustainability in Action. ENVS 201 and permission of instructors is required for enrollment in this course. This course is intended for senior undergraduate students. It may also be taken concurrently with the final courses for the certificate credit unit requirements.

The remaining 12 credit units would be comprised of pre-existing courses in other units and listed by the coordinating committee of the certificate within one of two focal areas. Students would choose from a list but need to satisfy the following requirements: 1) choose one course from the tools and techniques menus; 2) choose one course each from the 200, 300 and 400 levels so as not to concentrate all courses at one level; and 3) choose one course each from an environmental, economic, and social area focusing on sustainability so that all facets are represented. Please see Appendix 1 with a list of proposed courses for inclusion for consideration and Figure 1 for a depiction of the course sequencing.

**Figure 1: Schematic of Undergraduate Certificate in Sustainability Sequencing (total 21 cu)**





## RESOURCES

SENS has hired a new faculty member, Dr. Phil Loring, in Sustainability Science. This individual will coordinate the Certificate in Sustainability, and teach within the curriculum. Additionally, a new hire in Agriculture and Bioresources, Dr. Colin Laroque, will have a 30% appointment in SENS. He will be integrally involved in teaching and advising students involved in the certificate. Other SENS faculty have expressed interest in teaching within the curriculum. SENS would like to align Teaching Assistantships through the CGSR to provide teaching opportunities for our doctoral students in the ENVS 201 and 401 courses.

## RELATIONSHIPS AND IMPACT OF IMPLEMENTATION

As this certificate marks the first undergraduate program offering by SENS, it will provide additional opportunities for the students in SENS' graduate programs. To date, the School has not had any Teaching Assistantships to offer to its PhD students – the ENVS 201 and 401 classes will accommodate this. The undergraduate certificate will also engage undergraduate students directly with the SENS community for the first time.

Given that the certificate is meant to be a “value-added” opportunity for students enrolled in degree programs in other colleges, and that fifteen of the twenty-one certificate credits will be completed in other colleges, extensive consultation was undertaken. Toddi Steelman held the following meetings regarding the certificate:

- Linda McMullen, Vice-Dean, Social Sciences, College of Arts and Science – October 29, 2012
- Cathie Fornssler, Committee Coordinator, University Secretary's Office – November 1, 2012
- Ernie Barber, Acting Dean, College of Engineering – December 7, 2012
- Peta Bonham-Smith, Vice-Dean, Science, College of Arts and Science – December 7, 2012
- David Parkinson, Vice-Dean, Humanities and Fine Arts, College of Arts and Science – December 7, 2012
- Alexis Dahl, Director, Programs Office, College of Arts and Science – December 14, 2012
- Mary Buhr, Dean, College of Agriculture and Bioresources – January 15, 2013
- Peter Stoicheff, Dean; Peta Bonham-Smith, Vice-Dean, Science; and Linda McMullen, Vice-Dean, Social Science, College of Arts and Science – February 5, 2013
- Sina Adl, Head, Department of Soil Science – April 9, 2013
- Jason Doell, Seanine Warrington, and Eileen Zagiell, Office of the Registrar, April 18, 2013
- Alexis Dahl, Director, Programs Office, College of Arts and Science – May 28, 2013
- Mark Wickstrom, Academic Advisor, Undergraduate Program, Toxicology Centre – June 18, 2013
- Jack Gray, Head, and Tracy Marchant, Department of Biology – August 8, 2013
- Jason Doell, Seanine Warrington, and Eileen Zagiell, Office of the Registrar, September 26, 2013

Considerable consultation was conducted via telephone and e-mail. All department and academic program heads responsible for courses considered for inclusion as certificate electives were contacted via e-mail to request their support for the certificate and to ensure that having their courses listed as electives met with

their approval. Follow-up e-mails were sent to encourage responses. The following department and academic program heads were contacted through June and July 2013:

- Winona Wheeler, Department of Native Studies, College of Arts and Science
- Sina Adl, Department of Soil Science, College of Agriculture and Bioresources
- Alec Aitken, Department of Geography and Planning, College of Arts and Science
- Jack Gray, Department of Biology, College of Arts and Science
- Don Gilchrist, Department of Economics, College of Arts and Science
- Jim Kells, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, College of Engineering
- Eric Dayton, Department of Philosophy, College of Arts and Science
- Bruce Coulman, Department of Plant Sciences, College of Agriculture and Bioresources
- Bill Brown, Department of Bioresource Policy, Business, and Economics, College of Agriculture and Bioresources
- Marek Majewski, Department of Chemistry, College of Arts and Science
- Mark Wickstrom, Academic Advisor, Undergraduate Program, Toxicology Centre
- Joe Garcea, Department of Political Studies, College of Arts and Science
- Pamela Downe, Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, College of Arts and Science
- Jim Handy, Department of History, College of Arts and Science
- Caitlin Ward, Engaged Learning Coordinator, St. Thomas More College
- Chris Hrynkow, Assistant Professor, St. Thomas More College
- Terry Wotherspoon, Department of Sociology, College of Arts and Science
- Marie Lovrod, Women's and Gender Studies
- Dianne Miller, Bob Regnier, and Lynn Lemisko, College of Education
- Greg Poelzer and Gary Wilson, Northern Studies Program
- Nazeem Muhajarine, Department of Community Health and Epidemiology, College of Medicine

Deans of Engineering, Arts and Science, and Agriculture and Bioresources were also approached regarding their support for the certificate. Letters from the Deans and e-mail correspondence from department and academic program heads can be found in Appendix 2.

E-mails or letters of support were received from all units contacted, with the exception of the Department of Chemistry, which did not respond, and the Department of Biology. Thus, the Chemistry course, CHEM 375.3: Pollution Waste Disposal and Environment, which SENS had flagged to include in the certificate electives is not included at this time. However, the School is open to revising the list of electives in the future. While the Department of Biology was not opposed to SENS including its courses in the certificate, it remained neutral with respect to endorsing the proposal.

SENS conducted a demand analysis survey of undergraduate students to determine their level of interest in the certificate. The survey was conducted online using Fluid Surveys between March 18 and April 1, 2013. The link to the survey was sent via e-mail to 4,408 undergraduate students registered in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources, the College of Arts and Science, the College of Education, the College of Engineering, and the Edwards School of Business. These students were randomly selected by the Planning,

Program Development, and Assessment office, Student and Enrolment Services Division. Three hundred ninety-eight responses were received, with 351 of them being complete responses. As 13,066 students are registered in the five colleges surveyed, 398 responses give a margin of error of 5% at a confidence level of 95%. A summary of the demand analysis is found in Appendix 3.

## BUDGET

We have dedicated our new faculty hire, Dr. Phil Loring, as an instructor and coordinator for the Undergraduate Certificate. We also have a new 30% split appointment in SENS, Dr. Colin Laroque, who will be dedicated to this effort. Staff support will come from existing hires within SENS.

## SCHOOL STATEMENT

The certificate proposal was approved by the SENS Academic Programs Committee and then was presented to the SENS Faculty Council on October 4, 2013, where it was unanimously recommended to the University of Saskatchewan Academic Programs Committee. The Faculty Council discussed the structure of the certificate, along with how the new ENVS undergraduate classes would be delivered. A clarification regarding the prerequisites for ENVS 401 was sought and provided.

**New course****ENVS 201.3 Foundations of Sustainability**

(3L)

Prerequisite: 30 cu at the U of S.

The intention of this course is to provide foundational knowledge about sustainability science and concepts while also exposing students to the key foci areas they can pursue with the certificate. A final class group project will emphasize collaborative interaction based on sustainability themes.

**Revised course****ENVS 401.3 Sustainability in Action**

(1L, 2S)

Prerequisite: ENVS 201.3; 6 cu natural science; and 66 credit units of university level courses (for a total of 75 credit units), and the permission of instructors. This course is intended for senior undergraduate students. This course is required for students enrolled in the BASc in Environment and Sustainability. Students enrolled in Renewable Resource Management or Ag-Bio Environmental Science Major but not enrolled in the sustainability certificate are not required to take ENVS 201.3.

This course combines seminars and project-based activities to examine local and global sustainability issues, integrating perspectives and knowledge from both the social and natural sciences. Students will work in interdisciplinary, collaborative groups to address sustainability challenges.

## RELATED DOCUMENTATION

### Appendix 1: Courses

Students will be advised appropriately so that they select 3 cu of electives from each of the environmental, social, and economic areas.

#### **Natural Resources and Sustainability Focus**

##### Required Courses

- ENVS 201.3: Foundations in Sustainability Science
- ENVS 401.3: Sustainability in Action
- NS 107.3: Introduction to Canadian Native Studies

##### Elective Courses

##### Techniques and Tools for Sustainability – choose one of:

- EVSC 203.3: Sampling and Laboratory Analysis
- GEOG 290.3: Field Methods and Laboratory Analysis
- GEOG 385.3: Analysis of Environmental Management and Policy Making
- GEOG 386.3: Environmental Impact Assessment
- NS 210.3: Indigenous Knowledge
- RRM 321.3: Resource Data and Environmental Modelling
- SOC 225.3: An Introduction to Survey Research and Data Analysis in Sociology
- SOC 232.3: Methods of Social Research
- SOC 333.3: Introduction to Qualitative Research

##### Choose one of:

- BIOL 228.3: An Introduction to Ecology and Ecosystems
- ECON 275.3: Economics of Natural Resources
- ECON 277.3: Economics of the Environment
- EVSC 210.3: Environmental Physics
- EVSC 220.3: Environmental Soil Science
- ENVE 201.3: Principles of Environmental Engineering
- GEOG 280.3: Environmental Geography
- PHIL 226.3: Environmental Philosophy
- PHIL 231.3: Ethical Problems
- PHIL 236.3: Ethics and Technology
- PLSC 213.3: Principles of Plant Ecology

##### And one of:

- BIOL 373.3: Community Ecology

- BPBE 330.3: Land Resource Economics
- ECON 376.3: Energy Economics
- GEOG 329.3: Watershed Planning and Management
- GEOG 351.3: Northern Environments
- RRM 312.3: Natural Resource Management and Indigenous Peoples
- TOX 301.3: Environmental Toxicology

And one of:

- BIOL 410.3: Current Perspectives in Environmental Biology
- BIOL 410.3: Limnology
- BIOL 470.3: Conservation Biology
- BIOL 475.3: Ecological Toxicology
- BPBE 430.3: Natural Resource Economics
- EVSC 421.3: Contaminated Site Management and Remediation
- EVSC 430.3: Agroforestry for Environmental Management
- PLSC 422.3: Rangeland Ecology and Management
- PLSC 423.3: Landscape Ecology and Vegetation Management

**Community and Sustainability Focus**

Required Courses

- ENVS 201.3: Foundations in Sustainability Science
- ENVS 401.3: Sustainability in Action
- NS 107.3: Introduction to Canadian Native Studies

Elective Courses

Techniques and Tools for Sustainability – choose one of:

- EVSC 203.3: Sampling and Laboratory Analysis
- GEOG 290.3: Field Methods and Laboratory Analysis
- GEOG 385.3: Analysis of Environmental Management and Policy Making
- GEOG 386.3: Environmental Impact Assessment
- NS 210.3: Indigenous Knowledge
- RRM 321.3: Resource Data and Environmental Modelling
- SOC 225.3: An Introduction to Survey Research and Data Analysis in Sociology
- SOC 232.3: Methods of Social Research
- SOC 333.3: Introduction to Qualitative Research

Choose one of:

- ANTH 240.3: Cultural Landscapes and Environments
- ANTH 244.3: Political Ecology, Anthropology, and Global Environmental Issues

- ECON 275.3: Economics of Natural Resources
- ECON 277.3: Economics of the Environment
- GEOG 208.3: World Regional Development
- GEOG 240.3: Sustainable Cities and Regions
- GEOG 280.3: Environmental Geography
- HIST 257.3: The Canadian Prairie to 1905
- HIST 258.3: The Canadian Prairies Since 1905
- HIST 263.3: The Canadian North
- HIST 290.3: Topics in Environmental History
- INTS 203.3: Cultivating Humanity
- PHIL 226.3: Environmental Philosophy
- PHIL 231.3: Ethical Problems
- PHIL 236.3: Ethics and Technology
- POLS 226.3: Canadian Public Policy
- SOC 204.3: Rural Sociology
- SOC 206.3: Community
- SOC 227.6: Critical Issues in Canadian Society
- WGST 210.3: Gendered Perspectives on Current Events

And one of:

- ANTH 329.3: Environmental Anthropology
- ARCH 357.3: The Archaeology of Prairie Settlement
- BIOL 312.3: Life in the North
- BPBE 330.3: Land Resource Economics
- GEOG 340.3: European Heritage of Our Built Environment
- GEOG 342.3: Community Planning in Canada
- GEOG 346.3: Introduction to Urban Design
- GEOG 364.3: Geography of Environment and Health
- GEOG 381.3: Geography of Northern Development
- NRTH 331.3: Contemporary Issues of the Circumpolar World I
- NRTH 332.3: People and Cultures of the Circumpolar World II
- POLS 326.3: Introduction to Comparative Public Policy
- POLS 328.3: Public Policy Analysis
- SOC 344.3: Sociology of Women, Gender, and Development

And one of:

- BPBE 430.3: Natural Resource Economics
- CHEP 402.3: Global Health and Local Communities: Issues and Approaches
- GEOG 445.3: Planning with Indigenous Communities
- GEOG 446.3: Advanced Urban Design

- GEOG 464.3: Geography of Health
- HIST 459.6: Great Plains History
- INTS 400.3: Critical Perspectives on Social Justice and the Common Good
- POLS 403.3: Advanced Topics in Public Law and Public Policy
- POLS 422.3: Aboriginal Development Strategies
- SOC 409.3: Sociology of Development
- WGST 411.3: Situated Transnational Feminisms





UNIVERSITY OF  
SASKATCHEWAN

College of Agriculture  
and Bioresources

✦ Office of the Dean

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July 8, 2013

Dr. Toddi Steelman  
Executive Director  
School of Environment and Sustainability

Dear Dr. Steelman:

The College of Agriculture and Bio-resources is pleased to offer its support for the School of Environment and Sustainability undergraduate certificate in sustainability. This interdisciplinary certificate will fill a programming niche at the University of Saskatchewan, offering students in a wide variety of undergraduate programs the opportunity to learn how to address complex sustainability issues. Today's undergraduate students are keenly interested in this topic, and this certificate will give them a viable skill set that will enhance their degree. We also believe that it will encourage more students to enter undergraduate major and the graduate programmes. Our college is pleased to have courses included in the list that will be considered as part of the certificate. Of course, there are significant areas of similarity with offerings in the Department of Soil Science in the College, and many of AgBio's faculty both from Soils and from the Department of Bioresource, Policy, Business and Economics have joint appointments with the School. As such, we have collaborated closely with the School in the design of the proposed Certificate and its new courses. We also are pleased that Agbio faculty will be critical to the teaching and learning in this program. It is critical that the TABBS model provides appropriate recognition and compensation to the College of Agriculture and Bioresources for the college resources supporting this program. Academically, we support the Certificate because we believe that the certificate will encourage students to participate in this field, as this innovative approach enriches the educational rewards of their efforts.

Sincerely,

Mary M. Buhr, Ph.D.  
Dean and Professor

MMB/mal

9 Campus Drive  
Saskatoon SK, S7N 5A5  
Telephone: (306) 966-4232  
Facsimile: (306) 966-8839

Dr. Toddi Steelman  
Director and Professor  
School of Environment and Sustainability

September 17, 2013

Dear Professor Steelman,

The College of Arts & Science is pleased to provide a letter of support for the undergraduate Certificate in Sustainability and its upcoming request to the Academic Programs Committee of Council. The proposed Certificate is the result of extensive and thoughtful consultations with many A&S departments and programs and will provide an exciting opportunity for both the College and the School of Environment and Sustainability to offer innovative undergraduate programming.

The proposed Certificate will offer a new and an interdisciplinary focus, thus affording College and SENS the potentials and possibilities for creative and new collaboration on courses and academic programming. This Certificate would provide a unique opportunity for all three of our College Divisions (Science, Social Science, and Humanities and Fine Arts) and SENS, to teach and deliver undergraduate programming.

The College of Arts and Science supports the proposed Certificate in Sustainability and considers it very much in line with our priorities for the third planning cycle.

Sincerely,



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Dean and Professor

---

Peta Bonham-Smith  
Vice-Dean, Division of Science



9 Campus Drive  
Saskatoon SK, S7N 5A5  
Telephone: (306) 966-4232  
Facsimile: (306) 966-8839

Linda McMullen  
A/Vice-Dean, Division of Social Sciences

David J. Parkinson  
Vice-Dean, Division of Humanities and Fine Arts

PS/awd

Cc: Director of Programs

June 25, 2013

Dr. Toddi Steelman  
Executive Director  
School of Environment and Sustainability

Dear Dr. Steelman:

The College of Engineering is pleased to offer its support for the School of Environment and Sustainability undergraduate certificate in sustainability. This interdisciplinary certificate will fill a programming niche at the University of Saskatchewan, offering students in a wide variety of undergraduate programs the opportunity to learn how to address complex sustainability issues. Today's undergraduate students are keenly interested in this topic, and this certificate will give them a viable skill set that will enhance their degree. Our college is pleased to have courses included in the list that will be considered as part of the certificate.

Sincerely,



Ernie Barber  
Dean, College of Engineering

# Memo

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**To:** Russ Isinger, Registrar  
**From:** Brett Fairbairn, Provost and Vice-President Academic  
**Date:** September 3, 2013  
**Subject:** Undergraduate Programming by Interdisciplinary Schools

As University Council established SENS, JSGS, and SPH as college-equivalent entities and placed no restrictions on them also offering undergraduate courses, please ensure that university systems reflect this and facilitate their offering undergraduate courses/programming in a manner analogous to the other colleges.

At the present time only SENS, of these schools, has any plans or interest in the development of undergraduate courses. Therefore, changes to accommodate the other schools are considerably less important at this time.

Sincerely,



Brett Fairbairn  
Provost and Vice-President Academic

c: Beth Williamson, University Secretary  
Roy Dobson, Chair, Academic Programs Committee of Council  
David Hannah, Associate Vice-President, Student Affairs