# SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES

## ADVISING AND DEGREE PROGRAM GUIDE
## COLORADO MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

PREPARED BY
TINA LYNN EVANS,
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES,
IN CONSULTATION WITH THE SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES FACULTY AND THE
CMC ADVISING STAFF

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# Overview of the Sustainability Studies Program

The Bachelor of Arts in Sustainability Studies at Colorado Mountain College (CMC) offers you an opportunity to learn about and begin to address some of the most pressing challenges of our day related to the environment, economics/business, and social justice. Sustainability Studies is a transdisciplinary major, meaning that you will, not only learn important ideas and theories related to understanding and actualizing sustainability, but also have a chance to take relevant action on the ground. As a transdiscipline, Sustainability Studies recognizes that sustainability challenges and opportunities typically don't fit neatly into boxes associated with single fields of study and work. Sustainability crosses boundaries. Efforts to address water quality, for example, may require solutions that combine knowledge and efforts from the fields of politics, economics, business, biology, chemistry, communications, and ecology, to name a few. Therefore, as a student in our program, you'll develop knowledge and skills that are diverse and deep enough to allow you to synthesize ideas and work with people from many walks of life to address lynchpin challenges for the future of humanity and the earth. Through cutting edge coursework, extracurricular activities, internships, research projects, and more, CMC provides you a platform to become a successful sustainability professional. If all this intrigues you, you're in the right place! Welcome!

Sustainability Studies courses are concentrated in the junior and senior years. You can transfer to CMC with an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree from any institution and be admitted to the program at the junior level. You can also pursue the degree over the course of four years at CMC, during which time you'll earn both an Associate's and a Bachelor's degree. In either case, you'll learn the ideas, values, and practices you'll need to enrich your life, launch your career in sustainability, and begin to change the world.

# Sustainability Studies Program Mission, Vision, Values, and Learning Outcomes

### Mission

Through active intellectual and experiential learning, we prepare students to meet the pressing local and global challenges of sustainability.

### Vision

The Bachelor of Arts program in Sustainability Studies at Colorado Mountain College engages students in active learning, critical and creative thinking, and on-the-ground experiences that help prepare them for dynamic careers and lifelong engagement with communities and the natural world. Our courses focus on integrated understanding of the three Es of sustainability (healthy environment, vibrant economy, and social equity) and on applying that understanding to real-world contexts. Our program offers students a unique opportunity to develop personal and professional identities, knowledge, and skills that prepare them for meaningful and productive work in a rapidly changing world. Our students develop a deep understanding of local and global sustainability challenges. They are also encouraged to develop the knowledge, skills, and deep motivation to effectively address these challenges in their personal and professional lives.

**Values**

In addition to the three Es of sustainability, the Sustainability Studies program faculty values the following:

*Diversity of approaches to knowledge making*. Our program includes insights drawn from the arts, humanities, social sciences, and sciences. Our courses include the ideas and voices of thinkers, activists, and creative professionals from both Western and non-Western traditions whose work draws upon a wide variety of disciplinary frameworks.

*Resiliency*. Our program prepares students to consider best practices for ensuring the long-term health and happiness of people while also ensuring ecosystem health.

*Rigor*. Our coursework challenges students to learn and synthesize knowledge from diverse areas of study that range from science to philosophy, from literature to economics, and more. Our content is both broad and deep because our graduates must be prepared to take action on complex problems in diverse social and ecological settings.

*Place-centeredness*. Our students learn that sustainability as a concept and practice can only take shape within the context of specific places. What is sustainable in one place may not be so in another, and sustainability practitioners must engage with people in culturally diverse settings. Therefore, we value diverse approaches to sustainability that are responsive to specific cultures and environments.

*Empathy*. We believe education is a matter of both mind and heart. People are motivated to live more sustainably because they care about other people and the planet. We therefore promote the development of a deep sense of empathy in our students – a sense of connection with people and nature that can underpin both motivation for action and a sense of personal fulfillment.

*Efficacy*. Our students have the distinct opportunity to develop critical and creative thinking abilities as well as intellectual and practical capabilities that prepare them to be articulate and effective sustainability thinkers and practitioners.

*Partnerships*. We see sustainability as both an individual and a collective enterprise. Our students learn to integrate sustainability concepts and practices into their own lives. In an effort to also provide our students with valuable experiences working with others, we develop partnerships with businesses, nonprofit organizations, governments, and other people and organizations that are engaged in sustainability work. We seek service learning and internship opportunities that benefit our students, our communities, and the planet.

**Program Learning Outcomes**

Our students develop critical and creative thinking abilities as well as intellectual and practical capabilities that prepare them to be articulate and effective sustainability thinkers and practitioners. The learning outcomes for each of our courses contribute to these overarching program goals.

# Program Admission

In order to be fully admitted to the Sustainability Studies program, you are required to earn an Associate of Arts, Associate of General Studies, or Associate of Science degree. If you have completed significant lower division (100 and 200 level) coursework and have taken the required prerequisites, you may be allowed to take

up to 15 credits of junior level Sustainability Studies (SUS) coursework prior to being formally admitted to the program. You must complete 45 lower division credits to continue to take upper division SUS courses beyond the initial 15 credits. Otherwise, you will be blocked from registering for further SUS credits pending the completion of 45 lower division credits. For details on program admission, please consult with an admissions counselor or your advisor.

## Advice for Sustainability Studies Students about Personal and Professional Development

Welcome to what promises to be a most exciting personal and professional journey! You're joining force with others in a highly dynamic, creative, and meaningful field. The world needs you!

If you take advantage of the many career and professional development opportunities available to you as a student at CMC, you'll be better prepared to put your education to work in the world beyond graduation. The notes in this section will help you consider how you can best prepare yourself for professional opportunities after graduation including employment in a relevant career, starting your own enterprise or nonprofit organization, or pursuing graduate-level education. If you're new to the program, know that you don't have to know right now exactly what you want to do with the rest of your life, but you should remain attuned for ideas and practical applications of sustainability that interest you most. Throughout your studies, you'll have considerable freedom to learn about and gain experience related to many areas of potential work. If you weave at least several of these opportunities together during your studies, you can develop significant expertise and perhaps also the relevant hands-on experience that can open doors for you beyond graduation. *So, be alert to opportunities for developing yourself as a future sustainability professional!* Following are some specific notes about how to do this.

*Get to Know Your Professors, Your Advisor, and Other Students*: Making connections with others is one of the most effective ways to learn and to find out about opportunities in sustainability. It's also socially rewarding! Your professors, your advisor, and other students in Sustainability Studies can open whole new worlds to you that can enrich your studies and your professional opportunities. So, don't be a stranger! Talk with your professors -- visit them during their office hours. As you consider your path through your studies and your future professional life, talk with your professors and your advisor outside of the required advising times for pre-registration. Use group work in classes as a significant opportunity to develop your personal and professional network, and be an active participant in group work so that your prove yourself to be a reliable and valuable person with whom to collaborate. Yes, your reputation matters as a student, both with your professors and other students. When you want to apply for graduate school or for jobs, you'll need references from your professors. Be the kind of person that deserves excellent references. You're building your life path one step at a time.

*Participate in Student Clubs*: Student clubs are a particularly effective way to develop your personal and professional network and to gain project and leadership experience. Clubs are also fun! They offer you a way to connect with other students who have similar interests to your own, and clubs are vehicles for doing sustainability work that's personally enriching and professionally relevant. If there is a club fair at your campus, be sure to attend so you learn about all of the clubs related to sustainability that are active on your campus. Ask your professors and other students about opportunities to participate in student clubs. Club participation and leadership are excellent professional development experiences that are valuable to include on your résumé.

*Develop Your Writing and Communication Abilities*: Sustainability is simple concept at its core, but because it relates to just about everything, it can also be challenging to explain to others. As a future professional in sustainability, it is incredibly important that you learn to communicate effectively about sustainability concepts

and practices. Written, visual, and verbal communication skills will be important to your effectiveness in just about any career you choose. So, pay special attention to developing these skills as a student. Pay attention to the advice you receive about improving your writing, and act on it. Learn to present ideas well visually and verbally, too. Consider taking extra classes in video production, computer graphics, webpage design, creative writing, and more in order to become someone who stands out for your excellent ability to communicate.

*Complete One or More Internships*: Although an internship experience is not required for graduation, an internship can be an especially valuable way to develop your professional skills and résumé. A number of our graduates have obtained paid employment with organizations for which they served as interns. Others have landed sustainability jobs with other organizations based on the skills they developed or networks they created as interns.

*Choose Your Elective Courses According to Your Developing Interests and Expertise*: New students entering the program in 2014 and beyond are required to take nine credits of upper division elective coursework. It's a good idea to use your elective courses to develop areas of knowledge and experience that you hope to apply in your professional life beyond graduation. Of course, simply learning about a fascinating area of sustainability thinking and action, regardless of its relevance to future work, is always an option as well. Careers and Professional Skills in Sustainability (SUS 416) is a highly useful course that calls upon you to prepare a professional résumé, polish your interview skills, learn about entrepreneurship and graduate school opportunities, and develop effective job seeking skills. This course is highly recommended for all Sustainability Studies students.

*Pay Attention to Developing Your Research Abilities*: Since sustainability is such a rapidly growing and changing field, it's almost certain that your future work will require some sort of research, at least from time to time. You're likely already familiar with Internet research, and that can be an important starting point. Use your time at CMC to gain an understanding of important scholarly, subscription databases of research articles. Also learn about book borrowing services available through CMC. You have access to literally millions of articles and books through the CMC library. It's also likely that most anyplace you live in the U.S. will have a public or college/university library nearby. Public libraries and public colleges and universities allow access to many subscription services on site, even for those who aren't students. What you learn about library research at CMC will be valuable to you throughout your life.

Additionally, during your final year or term of study at CMC, you'll have an opportunity to develop a capstone research project of your own choosing. If you so choose, you can apply this research to an action project – something you want to accomplish on campus or in the community. You might also use this experience to develop your research skills in preparation for graduate studies. In any case, you can develop significant professional experience through your work in this course, so be sure that you're considering some research possibilities even before taking the class.

## Note to Students about the Sustainability Studies Listserv

As a student at CMC, you are provided with a CMC student e-mail account. Be sure to check your CMC e-mail account at least weekly. Your CMC e-mail is considered an official means for contacting you, and your professors and other college officials will share important information with you via your CMC account. Perhaps most importantly, your CMC address will be added to the Sustainability Studies listserv. Sustainability Studies faculty and advisors will share important program information about advising, new courses, and more via the list. They will also share announcements about job opportunities, internships, events, club activities, scholarships, and other information that can be incredibly useful to you as a student. So be sure that you're paying attention to these opportunities by checking your CMC e-mail regularly!

## Requirements for a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sustainability Studies

A full listing of degree requirements is available via the CMC website (http://catalog.coloradomtn.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=7&poid=653). You can access full descriptions for each class by following the links from course titles. This online listing is updated annually in order to reflect changes in course descriptions and degree requirements.

A checklist for degree completion is also available online. From the webpage linked above, simply select the catalog year that applies to you from the drop down list in the upper right hand corner of the page. Then select the icon just below this catalog year designation that looks like a piece of paper with a folded corner.

You'll want to print this list and hang onto it in order to keep track of your degree progress. You can print your degree checklist by accessing the above link and selecting your catalog using the drop down box selection for your catalog year. Then select the icon that looks like a printer, and use the resulting dialog box to print your checklist.

## Your Catalog Year

If you notice a new emphasis area or program change that appeals to you in a newer catalog year, you can move to that new catalog year by working with your advisor or counselor. Please note that, when you switch catalog years, you must adhere to *all* degree requirements listed in the newly chosen catalog. For example, since the Business Emphasis in Sustainability Studies became available in fall of 2014, and since the upper division elective requirement was also implemented that year, if you want to switch from the 2012 or 2013 catalog in order to pursue the business emphasis, you will also need to complete the upper division elective requirement. Similarly, if you would like to complete the new Permaculture Design Certificate of Completion as part of your upper division elective course requirement for your degree, you will need to complete all degree requirements as specified in the 2015-2016 catalog.

## Note to Students on the 2013-2014 or Earlier Catalog

Three significant changes have been made to the Sustainability Studies degree requirements. These changes are effective for all students who follow the degree requirements for the years in which these changes were implemented and beyond.

1. Beginning with the 2014-2015 catalog, *Sustainability Studies students have been required to take nine credits of upper division electives* (courses at the junior or senior level that are numbered in the 300s or 400s).
2. Beginning with the 2014-2015 catalog year*, a Business Emphasis Area has been offered*. More information on this emphasis is available below.
3. Beginning with the 2015-2016 catalog year, a Permaculture Design Certificate of Completion is being offered. More information on this emphasis is available below.

If you entered the program prior to fall 2014, you do not need to complete the upper division elective requirement. If, however, you would like to pursue the Business Emphasis or the Permaculture Design Certificate of Completion, you must switch to a catalog year in which the emphasis area of interest is offered, and you will be required to complete the upper division elective coursework.

## Freshman and Sophomore General Education Requirements

Freshman and Sophomore level requirements are listed in the full listing of degree requirements available via the CMC website (http://catalog.coloradomtn.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=7&poid=653). While most students who have earned an Associate's degree from an accredited institution can be readily admitted to the Sustainability Studies program, there are several specific freshman and sophomore level courses that are required as prerequisites for taking some of the junior and senior level courses in Sustainability Studies. **If you're a student at CMC** who's considering the Sustainability Studies major, it is highly recommended that you take the following courses as part of your general education requirements:

1. Philosophy 218, Environmental Ethics (3 credits)
2. Communication 115, Public Speaking (3 credits); OR Communications 125, Interpersonal Communication (3 credits)
3. Biology 111, General Biology with Lab (5 credits)
4. Environmental Science 101, Introduction to Environmental Science (4 credits)
5. Economics 201 Principles of Macroeconomics; OR Economics 202, Principles of Microeconomics; OR Economics 245, Issues in Environmental Economics (3 credits). Economics 245 is the most relevant course for Sustainability Studies majors.

**If you're a student who's taking courses at another Colorado college or university** and planning to transfer to CMC to complete the Sustainability Studies degree, consult with an advisor at your current institution to ensure that you register for the appropriate prerequisites.

**If you're an out-of-state student** who's completing freshman/sophomore level courses, consult with an advisor about the courses at your current institution that are that most similar to the required courses listed above. If you want to be sure that the courses you take will satisfy program prerequisites, consider taking the courses listed above via CMC's online campus. A CMC advisor can assist you with locating and registering for online courses. To register, you will also need to be admitted to CMC.

## Recommended Associate's Degree Programs for Sustainability Studies Majors

CMC offers many Associate's degree programs that provide good foundations for the SUS degree. Below is a list of recommended programs that could be especially useful for a student pursuing Sustainability Studies.

- *Anthropology*: Sustainability deals very closely with questions of humanity and culture. Anthropology provides good insights into the development of human thought about humans' relationships with nature and each other.
- *Biology*: A large part of the successful application of sustainability requires an understanding of biological systems, both human and non-human.
- *Business*: The business community has great potential for sustainability initiatives, and business can be a good grounding for the application of sustainability.
- *Economics*: Sustainability has much to offer in the realm of economic thinking and practice because it aims for and equitable approach to economics. Understanding economics can also provide a foundation for effecting important changes in society.
- *Entrepreneurship*: Studying Entrepreneurship can help you build very useful skills for communicating with community members and small business owners. A grounding in entrepreneurship can also help you to implement sustainability in your own business.

- *Environmental Science*: Studying environmental science can provide a foundation for the ecological science and physical science components of a sustainability-oriented education.
- *Environmental Studies*: This field offers a solid introduction to the basic concept of the 3-E model of sustainability and also introduces students to the value of integrative approaches to education in fields such as Sustainability Studies.
- *General Studies*: This program allows students to combine specific coursework, selecting courses from many of the SUS-related disciplines listed here. Pursuing a degree in General Studies can help you garner an understanding of the wealth of information relevant to sustainability that exists in different disciplines.
- *History*: Understanding sustainability challenges and opportunities requires one to develop significant knowledge of how these challenges and opportunities developed over time. Studying history can prepare you well to understand sustainability and the context in which is has developed.
- *Natural Resource Management*: Studying in this field will familiarize you with many natural resources issues and challenges of critical importance to sustainability.
- *Outdoor Education*: This field introduces you to ideas of stewardship and appropriate environmental use. The leadership qualities that you learn here can serve you well in sustainability.
- *Political Science*: Sustainability is a political field because of its focus on social change and on individuals and groups as agents of that change. Policy and decision making (important aspects of Political Science) are important sustainability issues as well.
- *Psychology*: Psychology is an important approach to understanding behavior, action, and choice. It is, therefore, a highly relevant field to sustainability.
- *Resort Management*: This program of study can relate well to sustainability with regard to greening contemporary resorts.
- *Social Work*: This field is closely related to the social equity component of Sustainability Studies. Social Work offers a grounding in the human aspects of sustainability – particularly social equity. Pursuing a degree in Social Work can also help you understand community engagement aspects of sustainabiltiy.
- *Sociology*: Sustainability examines society and uses critical thought to both comprehend and promote positive change within society at the local and global level. A degree in Sociology provides a great foundation for this work.
- *Spanish*: For both native and non-native speakers of Spanish, knowing this language can aid in cross-cultural application of sustainability. Spanish language skills broaden your community impact.
- *Sustainable Cuisine*: This degree relates thematically to the SUS program because of its emphasis on the relationships among people, food, and landscape and the connections among these that relate to personal, social, and environmental health.

## Pre- and Co-requisites for Sustainability Studies Courses

The following tables show the prerequisite courses required to be taken prior to registering for specific Sustainability Studies courses. For some courses, if a required prerequisite course has not been taken previously, it may be taken concurrently with the listed course (this is a "co-requisite"). Courses listed as co-requisites may be taken *either* prior to *or* concurrently with the Sustainability Studies course for which they are required.

### *Prerequisites for Core Courses*:

| Course Title and Number | Pre- and Co-requisites |
|---|---|
| SUS 300, Foundations of Sustainability | *Prerequisites*: College level composition and reading. |

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|---|---|
| | *Co-requisites*: ENV 101, Introduction to Environmental Science; MAT 120, Mathematics for the Liberal Arts (or higher); ENG 122, English Composition II. |
| SUS 301, Systems Thinking and Sustainability | *Prerequisites*: College level composition and reading.<br><br>*Co-requisites*: ENV 101, Introduction to Environmental Science; MAT 120, Mathematics for the Liberal Arts (or higher); ENG 122. |
| SUS 310, Ecology and Sustainability | *Prequisites*: BIO 111, General Biology with Lab (minimum grade of C-).<br><br>*Co-requisites*: SUS 300, Foundations of Sustainability OR SUS 301, Systems Thinking and Sustainability. If one of these courses has been taken in a previous term, a grade of C- or above is required to satisfy the pre-requisite. |
| SUS 311, Integrated Science for Sustainability | *Prerequisites*: ENV 101, Introduction to Environmental Science (minimum grade of C-). |
| SUS 320, Literature for Change | *Prerequisites*: ENG 121, English Composition I (minimum grade of C-); ENG 122, English Composition II (minimum grade of C-).<br><br>*Co-requisites*: SUS 300, Foundations of Sustainability, OR SUS 301, Systems Thinking and Sustainability. If one of these courses has been taken in a previous term, a grade of C- or above is required to satisfy the pre-requisite. |
| SUS 321, Leadership, Ethics, & Social Responsibility | *Prerequisites*: ENG 121, English Composition I (minimum grade of C-). |
| SUS 330, Sustainable Economics | *Prerequisites*: MAT 120, Mathematics for the Liberal Arts (or higher); ENG 121, English Composition I; ECO 201, Principles of Macroeconomics, OR ECO 202, Principles of Microeconomics, OR ECO 245, Issues in Environmental Economics (minimum grade of C- in all). |
| SUS 331, Cultural and Place Based Equity | *Prerequisites:* PHI 218, Environmental Ethics; ENV 101 Environmental Science (minimum grade of C- in both). If these courses were not completed in a previous term, they must be taken concurrently. |
| SUS 410, Conservation Biology | *Prerequisites*: BIO 111, General Biology with Lab; ENV 101, Introduction to Environmental Science (minimum grade C- in both); or permission of instructor. |
| SUS 420, Writing for Sustainability | *Prerequisites*: ENG 121, English Composition I; ENG 122, English Composition II (minimum grade of C- in both). |
| SUS 421, Fostering Sustainable Behaviors | *Co-requisites*: SUS 300, Foundations of Sustainability, OR SUS 301, Systems Thinking and Sustainability. If one of these courses has been taken in a previous term, |

| | |
|---|---|
| | a grade of C- or above is required to satisfy the pre-requisite. |
| SUS 430, Sustainable Business | *Prerequisites*: ENG 121, English Composition I; COM 115, Public Speaking, OR COM 125, Interpersonal Communication; MAT 120, Mathematics for the Liberal Arts, or higher (minimum grade of C- in all). |
| SUS 431, Social Entrepreneurship | *Prerequisites*: College-level composition and reading. |
| SUS 489, Sustainability Capstone | *Prerequisites*: College level composition and reading. This course should be taken in the senior year and in last term of study if possible. |

*Prerequisites for Elective Courses*:

| Course Title and Number | Pre- and Co-requisites |
|---|---|
| SUS 324, Colorado in Literature | College-level composition and reading. |
| SUS 325, Energy Systems and Sustainability | *Prerequisites*: SUS 300, Foundations of Sustainability OR SUS 301, Systems Thinking and Sustainability, minimum grade of C-; may be taken as co-requisite if not previously completed. |
| SUS 340, Environmental Chemistry | CHE 112, General College Chemistry (minimum grade of C-). |
| SUS 341, Sustainable Agriculture | *Prerequisites*: College-level composition and reading.<br><br>*Co-requisites*: SUS 300, Foundations of Sustainability, OR SUS 301, Systems Thinking and Sustainability. If one of these courses has been taken in a previous term, a grade of C- or above is required to satisfy the pre-requisite. |
| SUS 346, Creative Sustainability | *Prerequisites*: College-level composition and reading. |
| SUS 350, Permaculture Design I | *Prerequisites*: Previous associate's or bachelor's degree OR junior standing OR permission of instructor. |
| SUS 351, Permaculture Design II | *Prerequisites*: SUS 350. |
| SUS 375, Special Topics in Sustainability | *Co-requisites*: SUS 300, Foundations of Sustainability, OR SUS 301, Systems Thinking and Sustainability. |
| SUS 387, Sustainability Internship | *Prerequisites*: Junior standing and permission of instructor. |
| SUS 391, Field Experience in Sustainability | *Co-requisites*: SUS 300, Foundations of Sustainability, OR SUS 301, Systems Thinking and Sustainability. |
| SUS 416, Careers and Professional Skills in Sustainability | *Co-requisites*: SUS 300, Foundations of Sustainability, OR SUS 301, Systems Thinking and Sustainability. If one of these courses has been taken in a previous term, a grade of C- or above is required to satisfy the pre-requisite. |
| SUS 440, Watershed Science and Land Use Impacts | *Co-requisites*: SUS 300, Foundations of Sustainability, OR SUS 301, Systems Thinking and Sustainability. If one of these courses has been taken in a previous term, a grade of C- or above is required to satisfy the pre-requisite. |

## Suggested Course Sequencing for Junior and Senior Years

The Sustainability Studies major is designed to allow flexibility in the order in which you take your courses. Still, the following these recommendations will help you to get the most out of your studies and be well prepared for each class you take:

- If, at the start of your junior year, you still need to take freshman/sophomore level prerequisite courses or any courses required for the completion of your Associate's degree, take these courses right away so that you won't be blocked from taking junior and senior level courses you need to complete your degree.
- Take most of the 300-level courses in your junior year and the 400-level courses in your senior year.
- Take at least one of the following courses in the first term of your junior year: SUS 300, Foundations of Sustainability, or SUS 301, Systems Thinking and Sustainability.
- Take SUS 430, Sustainable Business, before taking SUS 431, Social Entrepreneurship.
- Take SUS 489, Capstone in Sustainability in your final term of study.
- Spread elective courses across your junior and senior years.
- Take internship credit once you feel you have a good grasp on sustainability as a concept that you are committed to putting into practice. Internships are not required but are highly recommended for personal and professional development.

## The Upper Division Electives Requirement

Beginning with the fall 2014 catalog year, all Sustainability Studies students are required to take nine credits of upper division (junior/senior level) elective courses. If you're interested in honing your business knowledge and skills, consider making your required electives also count as courses for the Business Emphasis Area (see below). Also consider using your elective course selections to develop your knowledge and skills in other areas that can prepare you for future work in your personal and professional life such as permaculture design. Undertaking an internship can be especially helpful in developing your skills for employment. Consider taking SUS 416, Careers and Professional Skills in Sustainability, as an important opportunity to develop your résumé, your job searching and interviewing skills, your ability to locate and apply for graduate level education, and/or your sustainable entrepreneurship plans in the nonprofit or for-profit realm.

## The Capstone Course Experience

All majors are required to take SUS 489, Capstone in Sustainability (4 credits). This course requires you to learn about and apply ethical standards to conducting original research in an area of your choosing. The capstone course is an excellent opportunity for you to prepare yourself for graduate-level studies and/or to learn highly practical research methods that can support you in the nonprofit or business realm or help you obtain grants or other funding for sustainability projects. You also have the opportunity in this class to deepen your understanding of sustainability theory and to develop your own line of inquiry that can lead to future work. Because this course requires you to build upon the program coursework and experiences, it is highly recommended that you take the capstone course in your final term of study. Because this course is demanding, taking an excessive number of credits while also taking the capstone course is strongly discouraged. Plan to get the most out of your experience by allowing yourself the significant time you'll need to focus on your research project, the culminating experience of your studies.

## Business Emphasis Area

Business knowledge and skills are useful in many realms, including the nonprofit sector and entrepreneurship. Understanding how to develop, manage, and track an organization's budget is a highly useful set of skills in many areas of work. Knowing how to effectively market events, products, and services is also highly useful as a sustainability professional, and understanding economic processes is important to work in nearly any organization. The Business Emphasis in Sustainability Studies is designed help those interested in developing these skills the opportunity to do so through taking 22 additional credits of business-oriented courses. When you take junior and senior level business courses required for the emphasis, these courses also count toward the upper division credit requirement for the Sustainability Studies degree. If you plan your degree carefully, you need not take more total credits to complete the Business Emphasis than you need to complete the major in Sustainability Studies. A detailed description of course requirements for the Business Emphasis is available online (http://catalog.coloradomtn.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=7&poid=787).

Special Note on Transcripts and Diplomas: If you plan to complete the Business Emphasis, make sure that you have declared this emphasis to the college. You may need to complete a program change form. Your major on this form should read "Sustainability Studies, Business Emphasis." **Without this specific declaration, the Business Emphasis will not be noted on your transcript and diploma.**

Special Note on Catalog Year: If you plan to complete the Business Emphasis, you should declare the 1015-2016 catalog year or after for your degree evaluation.

## Note on the Sustainability Leadership Certificate

This certificate facilitates the application of sustainability concepts and strategies to local communities. If you already hold a Bachelor's degree, the Sustainable Leadership Certificate (SLC) may be a good option for you. The SLC offers an option for students to enhance their current professional careers, become more marketable as they pursue new careers, and enrich their personal knowledge base by taking 15 credits within the Sustainability Studies degree program. A bachelor's degree is required for admission to the SLC, and your degree can be in any area of study. Because employees can apply much of the information acquired in their coursework to their current work, many employers are willing to pay for their employees to earn the certificate.

Required courses for the SLC are:

- SUS 300, Foundations of Sustainability (3 credits)
- SUS 301, Systems Thinking in Sustainability (3 credits)
- SUS 321, Leadership, Ethics, and Social Responsibility (3 credits)

The remaining two classes that make up the certificate can be any SUS-prefix courses that interest you.

*Before planning to complete this certificate program, please check with your local campus to ensure that this certificate of completion is offered at your site.*

## Elective Certificate Tracks

The Sustainability Studies program requires nine credits of 300/400 level elective coursework. The remaining electives can be satisfied from nearly any credit course offered at CMC. Using your elective credits to complete a certificate is a great way to make your electives more meaningful! Following is a list of suggested certificates

that would enhance your Sustainability Studies experience and provide you with an emphasis area within your degree. Such certificates can add important skills to your professional preparation, and they are often highly appreciated by employers.

- The **Permaculture Design Certificate of Completion** consists of two upper-division elective courses (7 credits) within the Sustainability Studies Program: Permaculture Design I (SUS 350, 3 credits) and Permaculture Design II (SUS 350, 4 credits). Through pursuing the Permaculture Design Certificate of Completion, students learn basic principles and applications of permaculture. Permaculture is a vision, set of ethical and practical principles, design system, and practice. Permaculture is aimed at supporting human needs equitably in culturally and environmentally diverse communities while simultaneously promoting the long-term health and integrity of both nature and culture. It is sustainability in action with a special focus on creating food systems that mimic the dynamic stability of healthy ecosystems. The PDC Certificate of Completion is offered at the Steamboat Springs campus. Further information is available online: http://catalog.coloradomtn.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=7&poid=780.

- The **Basic Solar Photovoltaic Installer Certificate** consists of 10 credits, and through hands-on training, prepares you for the National Certified Energy Practitioners exam. Understanding solar installation in residential settings is valuable as a career skill. Further information is available online: http://coloradomtn.edu/programs/solar_energy/. This certificate is offered at the Rifle campus.

- With the growing diversity of communities throughout the U.S., language skills beyond English are increasingly important to being an effective professional and community member. The **Spanish Proficiency Certificate, Conversational Track** consists of 17 credits. This coursework will assist you to become a competent user of the Spanish language in reading, writing, and speaking. This certificate could be a first step toward learning how to apply Spanish to sustainability in a community context. Further information is available online: http://catalog.coloradomtn.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=7&poid=765. This certificate is offered at the Edwards campus.

## Careers in Sustainability

The Sustainability Studies Program and the Career Services Office at CMC have developed a helpful website about career options for Sustainability Studies graduates (http://coloradomtn.edu/programs/sustainability_studies/careers-sustainability/). If you're approaching graduation—or if you're considering becoming and Sustainability Studies major—this site will help you to get a feel for the wide variety of career options and graduate school opportunities open to Sustainability Studies graduates. The site also includes a continual feed of relevant job listings from the CMC Student Jobs site (http://cmcstudentjobs.com), including listings for internships, part time and full time employment for students and graduates.

## Note to Administrators and Counselors Regarding Assigning Faculty Advisors for Sustainability Studies Students

If at all possible, when assigning advisors for lower or upper division students interested in the Sustainability Studies degree, make sure the advisor teaches in the Sustainability Studies program or is very familiar with it. Preferably the advisor should have some professional connection to sustainability. This consideration is especially important with regard to the student's academic choices and how these choices relate to career preparation (developing a professional network and academic and practical experiences relevant to future work) and to advising about graduate school opportunities.