Coterminal Master’s Degrees in Sustainability Science and Practice

The Sustainability Science and Practice program offers current Stanford University undergraduates the opportunity to apply to a one-year coterminal master’s program. Sustainability Science and Practice offers both a coterminal Master of Arts (M.A.) and a coterminal Master of Science (M.S.) degree.

Application and Admission

The Earth Systems Program has quarterly coterminal degree application deadlines: November 6, 2018; February 19, 2019; and May 14, 2019. To apply, students should submit an online application. The application includes the following:

- The online Stanford coterminal application (https://www.applyweb.com/stanterm)
- A statement of purpose
- A resume
- A current Stanford unofficial transcript
- Two letters of recommendation, one of which must be from the master’s advisor (who must be an Academic Council member)
- Master’s program proposal (https://stanford.box.com/progpropma): a list of proposed courses that fulfill degree requirements, signed by the master’s adviser.

Applications must be submitted no later than the quarter prior to the expected completion of the bachelor’s degree and within quarterly application deadlines. An application fee is assessed by the Registrar’s Office for coterminal applications once students are matriculated into the program.

Students applying to the coterminal master’s program must have completed a minimum of 120 units towards graduation with a minimum overall Stanford GPA of 3.4.

All applicants must devise a program of study that shows a level of courses appropriate to the master’s level, and determined in consultation with the master’s advisor.

The student has the option of receiving the bachelor’s degree after completing the degree’s requirements, or receiving the bachelor’s and
master’s degrees concurrently upon the completion of the master’s program.

If accepted, the student must submit a Graduate Authorization Petition through Axess; a $125 fee applies to a successful Graduate Authorization Petition.

**University Coterminal Requirements**

Coterminal master’s degree candidates are expected to complete all master’s degree requirements as described in this bulletin. University requirements for the coterminal master’s degree are described in the "Coterminal Master's Program (http://exploredegrees.stanford.edu/cotermdegrees)" section. University requirements for the master’s degree are described in the "Graduate Degrees (http://exploredegrees.stanford.edu/graduatedegrees/#masterstext)" section of this bulletin.

After accepting admission to this coterminal master’s degree program, students may request transfer of courses from the undergraduate to the graduate career to satisfy requirements for the master’s degree. Transfer of courses to the graduate career requires review and approval of both the undergraduate and graduate programs on a case by case basis.

In this master’s program, courses taken during or after the first quarter of the sophomore year are eligible for consideration for transfer to the graduate career; the timing of the first graduate quarter is not a factor. No courses taken prior to the first quarter of the sophomore year may be used to meet master’s degree requirements.

Course transfers are not possible after the bachelor’s degree has been conferred.

The University requires that the graduate adviser be assigned in the student’s first graduate quarter even though the undergraduate career may still be open. The University also requires that the Master’s Degree Program Proposal be completed by the student and approved by the department by the end of the student’s first graduate quarter.

**Master of Arts in Sustainability Science and Practice**

**Degree Requirements**

The following are required of all M.A. students:

- • A minimum of 45 units of course work.
- • At least 34 units of the student’s course work for the master’s program must be at the 200 level or above.
- • All remaining course work must be at the 100 level or above.
- • All courses for the master’s program must be taken for a letter grade; courses not taken for a letter grade must be approved by the master’s adviser.
- • A minimum overall GPA of 3.4 must be maintained.
- • Remaining units to meet the 45 unit minimum must be designated as arts units. Course coding can be viewed on the Master Course List [here](https://stanford.box.com/v/sust-courses)

For the Master of Arts in Sustainability Science and Practice, an ethics course must be taken if not completed in the undergraduate degree program. This course does not have to be completed before applying to the coterm program. It can be taken as an elective.

**Required Courses**

**Ethics**

Select one of the following:

- ETHICSOC 234R Ethics on the Edge: Business, Non-Profit Organizations, Government, and Individuals Units: 3
- EARTHSYS 136/236 The Ethics of Stewardship or approved alternative Units: 2-3

**Units**

- SUST 210 Pursuing Sustainability: Managing Complex Social Environmental Systems Units: 3
- SUST 220 Case Studies in Leading Change for Sustainability Units: 3
- SUST 230 Innovating Large Scale Sustainable Transformations Units: 3-4
- SUST 240 Sustainability Science and Practice Practicum Units: 1-4
- EARTHSYS 111 Biology and Global Change Units: 4
- EARTHSYS 112 Human Society and Environmental Change Units: 4
- Minimum 1, Maximum 2 of the following:
- ME 206A & ME 206B Design for Extreme Affordability and Design for Extreme Affordability Units: 8
- EARTHSYS 289 FEED Lab: Food System Design & Innovation Units: 3-4
- ME 377 Design Thinking Studio Units: 4
- Minimum 1, Maximum 2 of the following:
- PSYCH 215 Mind, Culture, and Society Units: 3
- PSYCH 216 Public Policy and Social Psychology: Implications and Applications Units: 4
- PSYCH 265 Social Psychology and Social Change (Must be taken for 3 units) Units: 3
- One of the following:
- LAW 7508 Problem Solving and Decision Making for Public Policy and Social Change Units: 4
- GSBGEN 367 Problem Solving for Social Change (Limited Enrollment-Check course description for details) Units: 3
- SUST 261 Art and Science of Decision Making Units: 3-4
- ENVRES 240 Environmental Decision-Making and Risk Perception (Must be taken for 3 units) Units: 3

If required courses have been taken in the undergraduate career, students pursue additional electives. A current list of electives can be found on the program’s spreadsheet ([here](https://stanford.box.com/v/sust-courses)).

**Master of Science in Sustainability Science and Practice**

**Degree requirements**

The following are required of all M.S. students:

- • A minimum of 45 units of course work.
- • At least 34 units of the student’s course work for the masters program must be at the 200 level or above.
- • All remaining coursework must be at the 100 level or above.
- • All courses for the master’s program must be taken for a letter grade; courses not taken for a letter grade must be approved by the master’s adviser.
- • A minimum overall GPA of 3.4 must be maintained.
- • Remaining units to meet the 45 unit minimum must be designated as ‘science’ units. Course coding can be viewed here: Master Course List ([here](https://stanford.app.box.com/v/sust-courses))

**Perception (Must be taken for 3 units)**

**Environmental Decision-Making and Risk Implications and Applications**

**Social Environmental Systems**

**Art and Science of Decision Making for Extreme Affordability**

**Innovation**

**Feeding the Planet, Powering the Planet**

**Biology and Global Change**

**Transformations**

**Pursuing Sustainability: Managing Complex Social Environmental Systems**

**Design Thinking Studio**

**Human Society and Environmental Change**

**Problem Solving and Decision Making for Social Change**

**Problem Solving for Social Change**

**Social Psychology and Social Change**

**Decision Making and Risk Perception**

**Science Units**

**Course coding can be viewed here:** Department of Sustainability Science and Practice ([here](https://stanford.app.box.com/v/sust-courses))
• For the Master of Science in Sustainability Science and Practice, the following courses must be taken if not completed in the undergraduate degree program. These courses do not have to be completed before applying to the coterm program. The ethics course can be taken as an elective. The Math and Stats courses may not be counted as part of the 45-unit master’s degree.

Prerequisite Courses
Mathematics
Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 51</td>
<td>Linear Algebra, Multivariable Calculus, and Modern Applications</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CME 100</td>
<td>Vector Calculus for Engineers</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics
Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>ECON 102A</td>
<td>Introduction to Statistical Methods (Postcalculus) for Social Scientists</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATS 110</td>
<td>Statistical Methods in Engineering and the Physical Sciences</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATS 116</td>
<td>Theory of Probability</td>
<td>3-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS 109</td>
<td>Introduction to Probability for Computer Scientists</td>
<td>3-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EE 178</td>
<td>Probabilistic Systems Analysis</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Required Courses
Ethics
Select one of the following:

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<tr>
<td>ETHICSOC 234R</td>
<td>Ethics on the Edge: Business, Non-Profit Organizations, Government, and Individuals</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>EARTHSYS 136/236</td>
<td>The Ethics of Stewardship</td>
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<td>SUST 210</td>
<td>Pursuing Sustainability: Managing Complex Social Environmental Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUST 220</td>
<td>Case Studies in Leading Change for Sustainability</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>SUST 230</td>
<td>Innovating Large Scale Sustainable Transformations</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUST 240</td>
<td>Sustainability Science and Practice Practicum</td>
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<td>EARTHSYS 111</td>
<td>Biology and Global Change</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>4</td>
</tr>
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<td>Minimum 1, Maximum 2 of the following:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ME 206A &amp; ME 206B</td>
<td>Design for Extreme Affordability and Design for Extreme Affordability</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EARTHSYS 289</td>
<td>FEED Lab: Food System Design &amp; Innovation</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
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<td>ME 377</td>
<td>Design Thinking Studio</td>
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<td>PSYCH 216</td>
<td>Public Policy and Social Psychology: Implications and Applications</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH 265</td>
<td>Social Psychology and Social Change (Must be taken for 3 units)</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
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<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>LAW 7508</td>
<td>Problem Solving and Decision Making for Public Policy and Social Change</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSBGEN 367</td>
<td>Problem Solving for Social Change (Limited Enrollment-Check course description for details)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUST 261</td>
<td>Art and Science of Decision Making</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVRES 240</td>
<td>Environmental Decision-Making and Risk Perception (Must be taken for 3 units)</td>
<td>3</td>
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A current list of electives can be found on the program’s spreadsheet (https://stanford.box.com/v/sust-courses).

Graduate Advising Expectations
The Program in Sustainability Science and Practice is committed to providing academic advising in support of graduate student scholarly and professional development. When most effective, this advising relationship entails collaborative and sustained engagement by both the adviser and the advisee. As a best practice, advising expectations should be periodically discussed and reviewed to ensure mutual understanding. Both the adviser and the advisee are expected to maintain professionalism and integrity.

Faculty advisers guide students in key areas such as selecting courses, designing and conducting research, developing of teaching pedagogy, navigating policies and degree requirements, and exploring academic opportunities and professional pathways.

Graduate students are active contributors to the advising relationship, proactively seeking academic and professional guidance and taking responsibility for informing themselves of policies and degree requirements for their graduate program.

For a statement of University policy on graduate advising, see "Graduate Advising and Credential Requirements for their graduate program." For a statement of University policy on graduate advising, see "Graduate Advising (http://exploredegrees.stanford.edu/graduatedegrees/#advisingandcredentialtext)" section of this bulletin.

Executive Director: Pamela Matson

Affiliated Faculty and Lecturers:

• Kevin Arrigo (Earth System Science, Earth Systems Program)
• Nicole M. Ardoin (Education)
• Shilajeet Banerjee (Professor of Practice, Emmett Interdisciplinary Program in Environment and Resources)
• William Barnett (Business)
• Sally Benson (Energy Resources Engineering)
• Paul Brest (Law)
• Marshall Burke (Earth System Science)
• Gretchen C. Daily (Environmental Science)
• Jenna Davis (Civil and Environmental Engineering)
• Rob Dunbar (Earth System Science)
• Zephyr Frank (History)
• Pamela Hinds (Management Science and Engineering)
• Rob Jackson (Earth System Science)
• James Holland Jones (Earth System Science)
• Jeffrey R. Koseff (Civil and Environmental Engineering)
• Eric Lambin (Earth System Science)
• Hazel Markus (Psychology)
• Pamela Matson (Earth System Science)
• Rosamond Naylor (Earth System Science)
• Julia Novy-Hildesley (Professor of the Practice, Sustainability Science and Practice)
• Burke Robinson (Management Science and Engineering)
• Jenny Suckale (Geophysics)
• Barton Thompson (Law)
• Peter Vitousek (Biology)
• Jeremy Weinstein (Political Science)
• Mikael Wolfe (History)