

Sustainability in the Curriculum Quality Enhancement Plan

To prepare tomorrow's leaders to think boldly to address the most pressing issues of our time, we propose that all students at W&M engage with a 3-credit experience where the subject matter has a significant focus on environmental aspects of sustainability. The objective is to produce ethical leaders who grasp the urgency and opportunity of sustainable practices, emphasizing data-driven decision making, diverse stakeholder insights, and a deep understanding of the cultural dimensions of engaging with nature. This will lead to the development of stronger communication skills and increased career exploration in sustainability-related fields, which are projected to grow as the world pivots to address the climate crisis. This plan will use an attribute system to identify courses having at least 30% content focused on environmental aspects of sustainability. Over a dozen different units already offer qualifying courses that also count as COLL and degree requirements for several majors; this plan thus does not demand additional credits from students. Incorporating sustainability in the curriculum will strengthen interdisciplinary teaching and research and deepen W&M's commitment to climate action.