

SUSTAINABILITY, THE ECONOMY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Sustainability, the Economy & Environmental Policy (StEEP)

The StEEP program is designed to cultivate a comprehensive understanding of the deep interconnections between humans and the environment, society's impact on sustainability, and the impact of the natural environment on human wellbeing through a richly interdisciplinary curriculum that bridges social sciences with environmental and sustainability topics. **Recognizing that scientific and technical solutions alone cannot fully address today's sustainability challenges, the program prepares students to become decision makers and leaders who enable and manage change** in their communities and the world, improving sustainability and enhancing human wellbeing.

Students will explore social science perspectives on our shared understanding of sustainability and environmental issues and responses, with an emphasis on understanding the complex human factors involved in behavior change. The program equips future decision makers and leaders with the knowledge to influence change through individual actions and the advancement of public policies.

The StEEP program will provide students with a **unique interdisciplinary skill set that will enable them to apply for a variety of positions in various sectors of the economy, while allowing for customization to meet students' individual interests and career goals.** Graduates will be well-equipped to lead and implement change that harmonizes environmental sustainability with human wellbeing, capitalizing on their comprehensive understanding of historical, economic, social, and policy dimensions and environmental issues and concerns.

The StEEP degree integrates social science courses to **support careers in policy, research, community outreach, leadership, advocacy, social and environmental entrepreneurship, corporate sustainability, international development, and humanities/communication.** In addition, this major will serve as a valuable complement (as a secondary major) to majors in engineering, business, education, and human services by enabling students to integrate environmental and social considerations into their primary field, advancing sustainable solutions.

Dearborn Discovery Core (General Education)

All students must satisfy the University's Dearborn Discovery Core requirements (https://catalog.umd.umich.edu/undergraduate/gen_ed_ddc/), in addition to the requirements for the major. Students must also complete all CASL Degree Requirements. (<https://catalog.umd.umich.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences-letters/>)

Prerequisites to the Major

Code	Title	Credit Hours
ECON 202	Prin: Microeconomics	3
HIST 103	The World Since 1500 CE	3

POL 101	American Politics	3
Total Credit Hours		9

Major requirements

The major requires a total of 38-40 credit hours.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Core Courses		
A. Natural and built environment : select one course from the following:		4
GEOG 320/ ESCI 321	Global Climate Change	
	or GEOG 300Urban Geography	
B. Environmental history and society:		4
HIST 3702	Environmental History	
C. Wellbeing of current and future generations: select one course from the following:		4
ECON 340	Happiness and Wellbeing: Practice and Policy	
	or POL 381 Democracy and Wellbeing	
D. Economy and sustainable development: select one course from the following:		4
ECON/ESCI 351	Environmental Economics	
	or ECON 442Economic Development	
E. Environmental policy and politics of sustainability: select one course from the following:		4
POL 325	Environmental Politics	
or POL/ ESCI 467	Food Politics and Policy	
or POL/ ESCI 487	Comparative Environmental Policy	
Research Methods and Capstone		
Choose one combination/sequence from the following:		8
ECON 305 & ECON 4015	Economic Data Analysis and Introduction to Econometrics ¹	
HIST 300 & HIST 4999	The Study of History and Senior Research Seminar	
POL 300 & POL 4910	Political Analysis and Capstone in Political Science	
GEOG 302 & LIBS 450	Mapping Our World and Integrative Learning	
Total Credit Hours		28

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Electives		
Area 1. Interdependencies between humans and environment		3-4
Select one course from the following:		
ANTH 325	Anth of Health and Environment	
ECON 340	Happiness and Wellbeing: Practice and Policy	
FNDS 3603	When Nature Strikes: Dealing with Natural Disasters ²	
GEOG 300	Urban Geography	

GEOG 320/ ESCI 321	Global Climate Change
HHS 340	Global Environmental Justice in the Era of Climate Change and COVID-19 ³
HIST 3380	The European City
HIST 3695	American City
LIBS 351	Critical Food Studies
POL 381	Democracy and Wellbeing
Area 2. Economics and politics of environment	
4	
Select one course from the following:	
ECON 325	Economics of Poverty and Discrimination
ECON/ESCI 351	Environmental Economics
ECON 355	Health Economics
ECON 442	Economic Development
HHS 250	Intro to Environmental Health
POL 325	Environmental Politics
POL 365	Energy Policy
POL/ESCI 467	Food Politics and Policy
POL 487	Comparative Environmental Policy
URS 300	Urban and Regional Studies
Area 3. Implementing sustainability	
3-4	
Select one course from the following:	
BA 400	Corporate Responsibility ⁴
ECON 437	Behavioral Public Policy
ECON 438	Beh Econ for Business & Policy
ENT 403	Social Entrepreneurship ⁵
ESCI 401	Sustainable Cities ⁶
ESCI 410	Future Cities Live
PAPP 455	Network Collaboration
PAPP 483	Program Evaluation
POL 334	Organizing and Advocacy
POL 484	Revitalizing Cities
Total Credit Hours	
10-12	

¹ Prerequisites: ECON 201 or ECON 202;
and MATH 104 or MATH 105 or MATH 115

² FNDS course for new students only.

³ A study abroad course, offered occasionally

⁴ Prerequisite: senior standing only, and COMP 280.

⁵ Junior and senior standing only.

⁶ Prerequisite: ESCI 118 or ESCI 101 or ESCI 201

Notes:

1. At least 20 of the 38-40 credit hours for the major must be elected at UM-D.
2. Internship in the area of environment/sustainability is recommended, but not required. Internships ECON 398, POL 495, URS 485 can be counted toward electives in *Area 3. Implementing sustainability* with an approval of the program director by petition.
3. With an approval of the StEEP program director by petition, students can take the field course CPBL 400 when the topic is *Bicycle Urbanism: Michigan and Scandinavia* and count it toward electives in Area 3. Implementing sustainability.

Learning Goals

1. Understand the environmental impact of human development and its long-term implications for human wellbeing.
2. Analyze the role of history, cultural narratives, norms, or institutions in shaping individual and societal behavior and environmental policies.
3. Design and evaluate strategies or institutions to promote sustainability and human wellbeing across different domains of life.
4. Understand the social, economic, or political processes and tradeoffs shaping policy, and formulate policy recommendations.