

# AC 4: Graduate Program

3 points available

## A. Credit Rationale

This credit recognizes institutions that have formal, graduate academic degree programs focused on sustainability. Developing such programs signals an institution's commitment to sustainability. Formal academic programs focused on sustainability provide a path for students to study sustainability topics in depth, thus better preparing them to address sustainability challenges. Formal academic programs also provide a home for sustainability scholars within the institution.

## B. Criteria

Institution offers at least one:

- [Sustainability-focused program](#) (major, degree program, or equivalent) for [graduate students](#)  
And/or
- Graduate-level sustainability-focused minor, concentration or certificate (e.g., a concentration on sustainable business within an MBA program).

To count, programs must concentrate on sustainability as an integrated concept, including its social, economic, and environmental dimensions.

Extension certificates and other certificates that are not part of academic degree programs do not count for this credit; they are covered in the *Continuing Education* credit in Public Engagement.

## C. Applicability

This credit applies to all institutions that offer at least 25 distinct graduate programs. Institutions that offer fewer than 25 distinct graduate programs have a choice of either pursuing or omitting this credit.

## D. Scoring

Institutions earn the maximum of 3 points available for this credit for having at least one sustainability-focused degree program or the equivalent for graduate students. Partial points are available. An institution with no sustainability-focused degree program for graduate students that has at least one graduate-level sustainability-focused minor, concentration or certificate earns 1.5 points (half of the points available for this credit).

## E. Reporting Fields

Required

- ☐ Does the institution offer at least one sustainability-focused major, degree program, or the equivalent for graduate students (i.e., an interdisciplinary academic program that concentrates on sustainability as an integrated concept, including its social, economic, and environmental dimensions)?

- ☐ *If yes, provide:*
- ☐ Name of the sustainability-focused graduate-level degree program
- ☐ A brief description of the graduate-level degree program
- ☐ The website URL for the graduate-level degree program
- ☐ Does the institution offer one or more graduate-level sustainability-focused minors, concentrations or certificates?
- ☐ *If yes, provide:*
- ☐ Name of the graduate-level sustainability-focused minor, concentration or certificate
- ☐ A brief description of the graduate-level minor, concentration or certificate
- ☐ The website URL for the graduate-level minor, concentration or certificate

### Optional

- ☐ For up to two additional sustainability-focused graduate-level degree programs, provide:
  - ☐ Name of the sustainability-focused graduate-level degree program
  - ☐ A brief description of the graduate-level degree program
  - ☐ The website URL for the graduate-level degree program
- ☐ The name and website URLs of all other sustainability-focused graduate-level degree programs
- ☐ For up to two additional graduate-level sustainability-focused minors, concentrations or certificates, provide:
  - ☐ Name of the graduate-level sustainability-focused minor, concentration or certificate
  - ☐ A brief description of the graduate-level minor, concentration or certificate
  - ☐ The website URL for the graduate-level minor, concentration or certificate
- ☐ The name and website URLs of all other graduate-level sustainability-focused minors, concentrations and certificates
- ☐ Additional documentation to support the submission (upload)
- ☐ Data source(s) and notes about the submission
- ☐ Contact information for a responsible party (a staff member, faculty member, or administrator who can respond to questions regarding the data once it is submitted and available to the public)

## F. Measurement

### Timeframe

Report on current program status and offerings at the time of submission. Planned degree programs or degree programs that have been canceled do not count for this credit.

### Sampling and Data Standards

Not applicable

## **G. Standards and Terms**

### **Graduate students**

Graduate students are students enrolled in the spectrum of education beyond the level of a baccalaureate, i.e., students who hold bachelor's degrees or above and are taking courses at the post-baccalaureate level.

### **Sustainability-focused program**

Sustainability-focused programs are interdisciplinary academic programs that concentrate on sustainability as an integrated concept, including its social, economic, and environmental dimensions. The courses required for the successful completion of the program educate students about how different dimensions of sustainability relate to and support each other in theory and practice. The sustainability focus of such a program should be explicit in the program title or description.