

AC 10: Support for Research

4 points available

A. Credit Rationale

This credit recognizes institutions that have programs in place to encourage students and faculty members to research sustainability. Providing support and incentives demonstrates that sustainability is an institutional priority and can help deepen students' understanding of sustainability issues and attract new researchers to the field. In addition, it helps faculty members explore new areas and encourages broader research on the topic. Addressing sustainability challenges requires solutions and understandings that often cover multiple academic disciplines. Giving interdisciplinary research equal weight as research from a single academic discipline provides an important foundation that allows faculty to pursue sustainability related research.

B. Criteria

Institution encourages and/or supports [sustainability research](#) through one or more of the following:

- An ongoing program to encourage students in multiple disciplines or academic programs to conduct research in sustainability. The program provides students with incentives to research sustainability. Such incentives may include, but are not limited to, fellowships, financial support, and mentorships. The program specifically aims to increase student sustainability research.
- An ongoing program to encourage faculty from multiple disciplines or academic programs to conduct research in sustainability topics. The program provides faculty with incentives to research sustainability. Such incentives may include, but are not limited to, fellowships, financial support, and faculty development workshops. The program specifically aims to increase faculty sustainability research.
- Written policies and procedures that give positive recognition to interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary, and multidisciplinary research during faculty promotion and/or tenure decisions.
- Ongoing library support for sustainability research and learning in the form of research guides, materials selection policies and practices, curriculum development efforts, sustainability literacy promotion, and/or e-learning objects focused on sustainability.

C. Applicability

This credit applies to all institutions where research is considered in faculty and/or staff promotion or tenure decisions. Institutions that do not consider research in promotion or tenure decisions as a matter of policy or standard practice may choose to either omit or include the Research subcategory. Pursuing one or more Research credits and omitting other credits in the subcategory as "not applicable" is not allowed.

D. Scoring

Institutions earn the maximum of 4 points available for this credit by providing all of the incentives and supports listed in the criteria above. Partial points are available based on the number of incentives and/or

supports provided. For example, an institution that provides 2 of the 4 incentives or supports listed would earn 2 points (half of the points available for this credit).

E. Reporting Fields

Required

- ☐ Does the institution have an ongoing program to encourage students in multiple disciplines or academic programs to conduct research in sustainability? (To count, the program must provide students with incentives to research sustainability and specifically aim to increase student sustainability research)

If yes, provide:

- ☐ A brief description of the student research program, including the incentives provided and any positive outcomes during the previous three years
- ☐ Does the institution have a program to encourage faculty from multiple disciplines or academic programs to conduct research in sustainability topics? (To count, the program must provide faculty with incentives to research sustainability and specifically aim to increase faculty sustainability research)

If yes, provide:

- ☐ A brief description of the faculty research program, including the incentives provided and any positive outcomes during the previous three years
- ☐ Has the institution published written policies and procedures that give positive recognition to interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary, and multidisciplinary research during faculty promotion and/or tenure decisions?

If yes, provide:

- ☐ A brief description of the institution's support for interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary, and multidisciplinary research, including any positive outcomes during the previous three years
- ☐ Does the institution have ongoing library support for sustainability research and learning in the form of research guides, materials selection policies and practices, curriculum development efforts, sustainability literacy promotion, and/or e-learning objects focused on sustainability?

If yes, provide:

- ☐ A brief description of the institution's library support for sustainability research, including any positive outcomes during the previous three years

Optional

- ☐ The website URL where information about the programs or initiatives is available
- ☐ 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

Active programs and policies, and incentives offered within the three years prior to the anticipated date of submission are eligible for this credit.

Sampling and Data Standards

Not applicable

G. Standards and Terms

Sustainability research

Sustainability research is research that leads toward solutions that simultaneously support social wellbeing, economic prosperity, and ecological health. It includes research and scholarship that:

- Explicitly addresses sustainability and/or furthers our understanding of the interconnectedness of social, economic and environmental issues;
- Contributes directly toward solving one or more major sustainability challenge; and/or
- Engages community members with the aim of combining knowledge and action to achieve positive social, economic and environmental outcomes (e.g., participatory and community-based research and engaged scholarship).