

EN 1: Student Educators Program

4 points available

A. Credit Rationale

This credit recognizes institutions with programs that engage students to serve as educators in peer-to-peer sustainability outreach. Such initiatives, sometimes known as "Eco-Reps" programs, help disseminate sustainability concepts and a sustainability ethic throughout the campus community. In addition, serving as an educator is a valuable learning experience for students that can deepen their understanding of sustainability while developing their outreach and education skills.

B. Criteria

Institution coordinates an ongoing [peer-to-peer](#) sustainability outreach and education program for students enrolled for credit. The institution:

- Selects or appoints students to serve as peer educators and formally designates the students as educators (paid and/or volunteer);
- Provides formal training to the student educators in how to conduct peer outreach; and
- Supports the program with financial resources (e.g., by providing an annual budget) and/or administrative coordination by faculty or staff.

This credit focuses on programs for degree-seeking students enrolled in a for-credit program. Continuing education students, non-credit students, and other students who are not recognized by the institution as seeking a degree, certificate, or other formal award are excluded.

This credit recognizes ongoing student educator programs that engage students as peers on a regular basis. For example, student educators may be responsible for serving (i.e., directly targeting) a particular subset of students, such as those living in residence halls or enrolled in certain academic subdivisions. Thus, a group of students may be served by a program even if not all of these students actively participate.

Sustainability outreach campaigns, sustainability events, and student clubs or groups are not eligible for this credit unless the criteria outlined above are met. These programs are covered by the *Outreach Campaign* and *Student Life* credits.

C. Applicability

This credit applies to all institutions that have [students enrolled for credit](#).

D. Scoring

Institutions earn the maximum of 4 points available for this credit by having one or more peer-to-peer educator programs that serve (i.e., directly target) all students enrolled for credit. Incremental points are awarded based on the percentage of students served by the peer-to-peer educator program(s). For example, an institution with a program that serves 50 percent of all students would earn 2 points (half of the points available for this credit).

Points for this credit are calculated automatically in the STARS Reporting Tool as follows:

Factor		Total number of students served by a peer-to-peer outreach and education program		Total number of students enrolled for credit		Points earned
4	×	_____	÷	_____	=	Up to 4

E. Reporting Fields

Required

- ☐ Number of students enrolled for credit (headcount)
- ☐ The total number of students enrolled for credit that are served (i.e., directly targeted) by a student peer-to-peer sustainability outreach and education program (avoid double-counting to the extent feasible)

If greater than zero, provide:

- Name of the student educators program
- Number of students served (i.e., directly targeted) by the program (headcount)
- A brief description of the program, including examples of peer-to-peer outreach activities
- A brief description of how the student educators are selected
- A brief description of the formal training that the student educators receive to prepare them to conduct peer outreach
- A brief description of the financial and/or administrative support the institution provides to the program (e.g., annual budget and/or faculty/staff coordination)

If reporting students served by additional peer-to-peer programs, for up to two additional programs, provide:

- Name of the student educators program
- Number of students served (i.e., directly targeted) by the program
- A brief description of the program, including examples of peer-to-peer outreach activities
- A brief description of how the student educators are selected
- A brief description of the formal training that the student educators receive to prepare them to conduct peer outreach
- A brief description of the financial and/or administrative support the institution provides to the program (e.g., annual budget and/or faculty/staff coordination)

If reporting students served by more than three programs, provide:

- A brief description of all other student peer-to-peer sustainability outreach and education programs, including the number of students served and how student educators are selected, trained, and supported by the institution

Optional

- ❑ Total number of hours student educators are engaged in peer-to-peer sustainability outreach and education activities annually (all programs)
- ❑ 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

Report on current program status and offerings at the time of submission for ongoing programs. Use the most recent data available from within the three years prior to the anticipated date of submission to report the number of students served by each program and the total number of enrolled students.

Sampling and Data Standards

Include all students enrolled for credit (undergraduate and graduate); reporting on a sample or subset of students is not allowed.

G. Standards and Terms

Peer-to-peer education

Consistent with the My-Peer Toolkit hosted by [Curtin University](#):

A peer is an individual who is of equal standing with another and who belongs to a specific societal group, sharing distinct characteristics with this group.

There is no power imbalance within a peer relationship (e.g., as there would be in a faculty-student or manager-worker relationship).

Peer-to-peer outreach and education programs train members of specific social groups or networks (e.g., students or workers) to become “experts” in a certain topic. These individuals then become peer educators who share what they have learned with other members of the same group to catalyze change. Peer education is based on the understanding that people make changes not only based on what they know, but also on the opinions and actions of close trusted peers.

Students enrolled for credit

Consistent with U.S. [IPEDS](#), students enrolled for credit include all students enrolled in courses or programs that can be applied towards the requirements for a postsecondary degree, diploma, certificate, or other formal award, regardless of whether or not they are seeking a degree or certificate. This includes:

- Students enrolled for credit in off-campus centers
- High school students taking regular college courses for credit
- Students taking remedial courses if the student is degree-seeking for the purpose of student financial aid determination
- Students from overseas enrolled in U.S. courses for credit (e.g., online students)

- Graduate students enrolled for thesis credits, even when zero credits are awarded as these students are still enrolled and seeking their degree.

Scoring Example: Student Educators Program

Example University enrolls 5,000 students. The university has two peer-to-peer outreach programs for which the institution selects students to serve as educators, offers a formal designation or title to the student educators, provides formal training to the educators in how to conduct sustainability outreach, and dedicates staff time to coordinating the programs.

- 1) Example University's Eco-Reps Program trains volunteer representatives in residence halls. All residence halls at Example University participate in the Eco-Reps Program and house at least one Eco-Rep. This program serves 2,000 students (the residential population).
- 2) Example University's School of Law has a team of Student Sustainability Ambassadors who are paid a stipend and tasked with conducting sustainability outreach and training to fellow law students. All 500 students at the law school are served by this program.

The remainder of the university's students are not served (i.e., directly targeted) by the program.

Total number of students served by a peer-to-peer outreach program = 2,000 + 500 = 2,500

Factor		Number of students served by a peer-to-peer outreach and education program		Total number of students enrolled for credit		Points earned
40	×	<u>2,500</u>	÷	<u>5,000</u>	=	2