

The Sustainability Minor--Portfolio Assignment

Rev. 12-9-13

The Sustainability Minor Portfolio asks you to reflect upon and integrate components of the minor so that faculty involved with the Minor can observe and evaluate your progress. The short essays required encourage attention to what has been learned and what remains to be learned, how ideas from diverse courses connect or conflict, and how your studies connect with your academic and personal goals.

Students create their portfolio and post the assignments over the course of their time in the minor on a private blackboard site that will be reviewed periodically by the Sustainability Steering Committee or another faculty member (when appropriate).

A. Initial Entry (when you declare the minor) (350 words):

Deadline: First day of class for the following academic semester.

Why did you decide to declare a Sustainability Minor?

1. Reflect on a conversation, experience, or observation that had a significant impact on you personally in your decision. What was it that sent you in this direction? Comment on intellectual, physical, emotional, ethical, or spiritual dimensions or impact.
2. Is your decision to study sustainability connected to long-held assumptions and values? Is your decision to study sustainability leading you in a new direction?

B. Course Entries (One for each course taken that counts toward the minor) (800 words).

Deadline: First day of class for the following academic semester.

Pick one assignment from this class and discuss in detail what it taught you about sustainability. Also, reflect on how this class relates to what you know about sustainability more generally—from other classes, or from your assumptions coming into this semester.

1. **Discussion of Assignment:** Select an assignment (project, paper, exercise, or laboratory) from your course that will demonstrate your progress in understanding the field of sustainability. Write a paragraph or more describing the learning outcome for this assignment and if appropriate, attach the final assignment. Highlight your increasing sophistication with the concept and issues of sustainability.
2. **Relation to Understanding of Sustainability:** How does this class relate to the other classes you've taken as part of the Sustainability Minor? What new insights or concepts did you learn here? Were there any ideas taught in this class that conflicted with what you learned elsewhere? How do you resolve such conflicts? What aspects of sustainability do you think you still need to explore?

C. Final Semester Entries (these will be part of the capstone course and project, but may be drafted prior)

- 1. Capstone Entry (200 words):** Describe in a paragraph the capstone project that demonstrates how you integrated broad understanding of sustainability.
 - a) What is the nature of the project (methods, duration, supervision) ?
 - b) How does the project connect to issues of sustainability and previous coursework
 - c) What form is the written report? (A final paper, chapter from a thesis, lab report, etc. should be posted as well). Development of the project and any posters, reports, and presentations will be discussed in the Capstone Seminar.

- 2. Final Reflection (1000-1500 words)**
 - a) Going over all your previous entries, how has the minor affected the development of your intellectual, ethical and personal journey? Your career and lifestyle choices?
 - b) How has it challenged your assumptions?
 - c) How has it fostered integration of diverse fields around issues of sustainability?

Deadline: April 15