

University of Central Florida's Interdisciplinary

Environmental Specialization Program



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Description

The Environmental Specialization Program provides recognition for the environmental interests, dedication, and accomplishments of UCF undergraduate and graduate students by offering a green cord for their commencement in addition to a certificate from the University of Central Florida. Upon completion, students are able to include the certification on résumés as well as exhibit a comprehensive portfolio.

In the context of this document the term ‘sustainable’ refers to the actions that support long-term ecological balance. Any situation that poses a threat to the health of a species and/or environmental resource is therefore considered ‘unsustainable’.

Students wishing to complete the Environmental Specialization Program should contact the Unifying Theme Assistant (contact listed on page 9) via e-mail [ut@ucf.edu] in order to get started.

The ESP requirements can be completed over the course of any number of semesters at UCF; all requirements do not need to be satisfied in any specific year. Applications are to be submitted one month before the end of the applicant’s final semester. If the student has successfully completed the ESP portfolio early, the student must hold off submitting the ESP until their graduating semester. The Environmental Specialization Program is a one-time application that is awarded upon the successful completion of the program during the student’s graduating semester.

Requirements

To successfully complete the Environmental Specialization Program the student is required to create a portfolio designed to display and document a sustainability focus, achievements, and dedication within three categories: 1. Academia 2. Involvement 3. Leadership. Applicants are required to earn at least 100 points in **each** of the three categories, for a total of 300 total points, minimum.



Portfolio Description and Requirements:

Applicants are required to complete an electronic portfolio binder displaying all of the requirements to achieve the Environmental Specialization Program – in .pdf format.

- **Content Requirements:**

- Cover Page (name, graduating semester, major, minor (if applicable))
- Four labeled sections:
 - 1) Introduction:
 - Complete application
 - Résumé
 - Two page letter of intent and personal reflection.
 - 2) Academia
 - 1 page introduction to category (what activities did you do?)
 - Required option reflection and/or documentation of experiences, signatures and contact information of supervisor/professor.
 - 3) Involvement
 - 1 page introduction to category (what activities did you do?)
 - Required option reflection and/or documentation of experiences, signatures and contact information of supervisor/professor.
 - 4) Leadership
 - 1 page introduction to category (what activities did you do?)
 - Required option reflection and/or documentation of experiences, signatures and contact information of supervisor/professor.

Application Process and Deadlines

Students are required to submit completed portfolios to the Unifying Theme website (ut.ucf.edu) **one month prior to end of applicant's graduating semester.**

After submission of the student portfolio, the ESP Committee will review, verify, and analyze the submitted work for acceptance.



How to Submit:

Once the entire portfolio has been completed, visit ut.ucf.edu – Environmental Specialization Program tab.

Applicants will be able to fill out an application and upload their portfolio (.pdf format). Students will be notified on decision of portfolio through student's email.

Contact Information:

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Dr. Michael Hampton, Director of Interdisciplinary Studies

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Interdisciplinary Studies Office

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Office Phone: (407) 823-0144



I. Academia—Complete options listed below for a total of at least 100 points and write a 1 page introduction to this category (explain the activities you chose to do)

All events/activities/initiatives/petitions count exclusively for one specific letter option unless otherwise noted.

A. Do a project.

Incorporate sustainable themes into a course project.

This option requires the following:

- Final grade of the project must be at least a B
- Signature of professor or department head and contact information
- Submission and/or pictures of the completed project

Points: 40

E.g. Senior Design/Capstone

E.g. Marketing Research and Analysis with an environmental focus

And/or

B. Do a Presentation.

Incorporate sustainable themes into a presentation that is assigned in a class setting.

This option requires the following:

- Final grade of the presentation must be at least a B
- Professor's signature and contact information
- Submission of outline and/or any aids used in presentation
- 1 page reflection on presentation
 - a. Length of 2-4 minutes. **Points: 20**
 - b. Length of greater than 4 minutes. **Points: 40**

And/or

C. Conduct Literature Review.

Conduct a literature review on a sustainable theme. Conduct this as part of a class assignment where you are able to choose the topic and receive a letter grade of B or higher.

-Must have signature of professor or department head with grade earned.

- a. Two to five pages in length with a minimum of 4 peer reviewed sources **Points: 30**
- b. Six to ten pages in length with a minimum of 10 peer reviewed sources **Points: 50**



- c. Two to five pages in length with a minimum of 4 cited sources **Points: 20**
- d. Six to ten pages in length with a minimum of 10 cited sources **Points: 40**

And/or

D. Write a Paper.

Write a paper incorporating sustainability into the theme of the paper. Conduct this as part of a class assignment where you are able to choose the topic and receive a minimum of a B letter grade.

-Must have signature of professor or department head with grade earned.

- a. Two to five pages in length with a minimum of 4 peer reviewed sources **Points: 30**
- b. Six to ten pages in length with a minimum of 10 peer reviewed sources **Points: 50**
- c. Two to five pages in length with a minimum of 4 cited sources **Points: 20**
- d. Six to ten pages in length with a minimum of 10 cited sources **Points: 40**

And/or

E. Take a Class.

Completion of any of the provided sustainability related courses within UCF. Must receive a minimum of a B letter grade.

Refer to the Accepted Course List for approved courses.

- Provide copy of transcript showing class taken and grade earned
- **Points: 70**

You may use any papers and/or projects conducted within this class for additional points in this category

And/or

F. Get Published.

Author or co-author an article regarding an environmental and/or sustainability issue in a national peer reviewed journal. Applicant must submit the article as well as the citation. **Points: 80**

And/or

G. Teach.

Teach a lesson/activity which focuses on an environmental/sustainable topic. This option requires the following:

- Course/activity agenda
- One page, 12 point Times Roman font, and double spaced reflection describing the significance of this experience
- Supervisor signature and contact information



Points: 50

And/or

H. Conduct Research.

Conduct independent research (at least one semester in length) with a faculty mentor on a sustainable theme or issue.

This option requires the following:

- Final research report and/or materials exhibiting findings of research
- A detailed description of research methods/steps
- Faculty Signature and contact information

Points: 80

All events/activities/initiatives/petitions count exclusively for one specific letter option unless otherwise noted.

II. Involvement—Complete options listed below for a total of at least 100 points and write a 1 page introduction to this category (explain the activities you chose to do)

All events/activities/initiatives/petitions count exclusively for one specific letter option unless otherwise noted.

A. Volunteer

Student may use relevant Service Learning completed in a class towards this option (a. b. or c. where applicable).

This option requires the following:

- One page, 12 point Times Roman font, and double spaced reflection describing the significance of this experience
- Supervisor signature and contact information.

If you submit 10 pictures of yourself in the process of volunteering, you will receive **5 extra points**.



- a. Every 10 hours at the Arboretum and/or Landscape and Natural Resources (May be completed more than once). **Points: 25**
E.g. recycle pick-up at football tailgates for the Environmental Coalition.
E.g. Lake clean-up.
- b. 15 hours for any environmental event with a student organization. This option may only be completed once. **Points: 20**
E.g. Green Up, Keep Orlando Beautiful, SERV
- c. 15 hours for VolunteerUCF or in the greater Orlando area for an environmental non-profit organization. **Points: 25**
E.g. Green Up, Keep Orlando Beautiful, SERV

And/or

B. Organization Membership.

Be an active member of a student organization that has a mission in keeping with environmental sustainability

This option requires the following:

- The receipt of paid dues (if any)
- Chair/President of organization's signature and contact information
- One page, 12 point Times Roman font, and double spaced reflection describing the significance of this experience

Points: 10 (per year)

And/or

C. Work or Intern.

Work or intern in a position for an institution or organization during your enrollment at UCF that has a mission in keeping with environmental sustainability (50 hours minimum per semester).

This option requires the following:

- One page, 12 point Times Roman font, and double spaced reflection describing the significance of this experience



- Supervisor signature and contact information.

E.g. Seminole County Lands, SGA Sustainability Specialist, UCF Arboretum, LNR

Points: 70 (per semester)

All events/activities/initiatives/petitions count exclusively for one specific letter option unless otherwise noted.

III. Leadership-- Complete options listed below for a total of at least 100 points and write a 1 page introduction to this category (explain the activities you chose to do)

All events/activities/initiatives/petitions count exclusively for one specific letter option unless otherwise noted.

A. Hold a Position.

This option requires the following:

- One page, 12 point Times Roman font, and double spaced reflection describing the significance of this experience

- Advisor signature and contact information

- Documentation of the achievements that were accomplished while you were in office.

- a. Hold a President, Vice President, Secretary, and/or Treasurer position within an environmental registered student organization for a full year. **Points: 50**

- b. Hold a leadership position (other than the 4 mentioned above) within an environmental registered student organization. **Points: 25**

E.g. Volunteer coordinator

- c. Create and hold an environmental and/or sustainable officer position, for a full year, within a non-environmental registered student organization. **Points: 25**



And/or

B. Organize an Event.

Organize an event pertaining to sustainable issues or topics. This option requires the following components:

- One page, 12 point Times Roman font, and double spaced reflection describing the significance of this experience
- Minimum of 10 pictures and/or video of the event
- Organizational plan for event (marketing plan, venue, title of event, materials needed, event's purpose, any other planning materials)
- Supervisor signature and contact information (the organization that helped make this possible) if applicable.

Points: 40

And/or

C. Run an Environmental Educational Campaign.

Create and organize an educational campaign on a specific topic that relates to sustainability and/or current environmental issues. This option requires the following:

- One page, 12 point Times Roman font, and double spaced reflection describing the significance of this experience
- Copies of any materials used (posters, social media pages, websites, blogs etc.)
- Organizational plan for campaign (timeline of necessary steps taken to create and carry-out campaign)

Points: 40

E.g. Use social media, posters around campus, flyers, tabling outside the union, etc. to educate the student body on the dangerous effects of plastic on human health as well as environmental health.



And/or

D. Make your job/internship ‘green.’

Introduce a successful, sustainable initiative and/or action into your place of work or internship.

This option requires the following:

- One page, 12 point Times Roman font, and double spaced reflection describing the significance of this experience
- Minimum of 10 pictures (if applicable)
- Supervisor signature and contact information.

Points: 40

And/or

E. Collect signatures.

Collect at least 250 signatures for an environmental petition. This option requires the following:

- One page, 12 point Times Roman font, and double spaced reflection describing the significance of this experience
- Include copy of petition
- Supervisor signature and contact information. **Points: 30**

E.g. Florida Land and Wild Life Conservation Petition

And/or

F. Convince a professor.

Convince your professor of any non-environmentally related course to include sustainable topics within his/her curriculum. This option requires the following:

- Signature and contact information of professor
- One page, 12 point Times Roman font, and double spaced reflection describing how you incorporated sustainability within this course subject (include examples)

Points: 40

E.g. Using environmental related examples in statistics.

E.g. Using materials that would have been thrown out for projects in an art course.



And/or

G. Make your Community ‘green.’

Organize and lead an environmental initiative in your neighborhood. This option requires the following:

- Copy of planning materials
- Publicity (if applicable)
- Course of action documentation (steps taken, obstacles, solutions to obstacles)
- Results (describe the outcome of your efforts and how they have affected your neighborhood)
- Copy of form of verification (pictures, letters of those affected etc.)
- One page, 12 point Times Roman font, and double spaced reflection describing the significance of this experience and why this initiative was important.

Points: 50

E.g. Start a carpool initiative on your block.

E.g. Increase recycling efforts in your apartment complex.

E.g. Reduce excessive and harmful waste from a local business.

And/or

H. Contact your representative.

Establish a dialogue on a specific sustainable issue with your government representative.

This option requires the following:

- Documentation of messages to the representative that include the following specifics:
 - o Issue (provide research on topic/issue)
 - o Why it is important to you (and your community)
 - o Potential solutions the representative should consider
- Documentation of a response from the representative
- At least one other response to representative in regards to the issue pushing for further action and attention.

*In order for this option to count, the government representative must show some form of action (investigation) upon taking part in this dialogue.

Points: 30 – for the dialogue

Points: 60 – if any formal action towards the issue is taken



And/or

I. Participate in SURE Competition (Showcase of Undergraduate Research Excellence)

- Complete an environmental research project
- Submit pictures of completed project (pictures of project board will suffice)
- 2 page reflection of project (include purpose, process, and results)

Points: 70

***All events/activities/initiatives/petitions count exclusively for one specific letter option unless otherwise noted. ***



Accepted Courses for the ESP Academia part D.

- Energy and the Environment (PHY 1931) (New course starting fall 2014 to go in correlation to ESP)
- Turbines for Sustainable Power (EML4454)
- Urban Environmental Policy (PUP4209)
- Advanced Topics on Energy and Sustainability (IDS4204C)
- Environmental Issues for Real Estate (REE3614)
- Ethnobotany (BOT3802)
- Medicinal Botany (BOT4850)
- Conservation Biology (BSC3052)
- Sustainability (BSC4861L)
- Marine Conservation Biology (BSC5316)
- Environmental Chemistry (CHS4615)
- Environmental Microbiology (MCB4603)
- Oceanography (OCE3008)
- Tropical Ecology and Conservation (PCB3354)
- Conservation Biology (PCB5045)
- Ecosystems of Florida (PCB5326C)
- Environment and Natural Resource Economics (ECP 4303)
- Energy and Society (EGN4824)
- Global Politics of Energy (INR4054)
- Global Environmental Politics (INR4350)
- International Environmental Law (INR4351)
- Issues in Environmental Program Management (PAD4351)
- Environmental Ethics (PHI3640)
- Environmental Philosophy (PHM4031)
- Environmental Law (PLA4554)
- Sustainability (PUP3204)
- Environmental Movement (SYD4514)
- Ecofeminism (WST4349)
- Environment and Society (SYD5517)



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Applicant Information

Last Name	First Name	M.I.	Date
Street Address:		Unit #	
City:	State	ZIP	
Phone:	E-mail Address		
PID:			
Semester Applied			
Major and Minor			

Disclaimer and Signature

I certify that my answers, résumé, and portfolio are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

If this application leads to obtaining Green Graduate Certification, I understand that false or misleading information in my application, resume, or portfolio may result in retraction of my certification.

Signature

Date