



EZELL CENTER

Graduate Studies in
SUSTAINABLE PRACTICE



Dodd Galbreath, executive director and assistant professor, addresses the Green Expo gathering; Burton Health Sciences Center is home of the Institute for Sustainable Practice; an exhibit at the Green Expo.

The Institute for Sustainable Practice

- Master of Science in Sustainability*
- Certificate of Graduate Study in Sustainability

G. Dodd Galbreath, *Executive Director*

Dr. Kent Gallaher, *Academic Director*

The mission of the Institute for Sustainable Practice (ISP) is to develop and advance the practice of sustainability through education, research, training, and service to the community and the world. Sustainability refers to the most simple, healthy, and profitable methods of stewardship for people, the planet, and well-being. This new practice of sustainability applies to all professions, cultures, organizations, economic markets and natural environments.

As Tennessee's first academic program in sustainability, and unlike most, Lipscomb University equips professionals from virtually any discipline with advanced expertise in sustainability. Entry level graduate coursework establishes a foundation in fundamental sustainability principles. These include biomimicry, social justice, corporate and social responsibility, sustainability leadership, multi-media communication and conflict management. Advanced courses offer specializations in renewable energy, green development, sustainable agriculture, and creation care based spiritual formation.

The Institute for Sustainable Practice offers three graduate study options: a certificate of graduate study, an MBA concentration in sustainability, and a master of science in sustainability. Introductory coursework can result in a Certificate of Graduate Studies or be applied toward the College of Business' Sustainability MBA or the M.S. degree in Sustainability. All graduate courses offer open topic assignments that can be tailored to personal or career interests. Team projects and field tours highlight real world applications. Tennessee's new, two billion dollar solar energy industry, internationally significant ecosystems, three university geothermal energy buildings, and on-campus sustainability summits featuring the most successful national personalities and local green products and services, together create an enriching learning environment.

Master of Science in Sustainability*

The Master of Science degree consists of 30 hours of graduate coursework and is ideal for students from virtually any discipline who seek a career managing people or projects in a technical sustainability context. This includes technical sales, sustainability consulting, green design, construction management, green development, project management or green certification. The first 24 hours of coursework combine 15 hours from the Certificate program with 9 hours of advanced training in sustainability. After completing 24 hours, the student may choose 6 hours of electives from specializations in sustainable energy, green development, sustainable food production, food service, faith based sustainability or a new directed/self study topic. The M.S. in Sustainability therefore is also ideal for college graduates of any discipline who want to specialize in one area of sustainability. The M.S. can be completed in just 1 year and includes coursework in both theoretical and applied experiences. Since few programs in the nation offer such a degree, graduates will have a competitive advantage for emerging sustainability positions. M.S. students can begin in August, September, January or March.

* Approval by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools is pending.

Certificate of Graduate Study in Sustainability

The Certificate Program consists of 15 hours of graduate coursework and serves as the foundation for all graduate degree work in sustainability at Lipscomb University. It is ideal for college graduates of any discipline who want to secure fundamental credentials and skills without having to pursue a graduate degree. Regardless, all course credits will apply to the Sustainability MBA or M.S. in Sustainability if the student decides to continue. The Certificate can be completed in only six months and can be awarded prior to other degrees or in addition to the Sustainability MBA or other non-sustainability graduate degrees. Coursework includes both theoretical and applied experiences. Seasoned professionals or those just beginning a professional career will enhance virtually any career path, particularly if they come from a specific Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts discipline. Certificate students can begin in August, September, January or March.

Sustainability Master of Business Administration (See College of Business Section)

The Sustainability MBA is described in detail on in the Business/MBA concentration section, and is offered through a partnership between the College of Business and the Institute for Sustainable Practice. The Sustainability MBA is ideal for students who desire to manage people and money in a green business context. Careers include green entrepreneurship, corporate sustainability leadership, business consulting, green development, marketing and sales. It consists of 18 hours of MBA core courses and 12 hours of coursework from the Certificate of Graduate Studies in Sustainability. Students may complete an additional 3 hours of sustainability coursework to secure both a Certificate of Graduate Studies in Sustainability and a Sustainability MBA.

Sustainability courses are offered only on weekends. MBA courses may be taken either on weekends or weeknights, depending on work experience. MBA students can complete all sustainability courses before taking any leveling and MBA core courses. Weeknight MBA students should complete all sustainability courses first if MBA courses overlap. Weekend or Professional MBA's have two options. They can complete all sustainability courses in the fall or can take sustainability and MBA courses in sequence during spring semester.

Services and Benefits Common to All ISP Sustainability Certificates and Degrees

- All books, materials, weekend meals and field trip transportation are included in tuition.
- All assignments, homework submissions, exams and grading are completed electronically.
- Applied/consulting experiences are available in every sustainability course.
- All courses are offered on weekends in one month increments with one third of the content online and two thirds in the classroom or the field.
- The program is open to undergraduates in their last semester of study.
- All certificate credit hours can be applied to current and future sustainability graduate degrees, including the Sustainability MBA and Master of Science in Sustainability.
- Certificates can be completed in six months and the M.S. in one year.
- Students receive a personal library of the most recent and relevant sustainability literature and a professional sustainability toolkit that includes a green resume, web pages, electronic library of best practices, photos, professional memberships, and contacts.
- Opportunities are offered to travel to domestic and international sustainability destinations.
- Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification and other professional certifications are available through graduate coursework

Admission Policies and Procedures

Background courses in business or environmental sciences, as well as prior relevant work experience, will enhance the student experience, but are not necessary for successful completion of the certificate program. Students may enroll on full-time or part-time. In addition to meeting all Lipscomb University requirements for admission, each applicant to the graduate program in sustainability must submit the following:

1. Application Form. Each applicant must complete an application form. The application form is available at <http://gradstudies.lipscomb.edu/>, then click on Admissions, then APPLY TODAY. The application can be completed online or downloaded in a PDF version.

2. Application Fee. Each application should be accompanied by a \$50 nonrefundable application fee (\$75 for international students).

3. Standardized exam score. Each applicant must submit the scores of a standardized exam (GRE or GMAT per academic advisor's direction) if they plan to pursue a graduate degree. For students who do not plan to pursue a graduate degree, the candidate interview, transcripts and resume serve as the primary screening tools for predicting academic success in the certificate program. Students who have already earned a master's level degree and above may apply to the program without submitting a standardized test score. (For more information, visit www.ets.org/gre or <http://www.gmat.org>.) Scores for the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) can be accepted as substitutes for the GMAT

or GRE requirement

4. References. Letters of reference are required as follows: one from a college or university administrator or professor and one from a professional supervisor/employer.

5. Official Transcript(s). Each applicant must submit an official transcript, showing degree conferral when appropriate, from all schools attended.

6. Health Form. Each applicant must submit a completed health form signed by a healthcare provider. (To print a copy of the health form, visit <http://healthcenter.lipscomb.edu/> and click on Health Record Form).

7. FERPA: The Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act affords students certain rights of access to educational records; even if you are independent of your parents, you must submit this form prior to enrollment.

8. Resume. A resume detailing the applicant's work experience is required.

9. Candidate Interview. Each applicant must visit the campus and participate in an interview to identify the applicant's unique goals and objectives and to determine the applicant's suitability for successful completion of the program and leadership potential in the field of sustainability

10. TOEFL. The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is required for international students. (See section titled International Students for more information.)

All application items should be submitted to the Institute for Sustainable Practice no later than 30 days before the beginning of the semester or term in which the student plans to enroll. Forms should be mailed to: Institute for Sustainable Practice, Lipscomb University, Burton Health Sciences Center Suite 103, One University Park Drive, Nashville TN 37204-3951.

Student Classifications

Students are admitted to graduate courses in one of five categories:

1. Graduate Student: one who has satisfied all admissions requirements. (Average of 3.0 for last 60 hours, MAT/GRE acceptable scores.)

2. Conditionally Admitted Student: one who has been admitted conditionally, without satisfying all admission requirements.

a. From an unaccredited school or with a substandard GPA or GRE/MAT score

b. A transfer student with a graduate GPA between 2.50 and 2.99. The transfer student must be in good standing at the previous institution attended. The transfer student may be accepted upon approval of Registrar and Academic Director.

c. A student who has not completed a bachelor's degree program. The transfer student must be in good standing at the previous institution attended.

The student may be conditionally admitted to the program at the discretion of the academic director and must complete a minimum of nine hours of graduate work with a grade of "B" or above before the conditional admission is removed.

3. Non-Degree Student: one who has been admitted to graduate studies and has met all admission requirements except GPA or MAT/GRE. The student may take up to nine semester hours for graduate credit. Those hours may be applied toward a master's degree if the student makes a grade of "B" or better in the courses taken for credit and if all admission requirements (GPA and entrance test score) are met and the student is formally admitted to a graduate program as a degree-seeking student.

4. Unclassified Student: one who does not meet the academic requirements for regular admission and wants to take courses in the graduate curriculum; no academic credit will be awarded; continuing education units may be awarded. A student who has an incomplete admission file at the time of registration and who has been admitted as an unclassified student has until the final "drop date" in the first semester in which the student attends classes to satisfy all admission requirements; at that time, if the requirements have been satisfied, the student's classification will be changed to either "Graduate Student," "Conditionally Admitted," or "Transient Student."

5. Transient Student: one who is currently enrolled as a student in good standing at the post-bachelor's level at another graduate school, wishes to take courses at Lipscomb, and desires to have transcript evidence of course work done at Lipscomb provided for the school of primary enrollment.

6. Probationary Student: one who has been readmitted to a graduate program following academic suspension from the program.

Admission to a program does not imply admission to candidacy for the master's degree. Only those students who meet the requirements for "Graduate Student" described above are eligible for candidacy.

Transfer and Waiver of Courses

Although all graduate credit hours may be transferred from another accredited institution, a maximum of 9 hours will be counted toward the M.S. in Psychology or M.S. in Counseling degree. The director or appropriate faculty member of the graduate program will evaluate the course(s) being proposed for transfer and make a determination of suitability. No course with a grade below a “B” will be considered for transfer.

Academic Policies

Course Load

A student enrolled for 9 hours is considered a full-time student. No student will be permitted to enroll for more than 12 hours per semester without special approval from the academic director of the graduate program. See the section on “Projected Course Plan” for course schedules.

Academic Standing

1. Good Academic Standing: To remain in good academic standing, the sustainability program graduate student must maintain a cumulative 3.00 GPA and a 3.00 GPA on the most recent 12 semester hours of work.

2. Probation: Should the student’s cumulative graduate GPA fall below 3.00, he/she will be placed on academic probation. A student on academic probation will not be allowed to enroll for more than 6 hours during any term the probation applies.

The probationary student is required to achieve a 3.00 cumulative GPA by the time the student has completed the next 9 hours of course work. A course(s) may be repeated to achieve the requisite GPA. If the requisite GPA is attained, the academic probation status will be removed.

3. Suspension: If the requisite GPA is not attained, the student will be suspended from graduate studies at Lipscomb for the following semester, after which the student may apply for readmission. The student may be required to appear before the Graduate Committee.

A graduate course in which a student has earned a “C” or “F” may be repeated. In such cases, only the higher grade will be used to compute the student’s GPA. Failing grades will provide no credit toward the degree but will be included in figuring scholarship level, unless replaced with a higher grade by repeating the course(s). A 3.00 GPA must be maintained to be eligible for financial assistance.

4. Appeals: Appeals to suspension decisions should be made in writing to the Associate Provost for Graduate Studies. Appeals must be received no later than 4:30 pm on the Monday of the week before classes begin for the term during which the student wished to be readmitted.

Degree Completion Requirements

Residency

No period of formal residency is required.

Candidacy

During the course of pursuing the graduate certificate in sustainability, the student must be admitted to “candidacy.” For admission to candidacy the student must satisfy the following:

1. Maintain a 3.00 GPA on all courses taken toward the required hours for the certificate.
2. File an “Application for Candidacy” form with the ISP office. After approval for admission to candidacy, any changes in the academic course plan must be approved by the ISP director. The application for candidacy must be filed before the beginning of the student’s last term in the program. No student will be allowed to graduate in the same semester in which the application for candidacy is filed.

Statute of Limitations

All requirements for the ISP Certificate of Graduate Study in Sustainability must be completed within a five-year period from the time of initial matriculation. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the ISP director.

Minimum Credits

The Certificate of Graduate Study in Sustainability requires 15 semester hours, exclusive of hours accumulated to satisfy academic deficiencies.

Minimum GPA

The minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) is 3.00. No grade below a “C” is acceptable. Such grades will not apply toward degree completion.

Graduation

Students must register for GN 999X the semester prior to and the semester in which all coursework will be completed for graduation. Students who do not file their Intent to Graduate form in the Registrar's Office by the end of the first week of their last semester may be delayed in graduating.

Graduate students receiving degrees are hooded during the May and December commencement exercises.

Appeals

Any exceptions to the above stated requirements would require approval via the appeal process established by the Graduate Academic Leadership Team.

Financial Information

Tuition and Fees for 2009-10

Basic charges per semester, not including books*

Tuition per semester hour of graduate credit (includes all graduate student fees)**	\$1,000
Tuition to audit per course (includes all graduate student fees)	\$295

Special Fees

Application Fee (\$75 for international students)	\$50
Late registration/Late payment fee***	\$175
Withdrawal fee	\$180
TMS (Monthly Payment) enrollment fee (not available in summer)	\$75
Returned check fee	\$30
Certificate fee	\$175
Graduation fee	\$185

Room and Board Charges per semester are available in the undergraduate catalog

* Effective May 1, 2009

**Tuition scholarships are available for students in good standing and currently enrolled in other Lipscomb University graduate programs.

***Does not apply to employer reimbursements if the university is notified in advance with written approval.

Projected Course Plan

The Certificate of Graduate Study in Sustainability may be completed in approximately six months, which may incorporate as many as 10 weekends of classroom instruction. Courses draw from a combination of web-based and classroom learning so students can use time effectively and maintain balance in their lives.

The courses are scheduled in the spring in conjunction with the schedule for the Professional MBA course schedule to accommodate the needs of MBA students who are completing a concentration in Sustainability. Non-graduate degree seeking students should take certificate courses in the fall. Certificate program candidates may begin any month a new class starts, subject to experience and consent of the ISP Director. The certificate curriculum is composed of five month-long courses. Four courses incorporate a consulting project report and presentation to augment sustainability theory with practical, professional, hands-on experiences and practices. All courses are taught two weekends per month, meeting for 4 hours on Friday and 8 hours on Saturday. Additional content is delivered online.

Certificate of Graduate Study in Sustainability (15 hours required for Certificate; 12 hours for the Sustainability MBA)

Master of Science in Sustainability (15 Certificate hours plus 15 advanced sustainability hours)

One third of the course content is offered on-line and two-thirds is offered on two weekends per month, for each three-credit hour course:

Friday 4 – 9 PM (Dinner at 6 PM)

Saturday 8 – 5 PM (Lunch at 12 PM)

Certificate Courses (15 hours)

SU 6003 – Sustainable Natural Resources	March and September
SU 6023 – Sustainable Enterprise I	May and October
SU 6013 – Sustainable Society.....	June and November/December
SU 6053 – Managing and Negotiating Environmental Conflicts	January and August
SU 6043 – Capstone Project in Sustainability.....	Continuously

Advanced Required Courses (12)

SU 6073 – Sustainable Energy, Water and Land Management	3
(Prerequisites: SU 6003 and SU 6013)	
SU 6063 – Sustainable Enterprise II (Prerequisite: SU 6023).....	3
SU 604V – Sustainability Travel to [Destination]	3
(Available for Variable Credit – No Prerequisites)	

Elective Courses: (6 hour minimum)

SU 6103 – Creation Care and Spiritual Formation (No Prerequisite).....	3
SU 6123 – Introduction to Green Building Design, Construction & Operation	3
(No Prerequisites)	
SU 6133 – Renewable Energy Options and Design Applications (No Prerequisites).....	3
SU 6143 – Sustainable Food Practice (No Prerequisites).....	3
SU 603V – Special Topics in Sustainability (Prerequisites: 9 hours).....	Continuously
SU 6083 – Professional Experience and Study in Sustainability	3
(Prerequisites: 24 Grad. SU hours)	

Course Descriptions

SU 6003 Sustainable Natural Resources (3)

The course focuses on the sustainable design of the planet and its water, atmosphere, land and life systems through study of earth sciences and the natural engineering of their structure and function. Assignments and team projects draw from an enhanced knowledge of the aforementioned information and from “Cradle to Cradle” and “Biomimicry” concepts to analyze, design and apply sustainable practices and approaches to human support systems.

SU 6013 Sustainable Society (3)

The course focuses on people and society by addressing the history sustainability leadership, ethics, sociology, culture change, policy, and consumer response. The course also addresses recent progress in renewable energy, alternative transportation, recycling and waste avoidance, pollution elimination, smart growth, LEED certification, low impact development, climate change, natural resource management, urban and sustainable forestry, organic farming, nutrition and social responsibility. These approaches are contrasted with an audit of each student’s lifestyle and traditional environmental management tools.
Prerequisites: SU 6003/6023

SU 6023 Sustainable Enterprise (3)

This course explores the economic and business sector of sustainability and its consideration of the “triple bottom line” – the simultaneous delivery of financial, social, and environmental performance. The course addresses new and emerging business strategic models, tools, and frameworks used to incorporate social and natural dimensions in a competitive and profitable manner. The course draws from case studies, green entrepreneur and business executive lectures and a green business project. Prerequisite: SU 6003

SU 6033 Special Topics in Sustainability (3)

This course responds to the ever-changing world of sustainability through course offerings that may not be frequently repeated. Content is developed for each offering which may include independent study. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

SU 604V Sustainability Travel to [Destination] (3)

The course provides irreplaceable, on-site experiential learning in the world’s most sustainable domestic and international destinations and is offered for variable credit. This travel is supported by student research, study and detailed examination of their journey to sustainability, characteristics of success and failure, and the leadership, social, economic and natural factors that facilitated them.

- SU 6043 Capstone Project in Sustainability (3)**
Students evaluate or design a sustainability practice or initiative as a final project culminating in a formal written report and oral presentation. Course credit may also be dedicated to attaining sustainability certification (e.g., LEED AP or other professional sustainability certifications with approval of the academic director) and by documenting an approved application of the certification in a written report and presentation. In the certificate program, prerequisites for the course are SU6003, SU6013, and SU6023. If the student is pursuing a graduate degree in sustainability, the remaining graduate sustainability credits to achieve the degree will also serve as prerequisites.
- SU6053 Managing and Negotiating Environmental Conflicts (3)**
The course instructs from the premise that most historic and modern environmental conflicts arise from a lack of consideration for sustainable outcomes. Participants learn and apply fundamental conflict management and negotiation skills. Discussions include a survey of conflict management tools and analysis of legal, regulatory, public policy, corporate, small business and media based case studies. Methods and strategies provide ways to avoid or resolve conflicts in variety of applications. ICM 5003 Survey of Conflict Management may be substituted for this course.
- SU 6063 Sustainable Enterprise II (3)**
This course probes more deeply into the nature of the “triple bottom line” – the simultaneous delivery of financial, social, and environmental performance – and expands student’s knowledge of specific strategic models, tools, and frameworks and in-depth case studies in leading green business sectors that successfully incorporate social and environmental dimensions in a competitive and profitable manner. Prerequisite: SU 6023
- SU 6073 Sustainable Energy, Water and Land Management (3)**
The course provides an examination of the integrated nature of sustainable water, energy and land management, including water supply and storm water; regional/community development patterns; and overall management of natural resources and energy to meet basic societal, natural and economic needs. Prerequisites: SU 6003 and SU 6013
- SU 6083 Professional Experience and Study in Sustainability (3)**
Students will shadow, serve and study with successful sustainability professionals in the specific specialization, field or level of advancement appropriate to their electives, goals and prior experience for the term of the course. Prerequisites: 24 hours in graduate sustainability
- SU 6103 Creation Care and Spiritual Formation (3)**
Addresses what some describe as the fourth leg of sustainability: Spirituality. The student will examine and discuss potential relationships between the faith-based creation care and personal spiritual formation and growth. The student will assess historic, complimentary, divergent and potential theological relationships between spirituality and sustainability.
- SU 6123 Introduction to Green Building Design, Construction & Operation (3)**
An examination of green commercial, industrial and residential development, management, maintenance, life cycle costs, certification, practices, technology and sustainable waste management applications from site selection, planning, design & construction through operations & management.
- SU 6133 Renewable Energy Options and Design Applications (3)**
As the preferred choice of sustainable design, renewable energy and its various alternative technologies, applications and design parameters are the focus of the course experience.
- SU 6143 Sustainable Food Practice (3)**
A study of sustainable food practice including sustainable agriculture production, health, nutrition, manufacturing, distribution, retail, urban and community gardens, food coops, farmers markets, international trade, and the unique needs of developing countries.

Core Faculty

G. Dodd Galbreath, B.S. (Tennessee Technological University), M.S.P. (University of Tennessee), *ISP Executive Director and Assistant Professor of Sustainable Practice*

Dr. Kent Gallaher, B.S. (Lipscomb University), M.S., Ph.D. (The University of Tennessee), *ISP Academic Director, Chair of Biology, Associate Professor of Biology and Sustainability*

Other adjunct faculty, staff, guest lecturers and program advisors associated with the graduate program in sustainability are posted on the Institute web site.



Academic regalia