Undergraduate Certificate in Earth Sustainability
Online Undergraduate Certificate in Earth Sustainability

The Undergraduate Certificate in Earth Sustainability, developed by the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences and delivered through Penn State World Campus, is designed to provide you with the knowledge to make environmentally sustainable decisions. Whatever your field of study, this online certificate can help you become better informed about the critical issues of climate change.

If you are an advocate for green living, this certificate will help you to better articulate the issues surrounding global warming, while at the same time adding depth to your résumé. You may use this credential to jump-start a career in geosciences, emergency preparedness or management, environmental health and sustainability, land management and conservation, or natural resource management.

“The questions of sustainability and survival are driving an academic movement to create accessible geoscience programs focusing on the health of our planet. The College of Earth and Mineral Sciences is pleased to partner with Penn State World Campus to deliver thought-provoking content that addresses our planet’s significant environmental challenges.”

—Dr. Timothy Bralower
Professor of Geosciences, Penn State
Online Learning

To help you balance your personal and professional commitments, the courses in this certificate are offered entirely online through Penn State World Campus. Your learning experience will be supported by frequent interaction with faculty and other students, access to information and instructional resources, and dedicated student support services.

Curriculum

This 12-credit Undergraduate Certificate in Earth Sustainability can dramatically increase geoscience literacy for students who do not major in the geosciences. The courses address key sustainability issues, including the impact of climate change on Earth and its inhabitants, access to clean drinking water, sustainable energy, and the hazards posed by our overpopulated coastal regions. The issues addressed throughout this program will help you to make more sustainable decisions in your life and your career.
Required Courses:

- **EARTH 103 Earth in the Future: Predicting Climate Change and Its Impacts over the Next Century (3 credits)**

  Climate predictions for the coming century are utilized to examine potential impacts on regions, sectors of society, and natural ecosystems.

- **EARTH 104 Climate, Energy, and Our Future (3 credits)**

  This course presents the past, present, and possible future response of Earth’s climate to human energy use.

- **EARTH 107 Coastal Processes, Hazards, and Society (3 credits)**

  Processes responsible for formation, diversity, and evolution of coastal landscapes; socioeconomic and policy responses to changes in coastal regions.

- **EARTH 111 Water: Science and Society (3 credits)**

  Investigation of water behavior and occurrence, its relevance to life, human activities, politics, and society.

  *There are no prerequisites required for the courses in this program.*

General Education Requirements

If you are pursuing a bachelor’s degree from Penn State, the above online courses may also satisfy certain individual General Education requirements. You should consult with your adviser to determine what, if any, credits earned in this certificate may be applied toward your degree completion requirements.

This online program was made possible, in part, by the National Science Foundation and InTeGrate Center to introduce more students to the geosciences and the importance of sustainable living.
Who Should Apply?

If you are looking for an introductory foundation in sustainability and the geosciences, or if you wish to acquire a more sustainable ethic in your own life, this program is ideal for you.

Begin Your Application Today

To pursue the Undergraduate Certificate in Earth Sustainability, you will first need to complete an online application form, found by clicking on the “How to Apply” link from the program overview page at worldcampus.psu.edu/sustainearth.

To enroll in this undergraduate certificate program, you must be a high school graduate or have completed your GED.

Your Call to Action

By the time current undergraduates send their children to college, Earth’s population will have increased to more than eight billion people. Our climate will be warmer and characterized by more frequent extreme weather events including droughts. One or more major metropolitan areas in our increasingly crowded world will have experienced a devastating hurricane or typhoon, sea level rise will be inundating low-lying coastal cities along with whole island nations, energy resources will be less available and more expensive, clean drinking water will be scarcer, and it will be increasingly difficult to feed the global population.

How we choose to plan for and attempt to mitigate these “grand challenges” will have consequences for individuals, nations, and our global socioeconomic and political systems.

Contact Us

To learn more about the online Undergraduate Certificate in Earth Sustainability, offered in partnership with the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, contact:

World Campus Admissions Counselors
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     814-865-5403 (local and international)
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worldcampus.psu.edu/sustainearth