Sustainability, Urban Planning, Geographic Information Science

Saint Louis University is a Catholic, Jesuit institution that values academic excellence, life-changing research, compassionate health care, and a strong commitment to faith and service.

Founded in 1818, the University fosters the intellectual and character development of nearly 14,000 students on two campuses in St. Louis, Missouri, and Madrid, Spain. Building on a legacy of nearly 200 years, Saint Louis University continues to move forward with an unwavering commitment to a higher purpose, a greater good.

OVERVIEW

Saint Louis University’s Center for Sustainability was established in 2010 by a grant from the Alberici Foundation. The program offers in-demand degrees and expertise on critical environmental, social and economic challenges. Through innovative academic programs, applied research and community engagement, the Center for Sustainability’s students and faculty develop creative, collaborative solutions to improve the world around them.

Degree Programs and Certificates

M.S. in Sustainability
The M.S. in sustainability trains students to be leaders who analyze, communicate and understand complexities surrounding interactions between natural and social systems. Core courses provide students with an integrated view of sustainability that incorporates cross-disciplinary knowledge in environmental and social science, technology, business and policy. The M.S. is a 30-credit-hour degree that students can pursue on a part-time or full-time basis. Students typically complete the program within two years, and most courses are offered in the evenings.

Accelerated M.S. in Sustainability
Undergraduate students can complete up to one full year of graduate coursework (15 credit hours) before entering the graduate degree program.

Ph.D. in Sustainability Science
Sustainability science is a concentration within the Integrated and Applied Sciences Ph.D. program offered in cooperation with the Center for Sustainability. Sustainability science is an emerging field of research dealing with the interactions between natural and social systems, and how these interactions affect the challenge of sustainability. This is a full-time program that is research and writing intensive.

M.S. in Urban Planning and Development
The M.S. in urban planning and development trains students to analyze, communicate, and understand the broad scope of complexities associated with the urban environment. Graduates become leaders who understand and have the skills to navigate the often competing demands of public and private sector interests related to urban and regional development issues. Our program is the only degree of its kind in Missouri or at a Jesuit university. Students can pursue the 48-credit-hour degree program on a full- or part-time basis. Students who attend part time, including the summer session, can complete the degree in two years. Those who attend part time, with a minimum participation of six credit hours per semester, can complete the degree in three and a half years.

M.S. in Geographic Information Science
The Master of Science (M.S.) in geographic information science (GIScience) combines geospatial theory and practical training in geographic information systems (GIS), remote sensing, and spatial analysis. As a program within the Center for Sustainability, the M.S. in GIScience focuses on research to address environmental, social, and economic issues. The M.S. is a 30-credit-hour degree that students can pursue on a part-time or full-time basis. Students typically complete the program within two years and most courses are offered in the evenings.

Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems
The 15-credit-hour graduate certificate in GIS enhances students’ knowledge of geospatial theory and applications involving geographic information systems, remote sensing and spatial analysis. Students will develop geospatial skill sets that have wide application across disciplines.

MBA/M.S. in Sustainability Dual Degree
This dual-degree program is one of the first of its kind offered by an institution accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. It provides broad coverage of business and sustainability concepts. The MBA prepares students to be effective leaders in a global economy, and the M.S. in sustainability provides insight into how businesses can enhance economic, social and environmental performance. This is a full-time program.

J.D./M.S. in Urban Planning and Development Dual Degree
This dual-degree program combines the rigorous legal education of a law degree with training in the spatial and policy analysis unique to urban planning and development. The J.D./M.S. prepares students to be effective leaders in community dialogue, urban growth and development research, and legal practice. We expect students to complete the requirements of this dual degree in four years.

APPLICATION CRITERIA

There are no prerequisite degree requirements for entry into the programs.
The graduate degrees offered through the Center for Sustainability are part of a holistic program that integrates multiple disciplines into a core sustainability-driven framework. The center employs its own faculty and collaborates with other departments' faculty members whose personal and professional pursuits align with its mission and program objectives.

Our faculty members are researchers and teachers who hold the highest degrees in their fields and have a variety of backgrounds and specializations. The Center for Sustainability supports sustainability-related research through grant funding and encourages faculty to involve students in their projects.

Center for Sustainability Faculty
Jae-Teuk Chin, Ph.D.: Urban planning and development
Sarah Coffin, Ph.D.: Urban planning and development
Thomas Crawford, Ph.D.: Geographic information science
Damon Hall, Ph.D.: Sustainability
Abduwasiti Wulamu, Ph.D.: Geographic information science

Saint Louis University-Affiliated Faculty
Jami Curley, Ph.D.: Social work
Jack Fishman, Ph.D.: Earth and atmospheric sciences
Jason Knouft, Ph.D.: Biology
Allison Miller, Ph.D.: Biology
J.S. Onesimo Sandoval, Ph.D.: Sociology and anthropology
Nitish Sing, Ph.D.: International business

Adjunct Faculty
Martin O. Braeske: Planning and development in St. Louis
Dean Burns, AICP: Real estate finance
John Langa, MCP: Real estate finance
Phil Minden: Community development finance
Tim Montgomery, AIA, LEED AP: Sustainable site design
John Wagner, Ph.D.: Environmental planning

The mission of the Center for Sustainability is to create a more sustainable world through interdisciplinary education, research and community engagement.

Graduate assistantships are available on a competitive basis and include tuition scholarships of nine credit hours per semester during the nine-month academic year. Recipients also receive a stipend and health insurance. Graduate assistants spend no more than 20 hours per week working for the University. The deadline to apply is Dec. 31. Applications are available online at slu.edu/sustainability/student-resources/graduate-assistantships. Students can apply for fellowships and other financial assistance packages through the office of graduate education.