

Announcing the Master of Arts in Social Responsibility & Sustainable Communities at Western Kentucky University

The **Master of Arts in Social Responsibility & Sustainable Communities** is an interdisciplinary program of study that provides students with the tools to lead communities toward social justice and sustainability. It is designed especially for students inclined toward the humanities, social sciences, and related fields. Students take a core set of courses that provide interdisciplinary grounding in social justice and sustainability, policy issues, community-building, and community-based research. Students may focus their elective courses on environmental sustainability, gender & women's studies, leadership, non-profit, or other areas of interest—depending on availability of courses and in consultation with their advisor. Students in the MA in Social Responsibility & Sustainable Communities will cultivate the skills and knowledge necessary to encourage and lead for cultural, political, and social change for more just and sustainable communities.

The Master of Arts in Social Responsibility & Sustainable Communities is a unique experiential learning program, an interdisciplinary degree focused on social justice, community, and sustainability. As a student in this program, you will systematically study the root causes of problems, engage in action research, and identify possible solutions. You will have the opportunity to meet community members engaged in work relevant to theories and practices learned in the core courses and the electives. Your master's program will culminate in a conference-style symposium where you will share your own research and respond to that of your peers."

Objectives: Through this MA program, you will be able to

- examine a range of disciplinary perspectives on social justice;
- analyze the interrelationships of issues and interlocking systems associated with social organization and community development;
- examine the practical and theoretical principles of sustainability and how to apply them to diverse situations and communities throughout the world;
- analyze the power relationships (gender, race, age, class) that historically surround social justice and how these may be changed or augmented to increase social equality and equity; and
- apply the principles of community organizing and be able to effectively utilize them in a variety of communities.

The MA in Social Responsibility and Sustainable Communities is comprised of a thesis and a non-thesis option. Both options require 18 hours of Core Courses plus electives, and including

the thesis option, for a total of 33 hours; students are required to be in attendance during the campus-based SRSC 590 Sustainability Symposium.

Required Core Courses (18 hours):

SRSC 510 Perspectives on Social Justice
SRSC 520 Community-Based Research
SRSC 530 Social Justice & Social Policy
SRSC 540 Community-Building for Sustainability
*SUST 512 Foundations of Sustainability OR
*SUST 514 Environmental Justice & Public Spaces
SRSC 590 Sustainability Symposium

Students may choose to write a thesis for six hours of credit (SRSC 599), the equivalent of two courses, or to complete six hours of additional electives for a non-thesis option.

Elective Courses offered online (15 hours for non-thesis option, 9 hours for thesis option, with no more than 12 hours in any one discipline). Other courses offered may be eligible as electives, with approval of advisor—for instance, we routinely offer special topics courses and learn of new courses in other programs (online or face-to-face for those who are local):

AMS 630 Legal & Ethical Issues in Technology
BA 510 Advanced Organizational Behavior
BA 545 Survey of Business Sustainability Issues
BA 546 Sustainable Business Operations
BA 547 Sustainability, Innovation, & Entrepreneurship
COMM 528 Communication in Nonprofit (f2f only)
ECON 434G Economics of Poverty & Discrimination (f2f only)
GEOG 474G Environmental Planning
GEOS 544 Practical Environmental Ethics
GEOS 587 Environmental Law, Regulations and Policy
GERO 501 Perspectives in Aging
GERO 503 Policy Foundations of Aging Services
GERO 505 Development & Change of Aging Programs
GERO 510 Current Issues in Aging
GERO 581 Global Aging
GWS 535 Roots of Feminism
GWS 545 Feminist Knowledge & Social Change
GWS 555 Global & Multicultural Perspectives on Women
GWS 565 Black Feminism and the Politics of Community
GWS 575 Justice, Gender, and Sustainability
GWS 625 Women & Leadership HIST 505 Cultural Diversity in American History
GWS 630 Feminist Pedagogies
HIST 505 Cultural Diversity in American History
HIST 530 American Civil Rights Movement
HIST 553 Gender & Women in US History
HIST 555 American Radicals
LEAD 525 Leadership Ethics

PH 548 Community Health Organizations
PH 584 Principles of Environmental Health
RSA 560 Issues in Nonprofit Administration
RSA 565 Nonprofit Grant Writing & Fundraising
SOCL 470G Environmental Sociology (f2f only)
SOCL 525 Survey of Criminal Justice Studies
SOCL 534 Neighborhoods and Crime
SOCL 538 Victimology
SOCL 546 Gender, Crime and Justice
SOCL 548 Race, Class, and Crime
SRSC 515 Utopias, Dystopias, and Intentional Communities
SRSC 525 Place and the Problem of Healing
SUST 512 Foundations of Sustainability
SUST 514 Environmental Justice & Public Spaces
SUST 517 Sustainable Places
SUST 518 Organizational Change for Sustainability
SWRK 530 Foundations of Social Welfare Policy
SWRK 630 Advanced Rural Welfare Policy
SWRK 678 Environmental justice: Theory, Policy, & Practice

Application Procedures

NO GRE REQUIRED!

However, due to the absence of a GRE, all remaining admission documents are extremely important, especially the first three. Admission documents required:

- official copies of all undergraduate and graduate transcripts
 - If you have weak spots (e.g., a weak beginning or a failing semester) be sure to address them in your statement.
- statement of purpose
 - Let us know who you are; why this program is right for you.
 - Length is up to you, but we are eager to learn about you, so don't hold back.
- two letters of recommendation
 - Seek out references who can attest to your ability to do graduate-level work.
- resume

They should be sent to graduate.school@wku.edu

Street address:

Graduate School Admissions
Western Kentucky University
1906 College Heights Blvd. #11010
Bowling Green, Ky. 42101-1010

Be sure your formal name is indicated in all documents.

Statement of Purpose

Discuss your personal, professional, and/or academic preparation for graduate study and how the Master's program in Social Responsibility and Sustainable Communities will fit into your professional development. Address any weaknesses in your prior educational experience. Be sure to give us a strong sense of who you are.

Letters of Recommendation

Please have those who write the letters of recommendation on your behalf address your potential for graduate study, and in particular, this program of study. It is better to have former professors write letters than friends; however, we recognize that some candidates have been out of school long enough to make this unfeasible. In that case, supervisors who have good knowledge of your intellectual capacities can write your letter—but do try to include at least one letter from someone who has seen your writing and critical thinking.