

M.S. IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Overview

The University of Miami's Master of Science in Sustainable Development prepares students for advanced academic programs and professional careers in international development, equipping them with skills to help promote a sustainable and inclusive world. This program is designed to accommodate students from several academic and professional backgrounds. Students will receive an interdisciplinary mix of STEM and social science training necessary for careers focused on transforming our world for sustainable human and economic development. Our curriculum draws upon the strengths of our departmental faculty by integrating theory and practice from physical geography, human geography, sustainability economics, conservation science and sustainability science.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must have a Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university,

Online Application

- Completed online application.

Application Fee

- An \$85.00 non-refundable application fee is paid online upon submission of the application.

Statement of Purpose

- Statement of purpose reflecting the student's goals in the program. The statement of purpose should be no more than two pages in length.

Letters of Recommendation

- Three letters of recommendation must be provided.

Official Transcripts

- Official transcripts from each post-secondary institution attended. Official transcripts in languages other than English must also be submitted with a certified English translation.

Prior Coursework

- The student should demonstrate evidence of at least six (6) credits of quantitative or qualitative methods, GIS, or other analytics coursework, or equivalent professional experience.

Resume

- Copy of the student's resume.

Grade Point Average (GPA)

- A minimum overall undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)

- All international students are required to take this exam in order to demonstrate sufficient English competency. This exam is offered as a paper-based test (PBT) or an internet-based test (IBT). A score of 550 is required for the PBT or 80 for the IBT.
- Students may also take the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exam to demonstrate sufficient competency in English. A score of 6.5 or higher is required.
- Students from countries whose primary language is English are not required to take this exam. Please visit the Graduate School's International Applicant English Proficiency webpage for more information.

GRE scores are not required.

Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Foundations		
GEG 603	Research Design in Geography	3
GEG 637	Development Studies	3

GEG 657	Economics of Sustainable Development	3
Methods & Tools - Intermediate		6
Select two courses from the following:		
GEG 610	Survey Research Methods	
GEG 612	Health Applications of Geographic Information Systems	
GEG 680	Spatial Data Analysis I	
GEG 691	Geographic Information Systems I	
GEG 692	Remote Sensing of the Environment	
Methods & Tools - Advanced		3
Select one course from the following:		
GEG 681	Spatial Data Analysis II	
GEG 693	Geographic Information Systems II	
GEG 616	Urban Analytics Geovisualization (Urban Analytics & Geovisualization (NEW COURSE))	
Applications		6
Select two courses from the following:		
GEG 620	Sustainable Cities	
GEG 622	Urbanization in the Developing World	
GEG 623	Seminar in Urban Management	
GEG 625	Advanced Independent Study in Geography I	
GEG 632	Seminar in Environmental Geography and Planetary Health	
GEG 636	Sustainable Food Systems	
GEG 641	(Population, Health & Environment (NEW COURSE))	
GEG 643	Population, Sustainability and the Media	
GEG 645	Advanced Independent Study in Geography II	
GEG 646	Immigrant Refugee Health	
GEG 648	Climate Change and Public Health	
GEG 649	(Global Water Security & Sustainability (NEW COURSE))	
GEG 659	Resilience Economics (NEW COURSE)	
GEG 661	Urban Geography I	
GEG 665	Land Use Planning (Land Use Planning (NEW COURSE))	
GEG 675	Waste Sustainability	
Additional elective courses at the 600-level or higher from other academic units may be approved, as appropriate, toward degree requirements by the Director of Graduate Studies		
Non-Thesis Option/Thesis Option		6
Students must select a complete a non-thesis or thesis option:		
Non-Thesis Option:		
GEG 635	Internship in Geography	
Thesis Option:		
GEG 810	Master's Thesis	
GEG 820	Research in Residence	
GEG 825	Continuous Registration–Master's Study	
Total Credit Hours		30

Plan of Study (1 Year Full-Time)

Year One		Credit Hours
Fall		
GEG 603	Research Design in Geography	3
GEG 637	Development Studies	3
Methods Course - Intermediate		3
Applications Course		3
Credit Hours		12

Spring		
GEG 657	Economics of Sustainable Development	3
Methods Course - Intermediate		3
Methods Course - Advanced		3
Applications Course		3
Credit Hours		12
Summer		
GEG 635 or 810	Internship in Geography or Master's Thesis	6
Credit Hours		6
Total Credit Hours		30

Plan of Study (2 Years Part-Time): Non-Thesis Option

Year One		
Fall		Credit Hours
GEG 603	Research Design in Geography	3
GEG 637	Development Studies	3
Credit Hours		6
Spring		
Methods Course - Intermediate		3
Applications Course		3
Credit Hours		6
Summer		
GEG 635	Internship in Geography	3
Applications Course		3
Credit Hours		6
Year Two		
Fall		
GEG 657	Economics of Sustainable Development	3
Methods Course - Intermediate		3
Credit Hours		6
Spring		
Methods Course - Advanced		3
GEG 635	Internship in Geography	3
Credit Hours		6
Total Credit Hours		30

Plan of Study (2 Years Part-Time): Thesis Option

Year One		
Fall		Credit Hours
GEG 603	Research Design in Geography	3
GEG 637	Development Studies	3
Credit Hours		6
Spring		
Methods Course - Intermediate		3
Applications Course		3
Credit Hours		6
Summer		
Applications Course		3
Methods Course - Intermediate		3
Credit Hours		6

Year Two		
Fall		
GEG 657	Economics of Sustainable Development	3
Methods Course - Advanced		3
Credit Hours		6
Spring		
GEG 810	Master's Thesis	6
Credit Hours		6
Total Credit Hours		30

Mission

The M.S. in Sustainable Development aims to prepare students with a comprehensive, innovative, and systematic perspective on sustainable development, preparing them for Ph.D. programs in development studies and related fields as well as careers in international development (firms, development agencies, NGOs, and governments).

Goals

- To graduate students with a comprehensive understanding of how societies operate and interact with the natural world.
- To equip graduate students with the advanced knowledge to propose and implement sustainable development policies and practices based on sound scientific concepts and theories.
- To produce graduates who can use scientific methods and tools to tackle pressing sustainability issues at all levels and across different sectors.
- To produce graduates who can lead global sustainability transformation.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will synthesize and discuss recent academic literature on sustainable development to demonstrate an advanced understanding of the concepts and theories.
- Students will use advanced geospatial and statistical techniques to identify and interpret social and ecological patterns and processes at multiple scales, from local to global.
- Students will conduct research projects that inform sustainable development policies at various governance levels, from local to global.
- Students will exhibit efficient, proficient, and innovative skills in both written and oral communication.