

Short-Term Certificates in Sustainable Agriculture

20 total credits, except ISD* with 21 total credits

Urban Food Systems (UFS):

- ENV 200, Sustainable Food Systems Employment Seminar (2cr; Winter)
- ENV 206, Agroforestry Systems: Integrating Food & Forests (5cr; Spring)
- ENV 214, Urban Food Systems Analysis (5cr; Winter)
- ENV 216, Sustainable Urban Food Production (5cr; Spring)
- ENV 296, Professional Internship in Sustainable Agriculture (3cr; Fall, Winter, Spring)

Small Farm Systems (SFS):

- ENV 200, Sustainable Food Systems Employment Seminar (2cr; Winter)
- ENV 206, Agroforestry Systems: Integrating Food & Forests (5cr; Spring)
- ENV 218, Small Farm Systems Management (5cr; Winter)
- ENV 220, Sustainable Small Farm Production (5cr; Spring)
- ENV 296, Professional Internship in Sustainable Agriculture (3cr; Fall, Winter, Spring)

Farmland Ecological Restoration (FERN):

- ENV 200, Sustainable Food Systems Employment Seminar (2cr; Winter)
- ENV 208, Forest Ecosystem Science, Management & Conservation (5cr; Fall)
- BOT 113, Native Plant Identification & Classification (5cr; Spring)
- ENV 222, Ecological Restoration of Disturbed Systems (5cr; Fall)
- ENV 296, Professional Internship in Sustainable Agriculture (3cr; Fall, Winter, Spring)

International Sustainable Development (ISD)*:

This pathway is associated with the Agroforestry & Conservation in the Tropics (ACT) winter quarter study abroad program in Latin America.

- ENV 207, Tropical Agroforestry Systems (5cr)
- ENV 209, Tropical Forest Ecosystems (5cr)
- ENV 225, International Sustainable Development (3cr)
- HUM 291, Spanish Language Through Experiential Activities (3cr)
- ENV 297, International Professional Internship in Sustainable Agriculture (3cr)

For More Information

Contact the Agriculture Center of Excellence, (509) 524-5192 or www.agcenterofexcellence.com.

Funding for this project provided by the Washington State Board of Community & Technical Colleges.



The Agriculture Center of Excellence focuses on responding to workforce training needs and education in the diverse and ever evolving agricultural industry. The Center is a central hub for the collection and dissemination of cutting-edge education and training services. Recently the Center assisted in an innovative Sustainable Agriculture Education (SAG E) Program established by Seattle Central Community College.

Sustainable Agriculture Education & Concepts

Sustainability has become a buzz word in recent years. Buzz words often have different meanings and typically come and go quickly. Sustainability as it relates to agriculture is an area of interest that is increasing in popularity. However, sustainability in agriculture is not a new concept. Sustainable agriculture is something that has been and continues to be important to the economic and environmental well being of Washington State.

What is Sustainable Agriculture?

The 1990 Farm Bill defined sustainable agriculture as “an integrated system of plant and animal production practices having a site-specific application that will, over the long term:

- Satisfy human food and fiber needs
- Enhance the environmental quality and natural resource base upon which the agricultural economy depends
- Make the most efficient use of non-renewable resources and on-farm resources and integrate, where appropriate, natural biological cycles and controls
- Sustain the economic viability of farm operations
- Enhance the quality of life for farmers and society as a whole”

Who practices Sustainable Agriculture?

Agriculturalists of all sizes, crops, and livestock production participate in sustainable agriculture. Farmers, foresters, fisherman, orchardists, ranchers, and more engage in sustainable agricultural practices to provide food, feed, and fiber to our state, country, and the world. These producers are making the most efficient use of resources in order to enhance the environment and sustain the economic vitality of their organizations. Examples of sustainable agriculture may be an organic farmer in the Skagit Valley or a no-till wheat farmer in Walla Walla. Agricultural practices are diverse by nature, thus, sustainable agriculture has multiple applications.

Where can I learn more about Sustainable Agriculture?

There are educational resources available through the United States Department of Agriculture, ATTRA, Washington State Department of Agriculture, and numerous non-profit organizations.

- ATTRA National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service, www.attra.ncat.org
- Alternative Farming Systems Information Center, www.nal.usda.gov/afsic
- Sustainable Agriculture Network, www.sare.org
- Washington State Department of Agriculture, www.agr.wa.gov

¹ Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990, Public Law 101-624, Title XVI, Subtitle A, Section 1603. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 1990

SAgE Program

Overview

The new Sustainable Agriculture Education (SAgE) Program within the Science and Math Division aims to address the environmental, ecological, socioeconomic, political and cultural issues related to sustainable food systems within and beyond the Puget Sound bioregion through student and community education and research, technological innovation and college-stakeholder partnerships. The genesis of the SAgE Program stems from both an understanding of the imperative action that we as a global society must take to steward our natural resources in concert with securing the basic needs of our local populations and the recognition that community colleges play a pivotal role in the advancement of such action. Seattle Central, given its track record for educational leadership and distinct urban location in close proximity to agricultural production, provides a rich learning environment for its students and potential model for other community colleges in cities that face similar challenges associated with the impacts of rapid regional growth.

Funded in part by the National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education grant, the SAgE Program intends to develop Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) Direct Transfer Agreement (DTA) degrees with an Emphasis in Sustainable Agriculture, as well as Short-term Certificates in Sustainable Agriculture. The AA-DTA and AS-DTA degrees and Short-term Certificates will provide a practical education for students interested in a transferable two-year degree and continued natural resource-related studies or immediate entry into the green workforce. Students and community members interested in sustainable agriculture and natural resource management and conservation will be prepared with the knowledge and skills to make positive contributions toward bioregional food systems. In light of the program objective to develop and disseminate sustainable agriculture curriculum in cooperation with local to global partners, SAgE proposes to offer a suite of core courses and four independent pathways of focus: Urban Food Systems, Small Farm Systems, Farmland Ecological Restoration and International Sustainable Development.

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AA-DTA & AS-DTA Emphasis in Sustainable Agriculture

Core Courses:

25-27 credits

- ENV 200, Sustainable Food Systems Employment Seminar (2cr; Winter)
- ENV 202, Principles of Agroecology: An Introduction to Sustainable Agriculture (5cr; Fall)
- ENV 204, Soil Science, Restoration & Conservation (5cr; Winter)
- ENV 206, Agroforestry Systems: Integrating Food & Forests (5cr; Spring) OR
- ENV 208, Forest Ecosystem Science, Management & Conservation (5cr; Fall)
- ENV 210, Food Systems Ethics, Justice & Policy (5cr; Winter) OR
- ENV 212, World Agricultural Systems & Development (5cr; Fall)
- ENV 296, Professional Internship in Sustainable Agriculture (3-5cr; Fall, Winter, Spring)

Pathway Courses (Select One Pathway)

10 additional credits for a total of 35-37 credits, except ISD*

Urban Food Systems (UFS):

- ENV 214, Urban Food Systems Analysis (5cr; Winter)
- ENV 216, Sustainable Urban Food Production (5cr; Spring)

Small Farm Systems (SFS):

- ENV 218, Small Farm Systems Management (5cr; Winter)
- ENV 220, Sustainable Small Farm Production (5cr; Spring)

Farmland Ecological Restoration (FERN):

- BOT 113, Native Plant Identification & Classification (5cr; Spring)
- ENV 222, Ecological Restoration of Disturbed Systems (5cr; Fall)

International Sustainable Development (ISD)*:

8 credits substituted for 2 Core Courses, plus 11 additional credits for a total of 36 credits

This pathway is associated with the Agroforestry & Conservation in the Tropics (ACT) winter quarter study abroad program in Latin America. An ACT short course is also under development.

- ENV 207, Tropical Agroforestry Systems (5cr)
- ENV 209, Tropical Forest Ecosystems (5cr)
- ENV 225, International Sustainable Development (3cr)
- HUM 291, Spanish Language Through Experiential Activities (3cr)
- ENV 297, International Professional Internship in Sustainable Agriculture (3cr)