Institute for Sustainable Practice

Tread lightly. Leave your mark.
Faith in your future.
Institute for Sustainable Practice degree programs address a broad range of concepts that effectively engage all disciplines.

Through an innovative curriculum, students explore intersections between business and the natural and social sciences as well as choose specializations consistent with their disciplines and passions shaped by application and research. Choose a master’s degree, dual degree or graduate certificate, and earn professional accreditations before you graduate. Enjoy a curriculum that balances theory and practice packaged in a convenient schedule for busy professionals in a faith-based environment that embraces all people.

Lipscomb University prepares a new generation of sustainability professionals who lead organizations, businesses and communities toward a resilient future.

Graduate offerings include:
• Master of Science in Sustainability
• Dual Degree: M.S./MBA in Sustainability
• Certificate of Graduate Studies in Sustainability

With their degrees in hand, our graduates have gone on to impact communities around the country in many different ways:
• Tasking robots to build Tesla electric cars
• Managing urban tree canopy and natural areas
• Coordinating Ivy League campus sustainability
• Providing public health information
• Advising PGA golf course managers in “zero waste”
• Helping churches faithfully engage in creation care
• Lowering energy bills for the disadvantaged
• Educating farmers and producing food
• Coaching healthy living and eating
• Managing procurement
• Improving air quality in public housing
• Managing a locally sourced restaurant
• Designing and constructing green buildings
• Starting a successful composting company
• Teaching future pharmacists sustainable practices
• Managing solar panel installations
• Authoring children’s sustainability books
• Consulting with Walmart, Kohl’s and Target suppliers
• Managing sustainable manufacturing processes

Lipscomb University students combine study in the theory of sustainability with analysis of advanced applications through real case studies, field trips and travel courses. Such training is critical for sustainability professionals to execute and deliver value through their respective specializations.
Lipscomb has a sustainable history.

For more than 125 years, Lipscomb University has integrated Christian faith and practice with academic excellence. Our beautiful 65-acre campus, conveniently located in the Green Hills neighborhood of Nashville, offers a range of activities and amenities for students of all ages.

Lipscomb was the first in Tennessee to create sustainable certified learning environments and the first faith-based institution in the world to affiliate with the Biomimicry Institute. Lipscomb has made frequent appearances in Nashville’s 50 Greenest Companies and was one of only 322 institutions on the Princeton Review’s list of the greenest colleges and universities in the United States and Canada in 2014.

Explore Advanced Sustainability Through Travel

Advanced Sustainability Practices in Vermont and New England

Professors and students travel annually to the cradle of sustainability leadership to trace the history of innovation and solutions that foster advanced sustainable communities and lifestyles. Students explore urban and rural transformative practices, converse with top professionals and research case studies that deepen their professional development and sustainability specializations.

These Lipscomb sustainability graduate students attended the United States Green Building Council’s annual conference and expo in Toronto, Canada, with 23,000 attendees and 1,900 exhibitors. Stops included tours of two sustainable home designs by Frank Lloyd Wright known as “Falling Waters” and “Kentuck Knob.”

Graduate Program Overview

- Study in the “It” city of Nashville (so named by the New York Times). Gallup has ranked it as a top five city for job growth, and Travel and Leisure magazine has ranked it the seventh greenest city in the U.S. According to a GQ magazine spread, Nashville is “Nowville.”
- Receive academic and professional development planning to guide career preparation
- Learn from faculty and guest lecturers who are top-tier professionals in their fields
- Gain practical experiences and current best practices through dynamic classes and field studies
- Experience convenient schedules combining live lectures and online content (weekends/weeknights)
- Access or download course content electronically
- Apply for merit scholarships and financing
- All books, materials and weekend meals included
- Network in class with local sustainability leaders and professionals
- Travel to sustainability destinations, conferences and cultural experiences (required for M.S. students)
- Earn graduate credit for professional accreditations such as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)
- Ask us about potential online options planned for the future

When you study sustainability at Lipscomb University you learn from leaders who know how to achieve results. Leaders from Nashville helped the Tennessee Coneflower recover and, as a result, was removed from the federal endangered species list in 2011.
Graduate Certificate and Master of Science Degree

The Graduate Certificate and Master of Science degree equips professionals in the emerging literature and practice of sustainability by addressing the interactions between the planet, business and society.

Whatever your academic or professional background, our educational programs can add unique value to what you offer employers and clients, and position you confidently within the sustainability marketplace.

The Certificate of Graduate Studies in Sustainability is designed for those who seek a short-term educational experience with formal documentation.

• 15 credit hours
• features four core sustainability courses, plus an individual capstone project or alternative elective

The Master of Science in Sustainability is the first to be offered in the Southeast United States.

• 30 credit hours
• includes a culminating capstone experience where students apply their knowledge to a real-world problem

Dual Degree: M.S./MBA in Sustainability

The first sustainability-focused MBA to be offered in Tennessee. The program allows students to combine principles of sustainability and business.

• Dual Degree: M.S./MBA in Sustainability
  Students may obtain both an M.S. and MBA (two diplomas) in 48 credit hours, allowing them to enter the marketplace faster with highly competitive credentials.

Graduate Course Descriptions

Foundational Core Course Requirements --

SU 6003 Sustainable Earth Systems (planet):
  Studies how the Earth’s systems are the model for sustainable and regenerative practice. Students will explore Earth systems science and analyze the structure and function of abiotic and selected biotic systems.

SU 6023 Sustainable Enterprise (profit):
  Students learn to apply strategic models, tools and frameworks to incorporate sustainability and green business principles in the context of successful business practices in a competitive and profitable manner.

ICM 5003 Survey of Conflict Management (people):
  This course offers an introduction to the concepts, instruments, functions and theories of modern conflict management techniques. This introduction provides information needed to better understand the personal, organizational, legal and practical problems facing the world of economic interaction today.
Advanced Core Course Requirements

SU 6063 Sustainable Enterprise II (profit): This course expands students’ knowledge of specific strategic models, tools and frameworks, and offers in-depth case studies in leading green business sectors that successfully incorporate social and environmental dimensions in a competitive and profitable manner.

SU 6073 Applied Earth Systems and Biomimicry (planet): Provides an in-depth examination of the sustainable earth systems of air, water, land and the added dimension of energy. The course also reviews the role of modern management systems such as solid waste, waste water, water supply and storm water; regional/community development; management of undeveloped natural resources; natural energy opportunities and applications of biomimicry design.

SU 6153 Zero Management (people): Represents a growing trend in business and industry to eliminate the financial and legal risk associated with waste and inefficiency. The course will examine all aspects of “net zero,” “net positive,” “regenerative” and “no-net-impact” management within an organization and its unique social and psychological framework.

Elective Specialization Course Options

SU 6103 Creation Care and Spiritual Formation: The student will examine and discuss potential relationships between faith-based creation care and personal spiritual formation and growth. The student will assess historic, complementary, divergent and potential theological relationships between spirituality and sustainability.

SU 6123 Introduction to Green Building Design, Construction and Operation: An examination of green commercial, industrial and residential development, management, maintenance, life cycle costs, certification, practices, technology and sustainable waste management applications from site selection, planning, design and construction through operations and management.

SU 6133 Renewable Energy Options and Design Applications: Focuses on renewable energy and its various alternative technologies, applications and design parameters.

SU 6143 Sustainable Food Practice: An investigation into the modern industrial food system and alternative food systems, including sustainable agriculture production, health, nutrition, manufacturing, distribution, retail, urban and community gardens, food co-ops, farmers’ markets and international trade, as well as the unique needs of developing countries.

SU 6033 Special Topics in Sustainability: This course is designed to more quickly respond to the ever-changing world of sustainability through a one-time offering that will not likely be frequently repeated. Content will be developed for each offering.

SU 6083 Professional Experience and Study in Sustainability: Focus and/or deepen an approved concentration through study of academic research and professional standards of practice. A portion of study may be dedicated to successful completion of approved third-party certification, accreditation, or licensing, or professionally mentored job shadowing and service. Prerequisites: 9 hours in graduate sustainability courses, including one elective in an approved concentration.

Research/Professional Application Course Requirement

SU 609V Sustainability Travel: Research, study, and compare advanced applications of sustainability concentrations in a group travel experience to domestic and international destinations. Explore historical, cultural, operational, and policy drivers and engage with leader practitioners that enable and facilitate social, environmental, and economic progress. May be offered as individual independent study travel for unique concentrations.

SU 6043 Capstone Project in Sustainability: Individual or collaborative development (and if applicable, implementation) of a robust professional sustainability-focused project. Capstone projects address a problem or research question, and include a literature review, measurement and reporting of relevant data and a presentation. Capstone projects focus and deepen the student’s approved concentration of study. Prerequisites: SU 6063; nine credit hours for certificate students; 21 credit hours for M.S. students.
Alumni Reflections

“The sustainability program prepared me to be a sustainability leader because I am now open in the most real sense of the word. I am ready to accept and hear all aspects of an issue, which is what you must do to be a sustainability leader—to respect anything in a holistic sense and to question and challenge everything until the truth is found. This program will dig into your heart, help you find who you are and help you determine what requirements you have for the path you take after graduation.”

– Cathleen Burrell, M.S. graduate

“When I was offered the position to be an environmental specialist at Toyota, it became the happiest day of my life to date. On numerous occasions, I find myself directly applying concepts learned through my courses. The opportunities that I had to bond and network with my fellow students were amazing, while the events and trips put on by the ISP program were both fun and academically relevant.”

– Andrew Leet, M.S. graduate

“The most valuable aspect of my education from the institute has been the opportunity to create, develop and test my ideas with professionals, my peers and companies who support the program. Bringing real-world experiences into the classroom provides any sustainability practitioner the opportunity to define, refine and evolve their critical thinking skills.”

– William Paddock, Green MBA graduate

Visit us online to find out more.
sustainability.lipscomb.edu
Institute for Sustainable Practice
Spring 2018 Course Schedule

ICM 5003 Survey of Conflict Management
August 11 & 12 and August 25 & 26
8:30 AM – 5:00 PM all class days
Professors Steve Joiner and Phyllis Hildreth

SU 6003 Sustainable Earth Systems
January 8 – March 1 (First Term)
Tuesday nights 5:00-9:00
Professor Dodd Galbreath

SU 6023 Sustainable Enterprise I
January 8 – March 1
(First Term) Thursday nights 5:00-9:00
Dr. Andy Borchers

SU 6133 Renewable Energy Options and Design
Monday, October 23 (6:00 PM – 8:00 PM)
Friday: November 3 & 17 (4:00 PM – 9:00 PM)
Saturday: November 4 & 18 (9:00 AM – 5:00 PM)
Professor Janice Dyer

SU 6073 Applied Earth Systems
Wednesday, March 28 (5:00 PM – 9:00 PM)
Friday: April 13 & 27 (4:00 PM – 9:00 PM)
Saturday: April 14 & 28 (9:00 AM-5:00 PM)
Professor Brandon Craft

SU 6043 Capstone
Full Term January 8 – April 25
Professor William Paddock

SU 6153 Zero Management
Wednesday, September 27 (6:00 PM – 8:00 PM)
Friday: October 6 & 27 (4:00 PM – 9:00 PM)
Saturday: October 7 & 28 (9:00 AM – 5:00 PM)
Dr. Emily Stutzman
About

• First college-level Sustainability program in the Southeast
• Opened in Fall 2007
• Princeton Review’s 332 Green Colleges
• Burton Health Sciences Building, home of Lipscomb University College of Pharmacy received Gold-level LEED certification in spring 2009.
Academic Programs

• Certificate of Graduate Studies in Sustainability
• Master of Science in Sustainability
• Dual Degree MBA/M.S. in Sustainability
• Potential online options planned for the future!
Class Format

• *Foundation classes are one night per week.*
• *Advance classes are one class per month*
• *Travel Courses*
• *Concentrations*
• *Hybrid online and in class*
• *Refer to Fall 2017 course schedule (printed)*
Application Process

- Online application
- Resume
- Personal Statement
- Two references: Professional, academic and/or personal
- Official Transcript(s)
- Interview
- Writing Sample or GRE/GMAT
Cost and Financial Aid

- $1,290 currently per credit hour
- FASFA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- Maggie Kersten: Assistant Director of Financial Aid - 615-966-6207
- Refer to Financial Aid info sheet (printed or on USB drive)