Sustainability in Academics

About half of San José State University students graduating annually with a bachelor’s or master’s degree were in a program with an identified sustainability learning outcome since 2017. In particular, the university offers three undergraduate degrees in environmental studies, where the entire focus of the degree centers around developing a natural science and social science understanding of sustainability: Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Arts, and Bachelor of Arts in preparation for teaching. All undergraduate engineering programs contain a sustainability learning objective.

Learning Outcomes

The university upholds institution-level sustainability learning outcomes. These are:

- **Broad Integrative Knowledge**: An understanding of the implications of results or findings from a particular work in a societal context (e.g. social or economic implications of a scientific finding).

- **Social and Global Responsibilities**: The ability to act intentionally and ethically to address a global or local problem in an informed manner with a multicultural and historical perspective and a clear understanding of societal and civic responsibilities. Diverse and global perspectives through engagement with the multidimensional SJSU community.

Classes and Degrees Offered

SJSU offers 1,533 sustainability-related or -focused courses in 67 out of 73 total academic departments. In addition, all academic colleges at the University offered at least [one] sustainability course.

Classes with a sustainability focus include:

- POLS 004, Introduction to International Relations
- HS 067, Introductory Health Statistics
- COMM 040, Argumentation and Advocacy
• SOCI 080, Social Problems
• ANTH 011, Cultural Anthropology
• PKG 107, Principles of Packaging

Degree programs with a sustainability focus include:

• Biological Science
• Engineering
• Environmental Studies
• Urban Planning
• Global Studies
• Social Work
• Meteorology, concentration on Climate Science

*A full roster of classes is available on our website*

**STARS**
The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System™ (STARS®) is a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance. STARS is intended to engage and recognize the full spectrum of colleges and universities—from community colleges to research universities, from institutions new to sustainability programs to long-time campus sustainability leaders. SJSU received Gold certification for the 2020 submission.

**Objectives for 2030**

- Integrate sustainability across curriculum
- Foster a sense of community among faculty teaching and researching sustainability topics
- Provide financial support for faculty-student sustainability projects
- Be recognized as a leader in sustainability within the CSU, regionally, and nationally
- Develop an academic strategy for becoming a signatory to the Second Nature Presidents’ Climate Leadership Carbon Commitment. Second Nature is the nonprofit behind the Climate Leadership Network, uniting university leadership around commitments to a more sustainable world. By signing the commitment, San José State would join the more than 4,000 university and college leaders working to find the climate solutions necessary to preserve the Earth
- Make carbon neutrality a part of SJSU curriculum and other educational experiences for all students
- Expand research in carbon neutrality

**Research**

Of our 64 departments, 39 departments included at least one faculty/staff that is actively pursuing and conducting research, have submitted proposals, or awarded grants relating to sustainability research. Several research institutes have received notable achievements for sustainability research in recent years. Some examples include:

- Mineta Transportation Institute
- Moss Landing Marine Labs
- Institute for Metropolitan Studies

For more information please visit our website: sjsu.edu/sustainability or call: (408) 924-8019