Sustainability (SF) Designation Application Process for 2024

Sustainability (SF) Designation by Instructor and Course

Application deadlines

- Instructor-level proposals
    - Effective Spring 2024: due by September 30, 2023
    - Effective Fall 2024: due by February 1, 2024
- Course-level proposals
    - Effective Fall 2024: due by September 30, 2023

Instruction for application for SF-designation of a class by instructor and/or course.

1. Please review the **Core Concepts and Hallmarks** below to determine whether your course redesign for Sustainability will meet at least one from each category. The Hallmark chosen should align with at least one of the established CLOs (Course Learning Outcomes) of your course. As part of the application process, you'll be asked to report on the Hallmark-CLO alignment.
2. Complete and submit the Sustainability (SF) Designation Application.
3. Complete the Sustainability Hallmark Alignment Form.
4. Secure a Memo of Acknowledgement and Support from your Department Chair.
5. Email or share with the Academic Sustainability Committee Chair (dkapp@hawaii.edu) your completed Hallmark Alignment Form and DC Memo.
6. The Academic Sustainability Committee will review your Application and Memo, and they will coordinate with the Assessment Coordinator to review your Hallmark alignments.
7. The Committee Chair will contact you with any questions or requests for additional information, and will notify you of the status of your Application.
8. The Academic Sustainability Committee will notify the Faculty Senate of the approved SF-designated courses and submit the courses to Administration for final approval. Once approved, your class will count toward students' Academic Subject Certificate in Sustainability.
9. Department Chairs will work with secretarial staff to ensure that SF-designation of your class is noted in Banner.
10. If your course is granted approval for SF-Designation, please include the Sustainability Hallmark(s) and Core Concept(s) you have chosen under the Course Learning Outcomes on your syllabus.

11. Within the first three weeks of every semester you teach the SF-designated class, please submit your syllabus with the Sustainability Hallmark(s) and Core Concept(s) listed to the Committee Chair. The Committee Chair will send out a reminder email at the start of the semester.
12. Within the last two weeks of the semester, the Committee will provide you with a brief survey for your students in your SF-designated course asking them to assess if and how well the course satisfied the Sustainability Hallmark(s) you have chosen.
13. If it appears that the Sustainability Hallmark has not been satisfied based upon the majority of student survey responses, the Committee will request consultation with you to seek your perspective and potentially provide assistance and ensure Hallmarks are met in the future.
14. Sustainability course designation will last for five years. After that time period, you will need to reapply for designation.

Sustainability Core Concepts

- **C1: Sustainable Economics:** Quadruple Bottom Line, Alternatives to GDP, Circular Economy
- **C2: Ecosystem Services:** Biodiversity, Conservation, Ecological Restoration, Invasive Species Impacts
- **C3: Ecological Footprints/Carbon Footprints**
- **C4: Sustainable Materials Management:** Cradle to Cradle, Zero Waste, Life Cycle Assessment
- **C5: Sustainable Food Systems:** Food Sovereignty, Food Security, Food Miles, Agroecology, Local First
- **C6: Climate Change:** Mitigation, Adaptation, Resilience
- **C7: Equity:** Environmental Justice
- **C8: Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)**: Indigenous Wisdom, Spiritual Ecology

Sustainability Course Hallmarks and Explanatory Notes

These Hallmarks are used to approve a course for Sustainability Designation. Hallmarks should be linked to CLO(s) and, at the time of course assessment, confirmation of satisfactory coverage of Hallmark can be noted in the Results Analysis for renewal of the Sustainability Designation.

The course must satisfy **one** (or more) of the following Hallmarks:

- **H1:** The course demonstrates how concepts of sustainability are connected to local, regional and global issues and applies these concepts to local, regional or global challenges. (Refer to the UN goals below for specific topics.)
- **H2:** The course imparts understanding of the science of the environment and how this knowledge can be applied towards creating a more sustainable world.
- **H3:** The course describes how traditional and indigenous perspectives or other socio-cultural values and attitudes inform practices of sustainability and encourages students to connect to personal values and attitudes that facilitate sustainable living.

Explanatory Notes

According to UH System Sustainability Policy EP 4.202, "… sustainability means serving the needs of the present without jeopardizing the needs of the future." The United Nations definition of Sustainability is "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/5839GSDR%202015_SD_concept_definiton_rev.pdf

United Nations Sustainability goals:
https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/

And from the UH Office of Sustainability Handbook 4.1:

While there are many different approaches and definitions for"sustainability", we mean, in general, *"serving the needs of the present without jeopardizing the needs of the future."* We evoke, wherever possible, the principles of the Earth Charter which defines sustainability *"in all its dimensions: cultural, economic, environmental, and social."*

The Earth Charter introduces the "Four Pillars" definition of sustainability:

- cultural vibrancy,
- economic prosperity,
- environmental responsibility
- and social justice.

Sustainability courses address major challenges including climate change, global poverty and inequality, natural resource depletion, and environmental degradation.

Updated 12/14/23 Drew Kapp