Certificate of Undergraduate Study: Sustainable Food Systems (13-14)

The Certificate of Undergraduate Study in Sustainable Food Systems will provide the student with a solid foundation for work in sustainable food and farming. This interdisciplinary certificate prepares students for the variety of issues they might face working in sustainable agriculture. The certificate consists of two core courses and a choice of electives from three content areas. The courses enable practical application of knowledge and provide engaged learning opportunities.

The certificate will help prepare students in three areas of study that are all meant to provide the student with an understanding of systems: 1) Agriculture and Sustainability—study the physical systems that impact agriculture and sustainable local food options; 2) Food and Health—examine current trends in the food industry, agriculture, and community environment in relation to food sustainability, social and nutritional health and wellness; and 3) Social and Cultural—learn how society could address the social and cultural change needed to achieve more sustainable food systems.

The certificate is open to all students admitted to degree and non-degree study at Northern Illinois University. Students must maintain good academic standing within the university. The certificate courses may also be applied to satisfy requirements for B.A. and B.S. degrees.

Required Courses (4)
ENVS 210 - Introduction to Sustainable Food Systems Credits: 3
ENVS 490 - Undergraduate Research Credits: 1-3
   Field Practicum (Only 1 credit hour will be applied towards the certificate.)

One course from each of the following sections (9-10)

Agriculture and Sustainability (3-4)
BIOS 101 - Plant Products and Human Affairs Credits: 3
BIOS 103 - General Biology Credits: 3
BIOS 106 - Environmental Biology Credits: 3
BIOS 109 - Human Biology Credits: 3
ENVS 301 - Environmental Science I: Physical Systems Credits: 3
ENVS 302 - Environmental Science II: Biological Systems Credits: 3
ENVS 409 - Water Quality Credits: 4
   OR BIOS 409X - Water Quality Credits: 4
   OR GEOL 409X - Water Quality Credits: 4
   OR PHHE 409X - Water Quality Credits: 4
GEOG 422 - Plant-Soil Interactions Credits: 4
   OR BIOS 422X - Plant-Soil Interactions Credits: 4
GEOG 453 - Environmental Management Credits: 3

Food and Health (3)
NUTR 201 - Human Nutrition Credits: 3
NUTR 308 - Current Problems and Trends in Nutrition and Foods Credits: 3
   NUTR 308 is a writing infused course.
NUTR 404 - Nutrition and Community Food Systems Credits: 2-5
   Only 3 credit hours will be applied towards the certificate.
NUTR 406 - Global Food and Nutrition Issues Credits: 3
   NUTR 406 is a writing infused course.
PHHE 295 - Introduction to Public Health Credits: 3
PHHE 412 - Consumer Health Credits: 3

Social and Cultural (3)
ANTH 425 - Environment and Anthropology Credits: 3
   ANTH 425 is a writing infused course.
   OR ENVS 425X - Environment and Anthropology Credits: 3
   ENVS 425X is a writing infused course.
NNGO 100 - Community Leadership and Civic Engagement Credits: 3
ENVS 303 - Environment in the Social Sciences and Humanities Credits: 3
   Available for general education credit.
EPFE 201 - Education as an Agent for Change Credits: 3
   EPFE is a human diversity course.
GEOG 253 - Environment and Society Credits: 3
HIST 366 - Farms, Food, and Rural America Credits: 3
HIST 377 - American Environmental History Credits: 3
POLS 324 - Politics of Environmental Health and Safety Regulation Credits: 3
   POLS 324 is a writing infused course.