CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUSTAINABILITY MAJORS

SUMMARY

Sustainable businesses have been shown to have lower enterprise risk, better reputations, improved long-term viability and the ability to attract more talented employees. Graduates of the Sustainability: Economics & Management BSBA will be knowledgeable about the dependence of human societies on the rest of the natural world, the demographic, economic, social and environmental challenges we face and the opportunities they create. The projected need by 2038 for Sustainability positions in Cincinnati is higher than the national average: nearly 800% growth in new jobs.

The Sustainability: Economics & Management (SUST) BSBA will allow students to holistically investigate the complex sustainability challenges of our era, where the economy and the organizations associated with it are seen as a component of the ecosystem, not vice versa. Students will be encouraged to imagine and assist in creating new ways of thinking about sustainability in our economies and organizations.

Economic sustainability considerations have far-reaching effects on the earth's ecosystems, including escalating usage of nonrenewable resources, associated environmental damage, and rising extinction rates. This program of study in economic sustainability will support Xavier University’s mission in helping students to develop “a world view that is oriented to responsible action and recognizes the intrinsic value of the natural and human values.”

SKILLS & ABILITIES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY MAJOR

- **Complex Problem Solving** — Identifying complex problems and reviewing related information to develop and evaluate options and implement solutions.
- **Speaking** — Talking to others to convey information effectively.
- **Critical Thinking** — Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems.
- **Written Expression** — Ability to communicate information and ideas in writing so others will understand.
- **Design** — Knowledge of design techniques, tools, and principles involved in production of precision technical plans, blueprints, drawings, and models.
- **Inductive Reasoning** — Ability to combine pieces of information to form general rules or conclusions (includes finding a relationship among seemingly unrelated events).
- **Updating and Using Relevant Knowledge** — Keeping up-to-date technically and applying new knowledge to your job.
- **Administration and Management** — Knowledge of business and management principles involved in strategic planning, resource allocation, and coordination of people and resources.
POTENTIAL CAREERS

• Chief Sustainability Officer  
• City Planner  
• Civil Engineer  
• Consulting Analyst  
• Economist  
• Environmental Analyst  
• Environmental Vice President  
• General and Operations Manager  
• Industrial Production Manager  
• Market Research Analyst  
• Sustainability Coordinator  
• Sustainability Manager  
• Sustainability Consultant  
• Survey Researcher  

WORK STYLES

• Leadership — Job requires a willingness to lead, take charge, and offer opinions and direction.  
• Initiative — Job requires a willingness to take on responsibilities and challenges.  
• Integrity — Job requires being honest and ethical.  
• Innovation — Job requires creativity and alternative thinking to develop new ideas for and answers to work-related problems.  
• Analytical Thinking — Job requires analyzing information and using logic to address work-related issues and problems.  

WORK VALUES

Achievement — Occupations that satisfy this work value are results oriented and allow employees to use their strongest abilities, giving them a feeling of accomplishment. Corresponding needs are Ability Utilization and Achievement.  

Independence — Occupations that satisfy this work value allow employees to work on their own and make decisions. Corresponding needs are Creativity, Responsibility and Autonomy.  

Working Conditions — Occupations that satisfy this work value offer job security and good working conditions. Corresponding needs are Activity, Compensation, Independence, Security, Variety and Working Conditions.  

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

• Ohio Environmental Protection Agency: http://www.epa.state.oh.us/  
• Green Umbrella Regional Sustainability Alliance: http://www.greenumbrella.org/about-the-umbrella/archive  
• Ohio Environmental Council: http://www.theoec.org/Careers  
• International Society of Sustainability Professionals: http://www.sustainabilityprofessionals.org/  
• Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education: http://www.aashe.org/  
• Association of Environmental and Resource Economists: http://www.aere.org/jobs/  
• National Council for Science and the Environment: http://www.ncseonline.org/about  