

# SUSTAINABILITY



**XAVIER**  
UNIVERSITY

**Bachelor of Arts in Economics, Sustainability and Society (ECOS)** focuses on balancing the demands of the present without compromising future needs—all within the context of our increasingly complex, inter-related global economy. Students acquire a comprehensive understanding of sustainable economies, including the study of natural resources, plus ecological and environmental problems. Students also gain an understanding of social justice questions related to the distribution of economic products and resources

The ECOS program integrates economic analysis with cultural studies, global economic development, policy studies, management and ethics. The results are a graduate with the ability to conceptualize and solve sustainability problems. Far more than just theoretical, the ECOS program includes real-world experiential learning elements such as field trips, practicums and internships—all culminating in an integrative capstone with hands-on projects. And while sustainability issues continue to evolve, it's equally certain that the demand will grow for people committed to environmental stewardship and skilled in analyzing economic sustainability solutions.

## The Xavier Advantage

- ▶ Internships at leading companies and organizations in Cincinnati, home to three Fortune 100 companies, nine Fortune 500 companies and 15 Fortune 1000 companies.
- ▶ The Xavier Sustainability Committee and Economics Advisory Board creates a network with top professionals in sustainability and related fields.
- ▶ Xavier's Williams College of Business is recognized as a preeminent business school nationally and the best business school regionally.

## Xavier graduates in economics, sustainability and society can find fulfilling career opportunities in:

- ▶ Sustainability analysis and management in businesses and organizations
- ▶ Environmental law, policy creation and regulation development
- ▶ Advanced degrees and teaching opportunities in sustainability
- ▶ Sustainable urban planning, environmental education and public outreach
- ▶ Graduate programs in sustainability, economics, law and business (MBA)

**Learn more** [www.xavier.edu/ecos](http://www.xavier.edu/ecos)

**Ask us** [xuadmit@xavier.edu](mailto:xuadmit@xavier.edu)

**Visit campus** [www.xavier.edu/visit](http://www.xavier.edu/visit)



## THE PROGRAM

This degree will allow students to holistically investigate the complex sustainability challenges of our era, where the economy is 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 societies. Values-based and ethical issues will be regularly examined, including social justice questions related to distribution of economic products and resources, both within and across generations. The program seeks to utilize Xavier's strengths in values/ethics-based education to intellectually, spiritually, and morally motivate environmental stewardship.

The program is focused on sustainable economies, and includes the study of natural resources, ecological and environmental problems, processes, and policies at local, national and global levels. Students will integrate economic analysis (encompassing attention to questions of efficient allocation, just distribution, and sustainable scale) with cultural studies, global economic development, policy studies, and management through a series of required and elective courses related to economic sustainability in society, organizations and the economy.

Through multi and inter-disciplinary attention to issues of economy and ecology, students will arrive at deeper understandings of issues such as the finite nature of non-renewable resources, implications of environmental damage, and the planet's finite capacity to absorb wastes. Further, students will be prepared to make creative contributions to the many opportunities for improving society's economic sustainability and environmental quality.

During the course of the program, students will take two to four courses incorporating on-site, experiential learning via field trips related to economic sustainability. Field trips will often be interdisciplinary in nature, sometimes combined/coordinated with students from other sustainability-related courses and programs, creating opportunities for cross-dialog and learning. The program will also include elective practicums/internships in business, public and non-profit organizations. The program capstone will be an Experiential Integrative Project, whereby students will work within an organization and help to design a new sustainability policy initiative; they will develop a project plan, assess the impact of current practices and policies compared to the new initiative, and create an implementation plan.

Graduates of the Economics, Sustainability and Society BA are 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. Graduates of the Economics, Sustainability and Society BA are thoughtfully proactive and have the practical skills to help meet the unprecedented challenges of our era, including the ability to quantify environmental and resource problems and opportunities where possible and appropriate. Graduates of the Economics, Sustainability and Society BA have the skills necessary to inform and mobilize public opinion, as well as government and organizational policies, to facilitate sustainable economies.

## OUTCOMES

At least 3.1 million Americans are employed in green jobs, a sector that now accounts for about 2.4 percent of the nation's total employment. A 2008 report for the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the Mayors Climate Protection Center projected 2.5 million new green jobs in the energy sector of the U.S. economy alone by 2018 (330% more than estimated to exist at the time the report was issued).

Total projected new jobs by 2028 was 3.5 million (+466% vs. 2008) with an additional 4.2 million new jobs by 2038 (+560%). For the metropolitan areas of Ohio, the projected growth was higher than the national average, an increase of 780% in new green jobs by 2038, and the Cincinnati metro region had almost 800% projected growth.

Potential jobs include Sustainability Coordinator, Sustainability Manager, Sustainability Consultant, Sustainability Consulting Analyst, and Environmental Analyst, as well as more general categories relevant to graduates (Economist, Market Research Analyst, Survey Researcher, Economics Teacher, Consultant).

For the graduating class of 2010, 78 percent of economics graduates were either employed full-time or enrolled in a graduate program within 90 days of graduation. Average starting salary for 2010 economics graduates: \$37,500.

Xavier graduates in economics have found employment in both the public and private sectors, including federal government agencies such as the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Graduates also work in Washington, D.C.-based think tanks, consulting firms, banking and financial industry firms, and lobbying organizations. Recent positions also include:

- Treasury management, Marshall Ilsley Bank
- Assistant trader, Cornerstone Hedge Fund
- Management trainee, Cintas First Aid and Safety
- 401K analyst, Fidelity Investments
- Trainee, U.S. Bank Corp. Survey
- Statistician, U.S. Census Bureau

A large percentage of Xavier economics graduates go on to graduate programs in law, public policy, economics and business (MBA) at the following institutions:

- Cornell University
- Georgetown School of Law
- Harvard School of Law
- Indiana University
- Michigan State
- Ohio State
- Southern Methodist University
- University of Chicago School of Law
- University of Cincinnati School of Law
- University of Kentucky School of Law
- University of Maryland
- University of Virginia
- Vanderbilt University
- Washington University

## SUSTAINABILITY ON CAMPUS— GOING GREEN FOR THE GREATER GOOD

Integrating sustainability into campus operations aligns with Xavier's Jesuit tradition and promotes the ongoing welfare of our students, institution, our community and even our world. With a physical infrastructure that's less costly to run and more resilient, the lower our carbon footprint, the more interdisciplinary and problem-focused our educational efforts.

The Hoff Academic Quad, Conaton Learning Commons, Smith Hall, Fenwick Hall and the Central Utility Plant are designed and constructed to meet or exceed US Green Building Council's LEED silver standards. Plus provide practical benefits:



- ▶ Xavier's energy consumption has decreased by 17.5 percent, water consumption by 20 percent.
- ▶ The first green roof on Xavier's campus is both comfortable and sustainable.
- ▶ Reflective white roofs prevent 80 percent of sunlight mitigating the heat-island effect that cause urban regions to become warmer than their rural surroundings.

## SUSTAINABLE CINCINNATI

Cincinnati is not just a great American city, but also takes pride in a shrinking carbon footprint. Here are just a few examples:

- ▶ 100 percent Renewable Electricity—By switching to renewable energy, Cincinnati's carbon footprint was reduced by approximately 550,000 tons per year. That's the equivalent of taking 104,000 cars off the road.
- ▶ Green Umbrella, a regional sustainability alliance, brings citizens, professionals, teachers, students and others team together to promote sustainability across the region in areas including energy, local food and outdoor recreation.
- ▶ Home Energy Retrofits—The Greater Cincinnati Energy Alliance completed energy retrofits on more than 1,000 buildings across the region saving its clients more than \$500,000 per year on energy bills
- ▶ Nine commercial and 45 residential LEED building projects were certified in Cincinnati in 2012.
- ▶ In 2012, the League of American Bicyclists recognized Cincinnati as a bronze level bicycle friendly community.

The foundation of Xavier's success is its commitment to its Jesuit heritage. The Core Curriculum embodies Xavier's mission and philosophy of education and serves as a valuable foundation for all undergraduate students. Within the Core, the four-course Ethics/Religion and Society (E/RS) Focus fosters students' understanding of socially significant issues through study of the humanities, especially literature, philosophy and theology, as well as the social and natural sciences. Along with courses in their major, Xavier students also take Core courses in cultural diversity, English composition, fine arts, foreign language, history, literature, mathematics, philosophy, science, social science and theology. A number of sustainability related sections of core courses are recommended for this major.

## ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

**Core Curriculum:** Minimum 64 credit hours

**Major in Sustainability, Economics and Society:** 42 hours of required courses in the BA of Economics major.

*Xavier is an equal opportunity educator and employer. Information in this brochure is correct as of 11/12.*



## XAVIER AT A GLANCE

Founded in 1831, Xavier University is a Jesuit Catholic university in Cincinnati, Ohio, annually ranked among the nation's best universities. Its three colleges offer 85 undergraduate majors, 54 minors and 11 graduate programs to 7,019 total students, including 4,368 undergraduates.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### OFFICE OF ADMISSION

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### SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMS

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