

New Standalone Academic Program Proposal

DO NOT use this form for a multi-institution and/or multi-award program proposal.

Program Data

Program Title: **Sustainability Leadership and Policy**

HEGIS Area: Social Sciences ▾

HEGIS CODE (6 digit): 2201.00

AWARD: Advanced Certificate (ADV CERT) ▾

If advanced certificate indicate if Post-Baccalaureate or Post Masters: **Post-Baccalaureate**

CIP Code: 30.3301

Total # of Required Credits: 16

Student Type (select one):

- ☐ Full-Time
- ☐ Part-Time
- ☒ Both

Will the ENTIRE PROGRAM be offered at more than one location of the campus (e.g., at both the main campus and a branch campus)?

- ☐ Yes (a separate proposal is required for each location)
- ☒ No

Will any program COURSES be offered at off-campus locations (e.g., extension center, extension site)?

- ☐ Yes (List the names and addresses of off-campus locations below)
- ☒ No

CERTIFICATE OR LICENSURE:

Is this an Education Preparation Program (EPP) proposal (i.e., does this program lead to a college recommendation for the issuance of a P-12 certificate)?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

Is this program professional licensure-qualifying? (e.g., accounting, engineering, nursing)

For a full list of professional licensure titles go to the [SUNY Academic Programs](#) webpage

- ☐ Yes
☒ No
☐ No but related to a licensure-qualifying area (e.g., accounting, engineering, nursing)

ACCREDITATION

Will the program be accredited?

- ☐ Yes

Accrediting Agency:

Expected Date of Accreditation: Click or tap to enter a date.

- ☒ No

Certificate and Advanced Certificate Programs: Degree Program(s) to which credits will apply

For **Certificate and Advanced Certificate programs**, identify the associated degree program(s) at the institution to which the credits apply. Indicate the five-digit SED program code, program title, and award, to which the credits will apply.

Credits from the Sustainability Leadership and Policy Advanced Certificate might also apply to the Public Administration MPA (19606) or the Sustainable Communities, MS (37855).

PROGRAM FORMAT Check all that apply:

Schedule	Mode	Other
☒ Evening	☐ Accelerated	☐ Upper-Division
☐ Evening/Weekend	☐ Distance Education	☐ Bilingual
☐ Weekend	☐ External	☐ Language Other Than English
☒ Day	☐ Independent Study	☐ Cooperative
☐ Not Full-Time	☒ Standard	☐ 5-Year Baccalaureate
		☐ Teacher Residency

Program Content

Program Description:

Provide the description of the program as it will appear in the institution's catalog.

The Sustainability Leadership and Policy Certificate program prepares graduates to understand and shape the complex issues encountered by local governments, non-profit organizations, and businesses as they make decisions that impact the ability of communities to pursue sustainable futures. Through a transdisciplinary approach integrating classroom learning, academic research, and community engagement, graduates will be equipped to undertake technical and policy analysis around subjects of leadership, environmental policy, economic vitality, and social equity. The program addresses a public need for trained sustainability professionals, who are prepared to exercise leadership in communities and organizations developing policies, plans, and practices that promote the sustainable use of human and natural resources.

EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES, CAREER OBJECTIVES, STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

What are the program's educational and, if appropriate, career objectives, and the program's primary student learning outcomes (SLOs)?

The program aims to prepare well-educated, contributing professionals who can analyze, lead, and serve communities. The career outcomes vary widely and range from city planning and community development to environmental consulting and public health administration. The program will help to meet the growing demand for human- and resource-sustainability managers, coordinators, and directors in public and nonprofit sectors. Student learning outcomes include the following:

1. Comprehensive knowledge of sustainability principles (environmental protection, economic vitality, and social equity) with a focus on community level actors (e.g. local governments, non-profit organizations, and small businesses). This includes ecology and environmental science, local and organizational governance, an appreciation of normative values for sustainability, and the ability to think critically across complex systems.
2. Ability to apply a range of methodological skills in the pursuit of evidence-based decision making
3. Ability to lead a variety of organizations with sustainable communities principles and practices
4. Ability to link theory and praxis in sustainable communities
5. Ability to communicate and interact with diverse stakeholders in professional settings

Students will develop the practical and critical thinking skills to succeed in career areas such as:

- Pursuit of a master's degree or doctorate in sustainability, public administration, planning, environmental studies, or related fields
- Entry into local government positions, such as land use planner, municipal administrator, or sustainability coordinator. In a 2010 survey of local governments more than one-quarter of U.S.

municipalities and counties employ a staff member dedicated to sustainability. From 2010 to 2015, the proportion of local governments with sustainability staff rose from 26.8% to 51.5%, according to the International City/County Management Association. Also, the Urban Sustainability Directors Network, a professional organization for local government officials had 180 member-cities by 2017, 276 in 2022, and 330 in 2023.

- Entry into positions with non-profit organizations, which are among the most important drivers of environmental protection, social equity, and economic development at the local and regional levels
- Entry into policy and public outreach positions with businesses. According to a 2011 McKinsey Global study, almost two-thirds of corporations include sustainability in the mission and values with more than half integrating the concept into strategic planning and recognizing the economic benefits of sustainability. According to a report by NYU's Stern Business School, nearly three-quarters of large U.S.-based companies have increased sustainability staffing over the past two years.
- Appointment to policy analyst positions with research organizations focused on issues of sustainability and governance.

CURRICULUM

Tracks: Will the program have multiple tracks?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Curriculum Table

Course Number and Title*	New Course (Y/N)**
SUST 500: Sustainable Communities 1: Theory and Practice	N
SUST 510: Sustainable Communities 2: Policy and Practice	N
PAFF 524/SUST 524: Leadership in Public	N
PAFF/SUST 523: Policy Analysis	N

Additional Curriculum Information

If necessary, provide additional information about the curricular structure.

Expected Enrollment

Complete the table below for total enrollment for each year, including **both** a Full-time **and** Part-time row, even if the expected enrollment is zero.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Full-Time	5	6	7	8	9
Part-Time					

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Attach a sample program schedule showing how a typical student may progress through the program. Detailed instructions can be found in the template. If the program contains tracks, a sample program schedule must be completed for each track.

- [Program Schedule - Graduate](#)

Is a comprehensive, culminating element required?

☐ Yes

Identify the required comprehensive, culminating element(s), such as a thesis or examination, including course number(s):

☒ No

SUNY Program Schedule for Certificate and Advanced Certificate Programs

Program/Track Title and Award: _____ Sustainability Leadership and Policy Advanced Certificate _____

- Indicate **academic calendar type**: [X] Semester [] Quarter [] Trimester [] Other (describe):
- **Label each term in sequence**, consistent with the institution's academic calendar (e.g., Fall 1, Spring 1, Fall 2)
- Use the table to show **how a typical student may progress through the program**; copy/expand the table as needed. **Complete all columns that apply to a course.**

Term 1:				Term 2:			
Course Number & Title	Credits	New (X)	Co/Prerequisites	Course Number & Title	Credits	New (x)	Co/Prerequisites
SUST 500: Sustainable Communities 1: Theory and Practice	4			SUST 510: Sustainable Communities 2: Policy and Practice	4		
PAFF 524/SUST 524: Leadership in Public Service	4						
PAFF/SUST 523: Policy Analysis	4						
Term credit totals:	12			Term credit totals:	4		
Term 3:				Term 4:			
Course Number & Title	Credits	New (X)	Co/Prerequisites	Course Number & Title	Credits	New (X)	Co/Prerequisites
Term credit totals:				Term credit totals:			

Program Totals (in credits):	Total Credits: 16
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Faculty

Complete the faculty tables that describe full-time faculty, part-time faculty, and/or faculty to be hired, as applicable. Faculty curricula vitae should be provided upon request.

Note: Faculty teaching at the graduate level must have an earned doctorate/terminal degree or demonstrate special competence in the field.

FULL-TIME FACULTY: Provide information on full-time faculty members who will be teaching each course in the major field or graduate program. Identify Program Director with an asterisk (*)

Name and Title/Rank	Program Courses	Percent Time to Program	Highest Degree, Institution, and Discipline	Additional Qualifications
Dr. Vincent Reitano*, Chair & Associate Professor	PAFF/SUST 524	50	PhD, North Carolina State University, Public Administration	
Dr. George Homsy, Associate Professor	Any/all	50	PhD, Cornell University, City and Regional Planning	
Dr. Komla Dzigbede, Associate Professor	PAFF/SUST 523	25	PhD, Georgia State University, Public Policy	
Dr. Taylor Davey, Assistant Professor	SUST 500	25	PhD, Harvard University, Urban Planning	
Dr. Kristen Swedberg, Postdoctoral Associate	SUST 510	25	PhD, Virginia Tech, Economics	
Dr. Aleksey Tikhomirov, Lecturer	PAFF/SUST 524	25	EDD, Binghamton University, Educational Theory and Practice	

If existing faculty members will direct study (e.g., teach courses) in the proposed program, please explain the impact of the proposed program on existing programs in terms of faculty responsibilities to meet the needs of each program. Use "N/A" if not applicable.

N/A

Financial Resources and Instructional Facilities

a) Budget Narrative - Personnel

No new resources are needed since all courses required for the proposed Certificate are regularly offered each academic year as part of the existing MS in Sustainable Communities and accredited MPA.

b) Budget Narrative - Instructional Facilities

Instructional facilities will consist of existing classroom space in the University Downtown Center. No equipment, laboratories, or supplies will be necessary for this program. No capital projects will be necessary for this program.