

Leaders in Sustainability Graduate Certificate

Guidelines for Leadership Requirement

The LiS certificate requires that students demonstrate leadership in the area of sustainability. How each student fulfills this requirement will be highly varied. All leadership projects, however, must follow the following guidelines. Past students have worked in groups, or as individuals. Specific details will be discussed during the core course (ENV 277).

GUIDANCE ON ELEMENTS OF A LEADERSHIP PROJECT

1. Projects should have measurable outcomes/some measurement of performance.
2. Must address at least 2 out of 3 of the components of sustainability (environment, social equity, economics).
3. The student's role in the project must exemplify leadership- i.e. leading a team, creating the project, organizing events or actions. In other words, simply participating in a project in which all of the organizing and creative work has been done by an outside person/agency will not satisfy the requirement. However, a student might participate in a pre-organized program and then demonstrate leadership within that program/project.
4. Projects may overlap/coincide with a student's capstone project, AMR, or AP, or even internship, and we encourage LiS students to incorporate sustainability into these final projects to produce quality, impactful projects. Approval of these projects, however, will be on a case-by-case basis, with a careful look at the student's leadership capacity.
5. Projects, if born out of an assignment for a course, must go above and beyond the original work assigned.
6. The appropriateness of using thesis/dissertation work or a capstone project will be determined on a case-by-case basis and should be discussed with the LiS advisors.
7. Students are encouraged to collaborate with other LiS students on a final project. In this case, the collective leadership of the group and their work will be considered, but each student will need to demonstrate the impact/outcomes of their work and their role in the project.

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN THE SUBMISSION WRITE-UP/PACKET

The request for approval of the leadership project should include three elements as follows:

Executive Summary

The Executive Summary should explain how you demonstrated leadership in sustainability. It should answer the following questions:

1. What were the goals of the project?
2. Where was the work done (at UCLA? At a non-profit?)
3. What is the impact of your work, what were the measurable outcomes? How did you measure performance?
4. What was the nature of your contributions to the project? (Were you leading a team? Organizing an event? Managing a particular aspect of the project?)

Supporting Documents

Include all documents or reports generated during the project.

Letter of Recommendation

Third party letter of recommendation from client, advisor, etc. describing the leadership role of the student.

EXAMPLES OF PAST STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROJECTS

Organizing a Conference

One student was the Executive Director of the California Clean Innovation Conference (CACI), an annual collaboration between business school students at UCLA and UCSD to present a professional conference that brings together students, academics, investors, entrepreneurs, and industry leaders to shape the future of Cleantech in California.

Collection of Case Competitions at Anderson

Student led UCLA team to 2nd place at 2011 Michigan Renewable Energy Case Competition.

Student led team in 2010 UCLA Net Impact Consulting Challenge, consulting for a Santa Monica environmental organization.

Student worked with ASA sustainability team 2009–2010.

Consulting Services for Industry or Non-Profits

Student worked on a project with Coda Automotive, an electric vehicle manufacturer, on projects to promote the adoption of electric vehicles and reduce our dependency on foreign oil. In addition, student was selected as an Environmental Defense Fund Climate Corps Fellow for Target Corporation, working on the internal business plan and

implementation plan to meet a sustainability commitment to earn ENERGY STAR certification for 75% of U.S. Target buildings by 2016.

Interdisciplinary Case Competitions

A group of LiS students organized a UCLA entry into the Van Alen Institute's "Parks for the People" competition. The team was multidisciplinary in nature, consisting of three urban planning students, two architecture students, and one FEMBA student resulting in a multidisciplinary studio investigation of the National Park Service's Valles Caldera National Preserve in the Jemez Mountains of New Mexico.

Note: AP (Capstone Project(s)), AMRs, etc. will be looked upon favorably. This will be evaluated based on the work's attention to at least 2 of the 3 components of sustainability, and the student's demonstration of leadership in the project. To evaluate these elements, we require a letter of recommendation upon completion from the supervisor, advisor, or client for whom the AP or AMR was done. We will provide the format for this letter with key points to address.