

Criteria for Determining Sustainability-Related and Sustainability-Focused Courses at Western Illinois University

General definition of sustainability:

Sustainability is a concept that reflects our acceptance, as a society, of responsibility to future generations. As often quoted, the guiding principle in sustainability is to meet our present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. To be truly sustainable, an action or decision must consider economic, social, and ecological or environmental implications in both the short and, especially, the long term.

Course Criteria:

Courses *consistently* concerning themselves with *any* of the following would be considered “*sustainability-related*” courses. Courses concerning themselves with *four or more* of the following would be considered “*sustainability-focused*” courses:

- Addresses ecological, social, and economic implications of theories or practices in the sciences
- Addresses ecological, social, and economic perspectives on global or local issues
- Examines the relationships and connections between individuals, societies, and the natural world as reflected in literature or the arts
- Questions the meaning or state of human relationships with each other and the natural world from a philosophical, ethical, or moral perspective
- Examines problems or issues that involve economic, environmental, and social concerns
- Focuses on risk management, assessment, and other planning strategies that consider economic, social, and environmental factors on a long-term scale
- Discusses ways to communicate effectively about issues or problems involving economic, environmental, and social concerns
- Examines the behavior of individuals, organizations, governments or societies with respect to the natural world