

Broad-minded students gravitate to liberal arts programs drawn by the breadth of exposure to multiple perspectives as well as the rich opportunities for syntheses of seemingly disparate disciplines. Sustainability management graduates consider the Earth's carrying capacity as they lead organizations in pursuit of the triple bottom line.

THE PROGRAM

Students of Sustainability Management may pursue either the B.A. or the B.S. degree. Our business faculty is committed to providing a value-based business education. VWU is a proud signatory of the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME), developed by the United Nations Global Compact. As the first liberal arts institution to join the PRME initiative more than a decade ago, Virginia Wesleyan is dedicated to developing business professionals who are committed to sustainability, social purpose, and responsible leadership.

THE MAJOR

Sustainability Management majors take courses in business and economics to understand sustainable business practices. Courses in science show the need for sustainability, while philosophy emphasizes the moral foundation for sustainability. Political science courses discuss various regulatory approaches.

THE COURSES

While the Sustainability Management program resides in the Watts School of Professional Studies, this major reaches across disciplines housed in the Brock School of Mathematics and Natural Sciences to form a strong alliance in offering multidisciplinary environmental majors from which our students can choose. The Goode School of Arts and Humanities as well as the Birdsong School of Social Science contribute to

the B.A. and B.S. with Environmental Ethics and Environmental Policy Analysis courses. Courses in Biology; Earth and Environmental Sciences, Environmental Studies; Management, Business, and Economics; Mathematics; and Study Away constitute the major requirements for each degree.

INTERNSHIPS/RESEARCH

A career as a sustainability manager requires an individual to be very comfortable with public speaking as well as interpersonal communication. A manager of any sort, especially a sustainability manager, must also have the necessary leadership skills to effectively supervise and guide a multitude of staff and stakeholders. Such skills sharpen through internships as well as conducting and presenting research projects. The Hampton Roads area is rich with opportunities for students to gain field experience in commercial, nonprofit, and public organizations.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

The array of enterprises mentioned above may present opportunities for you to be responsible for meeting compliance with environmental and social regulations; researching best practices in sustainability policies and initiatives; leading project management; setting strategic performance goals; as well as measuring, reporting, and optimizing the effectiveness of sustainability initiatives. Sustainability roles in organizations focus on areas of: supply chain and waste management and minimization; product innovation and development; environmental, social, and governance (ESG) investing; also employee engagement and diversity, equity, and inclusion.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Linda A. Ferguson

Program Coordinator, Sustainability Management
Professor of Management, Business, and Economics
lferguson@vwu.edu

