

Summary of sustainability master's desirability survey:

1) Employers:

59% of employers have indicated that they already employ one or more individuals with expertise in sustainability.

Additional 0.5% indicated that they would like to add a position in the near future but don't have it now.

These areas expertise were identified as employers as the most valuable for their organizations:

Sustainable food systems and urban agriculture 21%

Alternative and renewable energy 54%

Climate change mitigation 37%

Knowledge of environmental law and policy 49%

Social impact assessment 46%

Economic impact assessment 59%

Environmental impact assessment 80%

Neighborhood and community sustainability and revitalization 44%

2) Alumni survey (last three years, all relevant majors) were asked

If you were to pursue graduate study in / sustainability, which of these options would you choose:

Master of Business Administration (MBA) with an emphasis in Sustainability (33-39 credits). The MBA program would focus on sustainable business and management practices. 16%

Interdisciplinary Master of Sustainability Leadership (Master of Arts or Master of Science, 33 credits). Sustainability Leadership graduates will be competent in four knowledge areas: environmental science, green technology, governance, and sustainable economic development. They will be prepared to integrate environmental, economic, cultural and social data and lead sustainability projects in private and public sectors. 30%

Master of Public Administration (MPA) with a Certificate in Sustainability (42 credits). The MPA program prepares students to lead in public management, local, state, and federal/national government, nongovernmental organizations, and to work in the nonprofit sector. 28%

Master of Science in Environmental Sciences (36-42 credits). MSES graduates become professionals with a mastery of environmental science, along with the analytical and policy skills necessary to apply that knowledge in a broader context. They typically work as environmental scientists in private industries, educational institutions, and government agencies. 16%

Other graduate degree 10%

3) Student survey:

12% of all juniors and seniors are interested in ANY graduate degree during the next 3 years. Among those who are interested in a graduate degree:

Total interested in sustainability-related graduate degree: 33%,
among them:

Master of Public Administration (MPA) with a Certificate in Sustainability (42 credits). The MPA program prepares students to lead in public management, local, state, and federal/national government, nongovernmental organizations, and to work in the nonprofit sector. 25%

Interdisciplinary Master of Sustainability Leadership (Master of Arts or Master of Science, 33 credits). Sustainability Leadership graduates will be competent in four knowledge areas: environmental science, green technology, governance, and sustainable economic development. They will be prepared to integrate environmental, economic, cultural and social data and lead sustainability projects in private and public sectors. 24%

Master of Business Administration (MBA) with an emphasis in Sustainability (33-39 credits). The MBA program would focus on sustainable business and management practices. 24%

Master of Science in Environmental Sciences (36-42 credits). MSES graduates become professionals with a mastery of environmental science, along with the analytical and policy skills necessary to apply that knowledge in a broader context. They typically work as environmental scientists in private industries, educational institutions, and government agencies. 19%

Elena Lioubimtseva Professor of Geography and Environmental Studies Grand Valley State University 2013 Survey Results