Combining environmental knowledge with sustainable business practices is an ambitious way to be an active leader in global issues and climate change. At Gustavson, we pride ourselves in being visionaries, disruptors, and problem-solvers in creating a brighter future for life on Earth.

Social and sustainable responsibility are one of the four pillars which guide the core values of Gustavson School of Business. These topics will be at the forefront of your business education and are highly integrated into your journey throughout the Bachelor of Commerce degree.

Some of the social and sustainable learning will be through required courses; however, there are many ways to integrate sustainability into your learning through additional courses and programs offered at UVic.

The Bachelor of Commerce program is designed to support uniqueness and individuality throughout your degree. Ranging from pre-core electives, co-ops, to mentorship programs, the Bachelor of Commerce program strives to provide the tools you need to bring your unique edge to the business world and help shape the future of our planet.
ANTH 302

Global, Health, and the Environment

A comparative framework for understanding the relationship between global processes, the environment and health. Topics may include the origin and evolution of infectious diseases with human societies, social and economic inequalities, violence, gender, diet, health policies, technologies, pandemics, climate change, and health care industries. Emphasis on how local experiences of health are linked to global processes via the environment.

CS 201

Issues and Ideas in Canadian Environmentalism

An exploration of the connections between Canadian culture and environment including an examination of our cultural worldview both past and present. Investigates how our sense of nation, national destiny and religious, cultural and ethnic inheritance has shaped and continues to shape our ideas of the wilderness, the Canadian environment and environmental issues.

ECON 111

The Economy and the Environment

Investigates the linkages between economic activity and the environment. Studies the relationships between economic growth, trade, urbanization and the global environment, with a particular focus on urban air pollution, water pollution, hazardous waste, solid waste management, and climate change. Environmental policy design, in both developed and developing countries, is the central unifying theme of the course. The course is non-technical in nature and does not require any background in economics or environmental studies.

EOS 110

Oceans and Atmospheres

Origin and structure of the oceans and atmosphere. Dynamic processes that drive ocean and atmosphere circulation, weather patterns and global climate change. The coastal ocean, marine ecosystems, nutrient and carbon cycles, human influences on ocean environments, marine resources and sustainability.

EOS 120

The Dynamic Earth


ES 200

Introduction to Environmental Studies

Introduction to the symptoms and sources of environmental problems and approaches to resolving them. Global and local food systems are used as a focal lens through which to view and understand human impacts on ecosystems (e.g. climate change, biodiversity loss, deforestation) and how those impacts can be best addressed.
ES 240  
**Ecological Processes**  
An introduction to the discipline of ecology with a focus on understanding biotic processes as they relate to contemporary environmental challenges.

ES 302  
**Capitalism, Justice, and Sustainability**  
Examines how the global capitalist economy is transforming ecosystems, and how social and environmental challenges are in turn beginning to transform capitalism. Economic alternatives are examined in local and global contexts (e.g. the social economy, steady state economies and Indigenous economic practices).

ES 312  
**Environmental Economics**  
An introduction to the economic analysis of environmental problems. In particular, an examination of policy interventions in cases where market activities result in socially undesirable impacts on the environment. Topics typically include: externalities; pollution control policy; climate change; public goods; time, uncertainty and the environment; and trade and the environment.

ES 347  
**Eco-gastronomy**  
Examines how food decisions, from the personal to the global, influence human and planetary health. Students develop a food literacy that extends beyond simple nutrition and incorporates cultural, ecological and socio-economic dimensions. A central question examined is: what constitutes ‘good’ food?

GEOG 103  
**Introduction to Physical Geography**  
Introduces the science of Physical Geography using an earth-systems approach. Course themes include global climates and climate change, hydrology and water resources, geomorphology and natural hazards, and biogeography; with focus on how geographic sciences are applied to address real world issues.

GEOG 101A  
**Environment, Society, and Sustainability**  
Introduction to the functioning of the biosphere, the ways in which humans alter natural processes, environmental consequences of these alterations and the implications for sustainability. Topics include: energy flows, biogeochemical cycles, ecosystem structure and dynamics, pollution, global change, water resources, biodiversity, endangered species, protected areas, agriculture and food, forestry, marine resources, poverty and development and different worldviews. Potential for a sustainable society is discussed.

GEOG 101B  
**Space, Place, and Society**  
Perspectives on the scope and purpose of human geography, emphasizing approaches, concepts and scales of geographical analysis. Topics include: social geography of cities; interpretation of regional; cultural and economic landscapes; urbanization and industrialization of regions; and economic development and social change in the world system.

GEOG 209  
**Introduction to Environmental Management**  
Introduces students to the conceptual foundations of resource and environmental management by emphasizing geographic aspects of resource systems within environmental, social, economic, and policy frameworks. Using a variety of examples, it examines strategies and tools such as adaptive management approaches, ecosystem-based management, impact assessment, and conflict resolution.
GEOG 252
Introduction to Coastal Geography
Explores a wide variety of coastal topics from biophysical, ecological, and social-economic perspectives. Topics focus on coastal landscapes and communities that may include fundamentals of coastal oceanography, climate, biodiversity, water quality, fisheries, indigenous people, tourism and implications for management.

GEOG 301
Environmental Impact Assessment
An introduction to the objectives, philosophy, concepts, methods and social implications of environmental impact assessment (EIA). A critical examination of EIA as an analytical tool in the context of resource management and public policy is undertaken. Examples are drawn from B.C., Canada and other countries.

GEOG 304
Coastal Conservation
Examines the natural science and social science dimensions of conservation on the remote and largely undeveloped central and north coast of British Columbia. Students explore current issues with relevant theory, thus uniting contemporary affairs with scholarship. Major themes are energy development and exploitation of biological resources (like fish and wildlife), but specific themes might change among years. Students learn from western scientific approaches, First Nations perspectives, and their interaction.

GEOG 314
Global Environment Change and Human Response
Based on four components: global environmental change; sustainable development; biodiversity; and population impoverishment and environmental degradation. Lectures and discussion emphasize the causes of global change, the present and expected impacts on natural and social systems, and response strategies that have been proposed or enacted.

HDCC 200
Introduction to Human Dimensions of Climate Change
An introduction to understanding and mitigating the impacts of climate change. After a basic introduction to the physical nature of climate change, the focus turns to impacts on humans in political, economic, sociological, and psychological terms, including possible mitigation and public policy strategies.

HIST 101E
Environmental History of the World
Explores the interaction between humankind and the global environment with emphasis on the post-1492 period. Central topics include the agricultural revolution, animal domestication, the Columbian Exchange, capitalism and industrialization, the impact of fossil fuels, species extinction, climate change, and environmentalism.

PHIL 333
Philosophy and the Environment
A philosophical investigation of the moral and conceptual dimensions of environmental problems. Different philosophies of the relation between humans and nature will be compared.
HDCC CERTIFICATE  
Human Dimensions of Climate Change

This certificate can be completed alongside your degree if you are interested in earning extra acknowledgement for studies focused in climate change. This certificate includes 10.5 units coursework. 4 required HDCC Courses, and 4.5 units of approved electives:

Required Courses

**HDCC 200**  
**Introduction to Human Dimensions of Climate Change**

An introduction to understanding and mitigating the impacts of climate change. After a basic introduction to the physical nature of climate change, the focus turns to impacts on humans in political, economic, sociological, and psychological terms, including possible mitigation and public policy strategies.

**HDCC 300**  
**Climate Change: An Opportunity for Social Transformation**

An opportunity for critical engagement with climate change as physical transformation, cultural object and incitement to social transformation. This interdisciplinary course approaches climate change as complex phenomena that are co-constituted by social and natural worlds. The course introduces students to a variety of lenses, knowledge networks, culturally constructed narratives and social justice issues that help them understand why responding to climate change is challenging but also opens up opportunities for change.

**HDCC 400**  
**Seminar on Human Dimensions of Climate Change**

Presentations by instructors, guest lecturers and students reinforce and extend knowledge of, and perspectives on, the impacts of climate change on humans. Strategies for mitigating the impacts are also considered.

Possible Electives

- GEOG 101A
- GEOG 103
- EOS 365
- GEOG 314
- HDCC 390
- HSTR 325
- EOS 110
- EOS 220
- SOC 207

Visit [https://www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/intd/hdcc/certificate/index.php](https://www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/intd/hdcc/certificate/index.php) for more information
MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Are you craving first-hand advice and guidance from a local business leader? Are you unsure of your career path, or have ideas without direction? The Executive Mentorship Program is a unique opportunity to match students with a mentor who they can connect with and learn from.

The pairing begins by submitting an application outlining your passions, interests, and goals for your Commerce degree. The application is reviewed and you are paired with a local business community leader who has first-hand experience in your field of interest. The partnership lasts eight months as you navigate five meeting topics.

You are eligible to apply for this program at any point during your degree. Visit https://www.uvic.ca/gustavson/faculty/executive/get-a-mentor/learn/index.php for more information.

CARBON OFFSET PITCH COMPETITION

Gustavson is proud to be one of the first-carbon neutral business schools in the world. Each year, Gustavson turns to students to help decide how to offset the carbon emissions and which offset projects to support. The Carbon Offset Pitch Competition is a competition which students create portfolios with 1-5 projects from a pre-approved list of offset projects happening world-wide, and explain why Gustavson’s carbon emissions should be offset through contributions toward the chosen projects.

This competition can be entered as an individual or team. It typically happens in the fall semester, near the end of the year in order to offset the years’ emissions. Find out more at https://www.uvic.ca/gustavson/cssi/carbon-neutrality-plus/index.php
CO-OP PROGRAM

Another unique feature of the Gustavson Bachelor of Commerce Program is the integration of work experience into your learning journey. Co-ops are an exciting way to gain experience in industries of your interest, and discover new positions available.

Gustavson School of Business is proud to have many sustainability-conscious co-op employers who offer a variety of positions. From responsible investing to sustainable project assistants, you will discover positions you never knew existed!

Employers with sustainability-related positions

- Gustavson CSSI
- Level Ground
- Level Ground
- Ocean Networks Canada
- Wiser Marine Technologies
- Inn at Laurel Point
- Nature Bees
- Deloitte
- Spare Labs
- Fireside Adventures
- BinBreen
- Origen Air

Working for a Better World Grant

This program offers funding to companies who may not have the funds to hire a co-op student otherwise. This pertains particularly to non-profit organizations as well as business working on developing a sustainability strategy.

CLUBS AND GROUPS

Joining a club is one of the best ways to meet like-minded people who share similar passions and interests. At UVic, there are plenty of sustainable-focused clubs you can join, who take direct action on social and sustainable initiatives.

- Campus Community Garden
- CREAN
- Community Cabbage
- Divest UVic
- ERC Network
- Edible Campus
- Global Water Brigades
- Greater Victoria Green Team
- Sacred Ecology
- Surfrider UVic
- Turning the Tide
- UVic Food Bank and Free Store
- UVic Ocean Students Society
- UVic Parks Club
- UVic Sustainability Project

Timeline

In BCom, students build their path as they move forward through the program. Use this Timeline Planner to help schedule your sustainable learning journey and incorporation of extra-curricular activities based on your learning style and course schedule.