

THE WEB OF SUSTAINABILITY

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Prepared by:

Thomas T. Ankersen

**Legal Skills Professor and Director, Conservation Clinic
University of Florida Levin College of Law
2008-2009 Provost's Faculty Fellow for Sustainability**

Mackenzie Ezell, M.S. Candidate

Department of Environmental Engineering, University of Florida College of Engineering

(Note1: Based on a review of websites of the University of Florida. MS word version includes hyperlinks to UF websites.

Note2: Programs or initiatives are included that do not use the term sustainable or sustainability but appear to embody sustainability's often cited core precepts - integration of ecology, economy and equity - or "coupled human and natural systems")

I. Academic Sustainability at UF

a. University Wide

- i. The undergraduate [Minor in Sustainability Studies](#)
 1. Housed in CLAS but serves all colleges
 2. Has a service learning component
 3. Limited governance through sustainability committee
- ii. [School of Natural Resources and the Environment](#)
 1. [A "University wide Program in Ecology, Environmental Science & Sustainability."](#)
- iii. The proposed **Interdisciplinary Graduate Concentration in Sustainability**
 1. Approved by sustainability committee
 2. Proposed to be housed in DCP but serves all or selected Colleges
- iv. Research Centers and Institutes
 1. The UF Water Institute
 - a. Water Institute Thrust Areas (2007-2010)
 - i. [Water Resources Sustainability](#)
 2. The Institute for Sustainable Energy

- a. Mission: “brings together research capabilities necessary to create a [sustainable energy future](#).”
 - v. The [UF Sustainability Committee](#)
 - 1. The Sustainability Committee is an advisory body to encourage application of sustainability principles in all university policies, practices and operations.
 - a. The director of the Office of Sustainability and an [academic officer appointed by the provost](#) serve as nonvoting *ex officio* members.
- II. Sustainability Programs within the Colleges
- a. College of Design, Construction & Planning
 - i. Governance – **College-wide sustainability committee** (includes external members from other Colleges)
 - ii. Intra-College major in sustainability
 - 1. [B.S. in Sustainability and the Built Environment](#)
 - 2. Currently advertising for an assistant professor in sustainability
 - 3. At least 2 sustainability certificates linked to schools
 - a. [Certificate in Sustainable Architecture](#)
 - b. [Certificate in Sustainable Construction](#)
 - iii. Powell Center for Construction and Environment
 - 1. Mission: to [foster the implementation of sustainability principles](#) into the creation of the built environment internationally.
 - b. College of Engineering
 - i. **Proposed certificate in Sustainable Engineering**
 - ii. [Program in Systems Ecology and Ecological Engineering](#)
 - 1. uses quantitative methods **to understand ecological systems of humanity and nature**, and presents opportunities to learn designs for their interface and unification.
 - iii. [Center for Environmental Policy](#)
 - 1. Mission: “CEP is dedicated to conducting research, teaching, and service that addresses the interface of **energy, ecology, and economics** and to establishing **sustainable environmental policies** and management frameworks.”
 - iv. [Center for Wetlands](#)
 - 1. Mission: “Cutting across campus departments and disciplinary areas, the CFW fosters interdisciplinary research, teaching, and service regarding wetlands and related resources with an emphasis on **sustainable patterns of humanity and environment**.”
 - 2. Interdisciplinary Concentration in Wetland Sciences

- a. Mission: “involve the cooperative efforts of various **natural science disciplines..., engineering disciplines,... social sciences,... and law.**”
- c. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
 - i. Center for Latin American Studies
 - 1. [Tropical Conservation and Development Program](#)
 - a. Mission: “to bridge theory and practice to advance biodiversity conservation, **sustainable resource use**, and human well-being in the tropics.”
 - b. Faculty are submitting a MacArthur Foundation **proposal to create a graduate degree in Sustainable Development Practice**
 - ii. [Land Use and Environmental Change Institute](#)
 - 1. Mission: LUECI promotes basic and applied studies of environmental changes associated with natural phenomena ...and human activities.....[C]ourses that address **complex interactions among climate, humans, and the environment,...**”
 - iii. [Department of Religion Graduate Specialization in Religion and Nature](#)
 - 1. Mission: “...understanding the complex, reciprocal relationships among **human cultures, religions, and the earth’s living systems.**”
 - iv. Department of Sociology
 - a. [Program in Environmental and Resource Sociology](#)
 - v. [Department of Anthropology](#)
 - 1. programmatic foci relate directly to pressing **social, biological, and environmental** issues.
 - a. The New Ecologies: culturally mediated interactions between **humans and their environments.**
 - vi. Department of Zoology
 - 1. [Arthur Marshall Jr. Ecological Sciences Laboratory](#)
 - a. bringing modern ecological theory to bear on significant applied problems, particularly in conservation biology.
- d. Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences
 - i. College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
 - 1. [School of Natural Resources and the Environment](#)
 - a. [A “University wide Program in Ecology, Environmental Science & Sustainability.”](#)
 - i. Mission: “SNRE, through its campuswide reach, is committed to enhancing understanding of the interactions of natural systems and society.”

- i. School of Teaching & Learning
 - 1. [Science & Environmental Education Program](#)