



Artist rendering of Chatham University's future Eden Hall Campus.



Solar panels on Chatham University's Shadyside Campus.

# Master of Sustainability

"Chatham's School of Sustainability and the Environment provides a teaching atmosphere of a liberal arts college, but approaches problem-solving and challenges in the same fashion as research universities. In this sense, it is the best of both worlds for professors and students."

Michael H. Finewood, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor of Sustainability



From the local level to emerging global initiatives, sustainability principles are growing in importance and influence in all aspects of our society. Individuals and organizations are increasingly seeking to gain the knowledge and practical skills necessary to manage the complex challenges posed by sustainability. With the Master of Sustainability program, Chatham University is educating leaders to confront and address these challenges.

The Master of Sustainability at Chatham University's School of Sustainability and the Environment (SSE) is a two-year, full-time cohort program offering an innovative and unique approach to the study of sustainability. By identifying and finding solutions to real-world sustainability challenges, our students develop an academically sound, yet professionally-oriented understanding of how to simultaneously improve **economic development, social justice, and the biophysical environment.**

Program highlights include:

- A curriculum rooted in systems thinking, immersive learning, and applied research
- A rich experience with a cohort of like-minded, but diversely trained fellow students
- Valuable experience through internships and study abroad opportunities
- Flexible focus areas and integrated degree opportunities through a variety of other Chatham graduate programs
- Faculty who are dedicated to transdisciplinarity, with expertise spanning the sciences, social sciences, and humanities
- Placements that provide experience and opportunities for careers in a variety of sectors, along with research training for students wishing to go on to doctoral programs
- The opportunity to work in a "living laboratory" and play an integral role in shaping the future of the country's first zero net energy higher education campus built from the ground up

## chatham UNIVERSITY

### SCHOOL OF SUSTAINABILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

For more information about the program, sustainability job opportunities, and other resources, visit [www.chatham.edu/sse](http://www.chatham.edu/sse).

Office of Admission . . . Woodland Road . . . Berry Hall . . . Pittsburgh, PA 15232  
800-837-1290 . . . [gradadmission@chatham.edu](mailto:gradadmission@chatham.edu)

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- 3.3 GPA
  - Three letters of recommendation from faculty or direct work supervisors should describe applicant's:
    - Capacity for independent thinking
    - Written and verbal communication skills
    - Ability to thrive in a collaborative, transdisciplinary academic setting
    - Commitment to advancing sustainability
  - Essay/Letter: Each applicant should submit a one- to two-page letter that explains the motivation to join a transdisciplinary sustainability program
  - Educational Prerequisites:
    - Bachelor's degree from an accredited academic institution
    - Preference for applicants with coursework and/or experience demonstrating capacity for transdisciplinary thought
  - Completed application form
  - Payment of non-refundable \$45 application fee
- Online application without fee:  
<http://apply.chatham.edu/graduate>

## MASTER OF SUSTAINABILITY

The Master of Sustainability prepares students for careers that require a transdisciplinary, systems perspective on science, social science, management, education, and the humanities.

The program of study has four components:

1. Foundational coursework in the pillars of sustainability (social justice, economic development, and the environment)
2. Coursework on transdisciplinary and systems thinking
3. A set of topical specialization courses from a specified list (or other courses with consent of the graduate program director/advisor)
4. Internship experience and a final project (as a group or individually)

### FUNDAMENTALS

#### Intellectual Core

- Fundamentals of Sustainability
- Sustainability and Systems

#### Depth

- Fundamentals of Environmental Science
- Sustainability and Society
- Sustainability and Economic Development

#### Professional Preparation

- Professional Development
- Group Project
- Research Methods

### SPECIALIZATION\*

Courses that form an appropriate area of specialization. Choose from list or design in collaboration with advisor and dean/program director. This may include a thesis and/or internships, as appropriate for student needs and abilities.

- Sustainable Business Management
- Not-for-profit Management
- Environmental Science
- Higher Education
- Health and Wellness
- Agriculture
- Water Resource Management
- Literature

### EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

- Business
- Conservation/Ecology
- Energy Resource Management
- K-12 Education
- GIS
- Food
- Summer or other extended placement is required for all students

### CULMINATING EXPERIENCE

- Advanced Seminar in Sustainability

*\*Students will have the opportunity to define their own areas of specialization.*

## SCHOOL OF SUSTAINABILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The School of Sustainability and the Environment (SSE), established in 2009, provides the necessary expertise in social justice, economic development, and environmental studies to support sustainable goals and practices from the individual to the global level. The vision of the school is aligned with the legacy of Rachel Carson, Chatham's most distinguished alumna, whose work led to the founding of the modern environmental movement. Currently based at Chatham University's historic Shadyside Campus, the school will eventually be housed at a new, 388-acre zero net energy Eden Hall Campus in Richland Township, Pa., which is just 33 minutes north of Pittsburgh.

## CHATHAM UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SUSTAINABILITY & THE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMS

- [Master of Arts in Food Studies](#)
- [Master of Sustainability](#)
- [Certificate in Sustainable Management](#)

*Big thinking for a big world*

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