Sustainability Designation Application Process

Sustainability Designation by Instructor

June 1, 2020

1. Please review the Core Concepts and Hallmarks below to determine whether your course redesign for Sustainability will meet at least one from each category. The Hallmark chosen should align with at least one of the established CLOs (Course Learning Outcomes) of your course. As part of the designation process, you'll be asked to report on the Hallmark-CLO alignment.

2. Complete the S-Designation Intake Form: https://forms.gle/hsQMR4pvS33TNURo6.

3. Contact the Academic Sustainability Committee chairs (Debbie Weeks - daweeks@hawaii.edu and Drew Kapp - dkapp@hawaii.edu) to schedule a "talk-story" S-Designation intake session with at least three Committee members to discuss your ideas about incorporating Sustainability into your course.

4. The Academic Sustainability Committee will review your application. Following S-Designation approval for your course, please include the Sustainability Hallmark you have chosen on your syllabus. Once the Academic Subject Certificate in Sustainability goes into effect in Fall 2021 your class will count toward students’ Academic Subject Certificate in Sustainability.

5. Within the first three weeks of every semester you teach the S-designated class, please submit to the Committee Chairs your syllabus with the Sustainability Hallmark listed.

6. Within the last three weeks of every semester you teach the S-designated class, administer an online survey to your students asking them to evaluate the degree to which the Sustainability Hallmark was met. For your convenience, the Academic Sustainability Committee can provide you with survey language.

7. Provide the Academic Sustainability Committee Chairs with survey results no later than the day grades are due. Failure to administer a survey and share survey results with the Committee Chairs may jeopardize future S-designation status of the course.

8. Sustainability course designation will last for five years. After that time period, you will need to reapply for the designation.

Sustainability Core Concepts

- **Ecosystem Services**: Biodiversity, Conservation, Ecological Restoration, Invasive Species Impacts
- **Ecological Footprints/Carbon Footprints**
- **Sustainable Materials Management**: Cradle to Cradle, Zero Waste, Life Cycle Assessment
- **Climate Change**: Mitigation, Adaptation, Resilience
Sustainable Food Systems: Food Sovereignty, Food Security, Food Miles, Agroecology, Local First
- **Equity**: Indigenous Wisdom, Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), Spiritual Ecology, Environmental Justice
- **Sustainable Economics**: Quadruple Bottom Line, Alternatives to GDP, Circular Economy

**Sustainability Course Hallmarks and Explanatory Notes**

These Hallmarks are used to approve a course for Sustainability Designation. Hallmarks should be linked to CLO(s) and, at the time of course assessment, confirmation of satisfactory coverage of Hallmark can be noted in the Results Analysis for renewal of the Sustainability Designation.

The course must satisfy at least one of the following Hallmarks:
- The course demonstrates how concepts of sustainability are connected to local, regional and global issues and applies these concepts to local, regional or global challenges. (Refer to the UN goals below for specific topics.)
- The course imparts understanding of the science of the environment and how this knowledge can be applied towards creating a more sustainable world.
- The course describes how traditional and indigenous perspectives or other socio-cultural values and attitudes inform practices of sustainability and encourages students to connect to personal values and attitudes that facilitate sustainable living.

**Explanatory Notes**

According to UH System Sustainability Policy EP 4.202, “… sustainability means serving the needs of the present without jeopardizing the needs of the future.” The United Nations definition of Sustainability is “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/5839GSDR%202015_SD_concept_definition_rev.pdf

United Nations Sustainability goals: