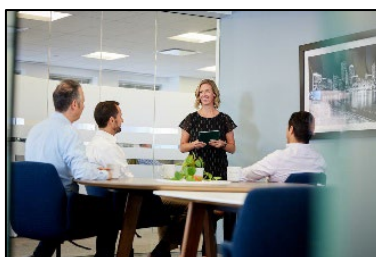


Corporate Sustainability & Social Responsibility is the discipline focused on helping organizations operate in ways that are environmentally sustainable, socially responsible, and economically successful. Professionals in this field work at the intersection of business, environmental science, public policy, ethics, and stakeholder engagement to help organizations manage environmental impacts, reduce risk, improve resource efficiency, meet regulatory requirements, and advance sustainability goals. Increasingly, corporations are expected to address environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues while creating long-term value for shareholders, employees, customers, and communities. Some of the critical questions that might be addressed with a career in these fields include:

- *How can businesses reduce their environmental footprint while remaining competitive and profitable?*
- *How should companies measure, report, and improve environmental, social, and governance (ESG) performance?*
- *What strategies are most effective for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and achieving corporate climate goals?*
- *How can organizations build more sustainable and ethical supply chains?*
- *How can companies create positive social and environmental impacts while meeting stakeholder expectations?*



Careers

Careers in **Corporate Sustainability & Social Responsibility** involve working with corporations, consulting firms, nonprofit organizations, financial institutions, government agencies, and certification organizations to improve environmental performance, manage sustainability programs, and advance responsible business practices.

Career	Potential Employers
Corporate Sustainability and ESG	
Sustainability Manager	Corporations across all sectors, Universities, Healthcare Systems
Sustainability Analyst	Corporations, Consulting Firms, Financial Institutions
ESG Analyst	Investment Firms, Asset Managers, Banks, Rating Agencies
Corporate Responsibility Manager	Multinational Corporations, Consumer Brands
Climate and Sustainability Specialist	Corporations, Utilities, Energy Companies
Environmental Management and Compliance	
Environmental Compliance Specialist	Manufacturing Firms, Energy Companies, Consulting Firms
Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Manager	Manufacturing, Pharmaceutical, Technology, and Industrial Firms
Sustainability Reporting Specialist	Corporations, Consulting Firms, ESG Reporting Organizations
Carbon Accounting Specialist	Consulting Firms, Corporations, Carbon Management Firms
Consulting and Strategy	
Sustainability Consultant	Consulting Firms, Engineering Firms, Boutique Sustainability Consultancies
ESG Strategy Consultant	Management Consulting Firms, Financial Services Firms
Sustainable Supply Chain Analyst	Manufacturing, Retail, Logistics Companies
Circular Economy Specialist	Consumer Goods Companies, Consulting Firms
Community Engagement and Communications	
Sustainability Communications Specialist	Corporations, NGOs, Universities
Stakeholder Engagement Coordinator	Corporations, Utilities, Infrastructure Companies
Sustainability Program Coordinator	Corporations, Nonprofits, Professional Associations

Coursework & Degree Options

The **Corporate Sustainability & Social Responsibility** pathway is a strong fit for Environmental Studies majors, though students in the Environmental Science major often pursue this pathway as well. Students interested in careers in sustainability management, ESG reporting, environmental consulting, sustainable business, corporate responsibility, or sustainable finance may wish to consider the following courses to fulfill elective requirements:



3-cr. Science & Technology elective courses:

- GEV 4358 - Environmental Project Management
- GEV 4357 - Applied Environmental Science



3-credit elective Environmental Policy & Management courses:

- GEV 3001 – Introduction to Sustainability Studies
- GEV 4001 – Advanced Sustainability Studies
- GEV 4336 – Environmental Economics
- GEV 4331 – Environmental Policy and Management
- GEV 3570 – Land Use Planning and Management
- GEV 3580 – Natural Resources and Conservation
- PA 2000 – Public Policy
- PA 3000 – Overview of the Nonprofit Sector



3-credit elective Environmental Social Science and Humanities courses:

- GEV 3004 – Geographies of Environmental Justice
- ETH 3650 – Ethics of the Anthropocene
- PHI 2121 – Environmental Ethics

Degree Options

- Students may wish to consider a **Minor or Double Major in Economics** or **Minor in Business**.

Notes:

- Students pursuing this pathway should consider seeking internships with corporations, consulting firms, sustainability offices, nonprofit organizations, utilities, or government agencies.
- Many study abroad programs offer courses focused on sustainability, international development, business ethics, and environmental governance that may complement this pathway.
- There are additional thematic courses offered every semester that can count toward elective requirements that may be relevant to this pathway.

Alumni Spotlight

Michelle Engelbert

B.S. Environmental Science major and Business minor, Class of 2014

Manager, ESG, Climate, and CSR, Burlington Stores

Michele worked in environmental consulting for several years following graduation and then earned her M.A. in Teaching and taught math and science at the K-8 level for four years before moving into the ESG and CSR space in 2023 as an analyst at Burlington Stores where she has risen to become a manager responsible for the company's CSR reporting GHG inventory efforts.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/mengelbert/>



To learn more about this and other career pathways, use the QR code, contact your academic advisor, or contact the Chair of the Department of Geography and the Environment for guidance.

The GEV Career Pathways Page:

