

FY2022 Sustainability Education Grant Program Support for GE Sustainability Course Development Request for Proposals

Purpose

The FY2022 Sustainability Education Grant Program supports faculty and academic units in the revision of existing 3 credit hour General Education (GE) courses or the development of new 3 credit hour GE courses, in the area of [sustainability](#)¹. This grant opportunity is intended to support the development of sustainability theme courses at all Ohio State campuses. Support will be provided for conversion of existing courses (\$500 per existing course) and development of new courses (\$2,000 per new course) with no limit on the total number of courses per award. Individual faculty or academic units are eligible to apply. The anticipated remaining amount to be awarded in FY2022 is \$37,000.

NOTE: GE theme approval is a separate process from this grant program. The usual approval processes for GE courses must be followed and funding by this program does not guarantee GE course approval.

Proposals for this grant program will be accepted through the end of FY22 or until all funds are expended. Priority will be given to those proposals that specify plans to submit a request for GE course approval by July 1, 2022.

Background

The Sustainability Education and Learning Committee (SELC), administered by the Sustainability Institute (SI), helps to facilitate and support sustainability-related proposals for curriculum development and is advisory to CAA in the proposal review process. All proposals must still adhere to formal curricular review processes.

SELC is working with the Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) to support the development of GE courses related to sustainability. This FY2022 Grant Program targets support for 3-credit GE courses on sustainability topics and complements funds available from OAA to support 4-credit GE course development. Proposals submitted to the SELC Grant Program should focus on development of GE courses that will be proposed for the GE sustainability theme; in some cases, these courses may be appropriate for other GE themes as well.

¹While specific definitions of sustainability differ across disciplines, sustainability is motivated by the fundamental dependence of humans on the natural environment. An understanding of human and natural systems and their interdependencies is the cornerstone of sustainability education. Rather than attempting to distill a single definition of sustainability, SELC acknowledges the importance of embracing multiple definitions as they represent different, but essential, dimensions of sustainability. These are represented by the six dimensions framework that SELC has used to classify undergraduate programs and courses at Ohio State.

SELC includes faculty representatives from seven colleges who seek to improve cross-unit collaboration for communication and coordination of existing sustainability education programs and courses, as well as support development of new learning opportunities for students. In support of its goal to better coordinate existing sustainability curricula, SELC has generated resources that may be of use to faculty and units that are proposing GE course revisions or newGE course development, including:

- [SELC report on undergraduate education at Ohio State](#), including a summary of existing undergraduate academic program landscape in sustainability and potential “high demand” areas based on student interests
- [Self-reported data](#) by all academic units on program and course level offerings in sustainability.

General Eligibility

- A. Proposals can be submitted by individual faculty members or by academic units.
- B. The proposal should focus on either the revision of existing 3 credit hour courses to align with the GE sustainability theme area or the development of new 3 credit hour GE sustainability theme courses.
- C. The proposed course(s) must each address some aspect of the fundamental interdependence of human and natural systems and encompass at least one of the six dimensions of sustainability. See **Section B under Proposal Requirements** below for more information on SELC’s six dimensions of sustainability. For additional background on these six dimensions and how they relate to the multiple definitions of sustainability, see this summary document adapted from the SELC report: [Sustainability Education Framework](#).
- D. The work plan is well developed and will result in course launch or offering in alignment with the new GE timetable.
- E. **Funding from this grant can cover:**
 - i. Release time for instructors, additional compensation for faculty, and off-duty/summer pay to develop or revised proposed courses
 - ii. Instructor compensation for teaching courses within the proposed program
 - iii. Instructional design support (e.g. ODEE, UITL)
 - iv. Marketing of proposed courses
- F. **Funding from this grant will not cover:**
 - i. Office equipment, renovation, supplies, facility needs, or services and software available on campus
 - ii. Travel costs for conferences or workshops

Proposal Requirements

The full proposal must be in 12-point font with appropriate spacing and 1-inch margins to ensure readability and **must be submitted as one complete PDF document**. The proposal narrative (items B-F below) may not exceed 5 pages in length, including any charts, tables, graphs, and references.

Proposals should include the following components:

- A. **Cover Page:** Include name of the academic unit, name of the faculty member submitting the proposal, title(s) of the proposed course(s), and any other academic units or faculty members involved;
- B. **Description of proposed course(s), learning outcomes, and how the content links to one or more of the six dimensions of sustainability:**
 - **Human-Natural Systems**
 - Coupled human-natural systems; integration of environmental, economic, and social factors; systems thinking; resilience of human-natural systems; changes in these systems over time
 - **Earth and Environmental Systems and Sustainability**
 - Environmental, earth, and natural resource systems; knowledge of planetary/natural systems, e.g., climate, aquatics, soils, forests, wildlife, geology, ecology, agriculture; AND how these relate to human well-being and sustainability or are impacted by human activities
 - **Economy, Governance, and Sustainability**
 - Economic, political, business, and policy processes, including: economy, consumption, production; laws, policy, institutions; business, strategy, management; costs, benefits, tradeoffs; AND how these relate to sustainability or the environment
 - **Society, Culture, and Sustainability**
 - Social and cultural processes, including: justice, equity, values, and ethics; history, religion, and the arts; citizenship; behavior and decision making; power and cultural critique; AND how they relate to sustainability or the environment
 - **Sustainable Engineering, Technology, and Design**
 - Engineering processes; technological innovation; systems design; infrastructure and built environment; human-machine interface; manufacturing processes; life cycle; product design; AND how these relate to sustainability, including lower environmental impacts, greater resource efficiency, or improved resilience
 - **Health, Well-Being, and Sustainability**
 - Human health, safety, risk, sustainable livelihoods; social well-being for a community, region, or globally; changes in well-being over time AND how these are impacted by environmental conditions

The six dimensions of sustainability and their rationale are also outlined in the SELC report (see [SELC report](#), pp. 7, 43 - Appendix D) and in [this](#) summary document on sustainability education;

- C. Provide the **rationale** for proposing these course(s) for funding and a summary of how the course(s) add to interdisciplinary breadth, new skills/training, and/or expanded learning opportunities within sustainability education at OSU;

- D. Describe the approach to **interdisciplinary learning**; if applicable, describe the connection of the proposed course(s) to **project-based or experiential learning**;
- E. Referencing the [SELC sustainability education program and course level survey data on the SI website](#), please address whether similar courses currently exist, and if so, **how this proposal will address critical gaps and will limit duplication of existing courses**;
- F. Include a **plan of work** with the **timeline** that you will follow to develop the proposed course(s). Note key milestones and any task dependencies;
- G. **Proposal attachment:** The last page of this document provides a template for a required attachment. This attachment must be included with the proposal narrative as **one complete PDF file** for the proposal to be considered.
 - i. **Summary and Budget (see Appendix A)**

Proposal Review

Proposals will be reviewed by SELC and will consider the proposal's potential to expand GE sustainability learning opportunities for existing undergraduate students at OSU. **Proposals may be submitted electronically as one combined PDF document to Gina Jaquet, SI director of education and learning, at Jaquet.6@osu.edu.**

Proposals for this grant program will be accepted through the end of FY22 or until all funds are expended. **Priority will be given to those proposals that specify plans to submit a request for GE course approval by July 1, 2022.**

- A. **Review Criteria:** All proposals will be reviewed according to the following criteria:
 - i. **Eligibility:** Does the proposal include revision of existing or creation of new 3 credit hour GE courses for the sustainability theme area?
 - ii. **Proposal impact:** Does this proposal result in an increased opportunity for students to complete a sustainability-related minor or certificate through completion of the proposed or revised courses?
 - iii. **Complementarities:** Does the proposal clearly indicate how the proposed GE course(s) will complement existing courses or programs? Does the proposal provide a plan for coordinating with other units that may have an interest in this topic area?

Fund Administration

- A. **Fund Administration:** Grant funds will be transferred to an account designated by the department of the named faculty administrator for the proposed course.
- B. **Grant Duration:** Grant funds will be issued for up to one year from the effective date of the award. Time extension requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- C. **Notification:** Applicants will be notified via e-mail about the outcomes of their proposals on a rolling basis. A summary of the successful proposals will be published on the SI website.
- D. **Reporting Requirements:** A report detailing the use of the funds will be requested by

the Sustainability Institute. The report should address efforts made toward course development/revision and launch, challenges and successes, and expenditures.

Key Dates and Information

Proposal Due Date: Proposals for this grant program will be accepted through the end of FY22 or until all funds are expended. **Priority will be given to those proposals that specify plans to submit a request for GE course approval by July 1, 2022.**

Award Notification: Rolling

Sustainability Education Grant Contact: Gina Jaquet, SI director of education and learning, (e): Jaquet.6@osu.edu (p): 614-292-3732



APPENDIX A: SUMMARY AND BUDGET

Proposal Title:

Academic Unit:

Department, Course Number, and Title	Existing or New Course?	Requested Funds	Primary faculty members associated with creating or teaching this course (Full names and Dot #s)