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 CANTERBURY
To Whaea Te Whare o Te Aho Rau
 Christchurch New Zealand



Sustainability Curriculum at UC
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Background

2007-2008 report by A. Covich, 'A Convenient Place to Address and Inconvenient Truth? Sustainability in the UC Curriculum', found:

- * Cross-disciplinary teaching is difficult within the current university structure.
- * Cross-disciplinary teaching lacks recognition at UC.
- * Sustainability is such a huge subject it can only be very briefly touched upon in most degrees.
- * Sustainability and sustainable teaching need a more active learning approach than is currently in use at UC.


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Background (cont.)

The report also identified well over 100 courses on offer that dealt with sustainability to some degree.

How to address the pedagogical and organisational challenges (including resource constraints) identified?




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Strategic Thinking

UC draft Sustainability Strategies through the 2000s recognised the need for developing a more comprehensive, connected sustainability curriculum.

This culminated in the 2011 version of the Strategy, which offered a plan for starting simple and working towards a fuller curriculum plan (potentially developing a degree programme, for instance) in ten years.

Strategy was to start with an Endorsement, and a new inter-disciplinary course


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Endorsement in Resilience and Sustainability

What is an Endorsement?

- An Endorsement recognises a particular focus on a topic within a degree that isn't constituted as its own department.
- It represents a 40% focus on that topic.
- Endorsements are almost always used to show a specific focus within a discipline – eg microbiology, ecology, environmental science, etc
- However, we have used it as a way to mark out a topic that sits across *all* disciplines – BUT have started with Science.


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Endorsement in Resilience and Sustainability

The Endorsement is made up of existing courses with one new course (SUST 201).

The courses come from the Faculties of Science, Engineering, Arts and Business.

An endorsement to the BSc, but we hope to expand it to the BA.

Year One is mainly Science courses.

Year Two includes Arts and Management/Marketing, and the new SUST course. These years provide *breadth*.

Year Three requires approved courses specific to the major, and this provides *depth*.

Want to get that green point of difference in your BSc?

The Endorsement in Resilience and Sustainability could be for you!

It highlights:

- Ability to work across disciplines
- Understanding the connections between ecological, social, cultural and economic dimensions of sustainability
- Applied practical experience through service learning and community engagement.

The Endorsement will be especially relevant to BSc students in Biology, Geography and Geology.

For more information check & see:
www.canterbury.ac.nz/undergraduate/endorsement-sustainability

UC SUSTAINABILITY

SUST 201 resilience and sustainability

A new interdisciplinary course bringing together the ecological, social, cultural and economic dimensions of sustainability.

This course focuses on experiential and community engagement, as well as practical experience in applying sustainability principles to real world problems. Works with a range of degree programmes, and fits in to the Semester and Auto schedules. Check yourself off the leading green edge.

For more information check out: www.sust201.canterbury.ac.nz/overseas

SUST 201: Resilience and Sustainability

SUST 201 is a new team-taught course. Involves academics from Anthropology, Biology, Geography, Maori and Indigenous Studies, Management/Marketing and Sociology. Formally, it is convened by Geography. It is supported by staff from the Sustainability Office, who are organising the partner community groups.

SUST 201 (cont.)

SUST 201 uses principles of Service Learning, with groups of students developing concept plans based on what they have learned from community groups about particular issues.

The theme for the group projects for 2014 is FOOD.

Students from most disciplines can enrol if they have the pre-requisites. SUST 201 is on the schedules for both the BSc and BA degrees.

SUST 201 (cont.)

- * tools to understand how to integrate the insights from various disciplines around the emerging fields of resilience and sustainability.
- * introduce resilience and sustainability as concepts which have recently gained prominence as societies deal with rapid social and environmental change.
- * applying interdisciplinary knowledge to a local problem.
- * establishing skills that students can take into their other courses of study and their future workplaces.

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Learning.
Collective Action.