The National Academy of Science defines sustainability sciences as "an emerging field...dealing with the interactions between natural and social systems, and with how those interactions affect the challenge of sustainability: meeting the needs of present and future generations while substantially reducing poverty and conserving the planet's life support systems." The sustainability science major at the University of Iowa is built on an integrative curriculum, with coursework in the social, natural, and analytical disciplines, thereby providing students with the knowledge and skills needed to help build a more sustainable future in Iowa, the United States, and around the world. The program offers students relevant real-world experiences such as study abroad and community outreach, as well as an academically rigorous curriculum.

Learning Outcomes

Sustainability science graduates will be able to:

• understand the complex processes that connect humans to natural systems;
• analyze the potential impact of decisions given competing information, perceptions, and goals; and
• communicate the importance of sustainability science and management to leaders and the public.