

Bryant University Courses with Sustainability Content or Focus

Methodology:

Identifying courses with sustainability content or focus was based on an analysis of catalog descriptions of existing courses, distinguishing the level of content as “components” or “emphasis”. Sustainability content encompasses materials related to resource tracking and conservation practices, including reuse, recycling, and waste reduction, energy efficiency, the human connection with the natural world, reduced toxics in industrial processing, green building approaches, population growth issues, public policy development for better environmental management, political decision making, design of our built environments, and our collective responsibility for global environmental realities.

The present assessment methodology will be enhanced by two upcoming surveys to be distributed in the coming year. One survey will go to faculty and department chairs, asking them for confirmation of the sustainability content of the courses that have been identified, and a second survey will go to students asking for their input on these courses. In these surveys faculty and students will also be asked for ideas for fostering sustainability in the curriculum at Bryant University.

Additionally, faculty will be explicitly invited to integrate sustainability into their courses where it is appropriate. This request will be coupled with posted course modules that could be adapted to different types of courses. These modules, developed collaboratively using faculty expertise in environmental science, economics, and other disciplines, will be posted on the website for the Center for Sustainable Business Practices (see link below).

<http://web.bryant.edu/~langlois/sustainability>

Sustainability Courses:

The summary of courses that have sustainability content or a more concentrated focus or emphasis on sustainable issues and practices is posted on the Bryant Environmental Society website (see below):

<http://web.bryant.edu/~bes>

Sustainability Planning:

Going forward, the university will continue to address the overall question of how sustainability can become better integrated into the curriculum, co-curricular activities, leadership training programs, and faculty research. To this end, activities planned within the next year include a workshop focused on sustainable business practices, two seminars/panel discussions on the role of individuals and societies to foster sustainable living, outreach activities including the BRITE consortium (focused on energy sustainability in Rhode Island), student training programs for energy auditing and toxics reduction planning, fostering green building (RIGBC programs) and connecting to local and regional NGOs proactively addressing sustainability.