

CAL POLY HUMBOLDT
University Senate

Resolution to Recommend Certificate for Sustainable and Climate Resilient Schools

06-24/25-ICC- - November 12, 2024 – Curriculum Reading

RESOLVED: That the University Senate of Cal Poly Humboldt recommends to the Provost that the Certificate for Sustainable and Climate Resilient Schools detailed in proposal [24-2295](#) be approved.

RATIONALE: Designed for professionals in the educational workforce, this certificate addresses the increase of sustainability work occurring in educational settings. Administrators, faculty and staff are being asked to coordinate sustainability efforts at their educational settings to address social and environmental responsibilities. This certificate supports educational professionals in the workforce to become sustainability leaders. The courses are designed to provide applicable knowledge and skills to promote equity and sustainability in educational settings.

Upon completion of the certificate, an individual will have acquired foundational knowledge, creative abilities, and practical skills to reduce environmental impacts and associated costs for an educational setting, to promote health and wellness for students and staff, and to advance climate justice and sustainability.

The Certificate for Sustainable and Climate Resilient Schools supports educational professionals in becoming sustainability leaders. The current trend for school campuses is to be sustainable and climate ready. In September 2021, the US Department of Education released Executive Order 14008: [Climate Adaptation Plan](#). This plan examines the prioritization of equitable access to healthy, safe, sustainable, 21st-century learning environments and sustainability learning that equips students to face the challenges of the future. This certificate will assist school districts in educating their workforce to meet the goals of the [K12 Climate Action Plan](#). This certificate will support currently proposed California legislative work [SB394](#) - Master Plan for Healthy, Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Schools, led by Ten Strands in partnership with Undaunted K12 and others.

Upon completion of the certificate, an individual will have acquired foundational knowledge, creative abilities, and practical skills to reduce environmental impacts and associated costs for an educational setting, to promote health and wellness for students and staff, and to advance climate justice and sustainability. Key learning outcomes are mechanics of proposal writing and the political and social aspects of "grantsmanship," with a focus on skills to identify sources of grant funding to address social and environmental justice, modeling of sustainability education that fosters critical, ethical, and relational thinking.

This certificate supports Institutional Learning Outcomes 1 and 2.

- The certificate program utilizes the International Sustainability Society of Professionals curriculum, and students are prepared to complete the Sustainability Excellence Associate (SEA) credential exam.
- Students are prepared to submit a Green Ribbon Schools Award for their educational setting. The U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS) awards recognition to schools, school districts, and Institutes of Higher Education for excellence in resource efficiency, health and wellness, and environmental and sustainability education.

This program will be offered through the College of Extended Education and Global Engagement and will be launched through self-support funding. The program will be expected to run on a self-supporting basis after the second offering/year.

Related Courses:

- [EDUC 510: Foundations of Sustainability \(4\) Proposal #24-2332](#)
- [EDUC 520: Grant-writing for Change \(4\) Proposal # 24-2333](#)
- [EDUC 530: Leadership for Sustainability and Climate Resilience \(4\) Proposal # 24-2335](#)