

College of Sustainability

First-year Environment, Sustainability and Society (ESS)

Why study ESS? Environment, Sustainability and Society (ESS) examines fresh solutions to sustainability challenges. Our graduates are problem-solvers and leaders working with communities, governments, and businesses. Expand your horizons, be curious, and explore contributions from all academic disciplines and cultural traditions. Join a community of engaged students with diverse interests to discover your role in achieving a more sustainable future.

ESS Program options: Any student admitted to Dalhousie can study ESS. ESS is a Major, Minor or Certificate in many undergraduate degree programs and is always combined with the study of another subject. Full program details [here](#).

Getting Started in ESS:

Degree Program Any student admitted to these degree programs may pursue the ESS Major, Minor, or Certificate	First-year requirements for ESS
BA Double Major or Combined Honours in ESS and any subject in the Faculty of Arts and Social Science or the Faculty of Science, Co-op available.	SUST 1000.06 or SUST 1001.06
BSc Double Major or Combined Honours in ESS and any subject in the Faculty of Science, Co-op available.	SUST 1000.06 or SUST 1001.06
BMgmt Major in ESS	SUST 1000.06 or SUST 1001.06
BCD Double Major or Honours-Double Major in Community Design and Sustainability	SUST 1000.06 or SUST 1001.06
BJH Combined Honours in Journalism and ESS	SUST 1400.03 in summer after first year
Minor (BA, BSc, BMgmt, BCS, BACS, BComm, BCD, BMUS, BJH) or Certificate (with any undergraduate degree) in ESS	SUST 1000.06 or SUST 1001.06 or SUST 1400.03
Any program above, with completion of Kings Foundation Year Program (FYP) or Dalhousie Integrated Science Program (DISP)	SUST 1400.03 in summer after first year

Find advising support at dal.ca/advising

First-year course planning 2026-27



For your other first year course choices please refer to the relevant degree program worksheet.

GENERAL DEGREE REQUIREMENTS SATISFIED WITH SUST COURSES:

- Writing Requirement: SUST 1000.06 satisfies the University Writing Requirement for any degree program.
- Social Science Subject Grouping: SUST courses count as Social Science for BSc and BCD students
- Life & Physical Science Subject Grouping: SUST courses count as Life & Physical Science for BA and BCD students

WHAT TO EXPECT IN FIRST YEAR

SUST 1000.06 *What is Sustainability?* (Fall term) and SUST 1001.06 *A Sustainable Future* (Winter term)

- 2 daytime lectures each week: team-taught by faculty from different disciplines
- 1 evening lecture each week: ESS Lecture Series by invited guest speakers; Thursday 7-9 pm
- 1 tutorial session each week (mandatory): discussion of lectures and readings and development of writing, research and numeracy skills; many day/time options, select one from the timetable
- Each course is 6 credit hours, double the weight and workload of a standard 1-term (3 credit-hour) course
- SUST 1000.06 is not a pre-requisite of SUST 1001.06
- SUST 1000 satisfies the University Writing Requirement; SUST 1001 does not.

SUST 1400.03 *Exploring Sustainability* (Online course offered in Winter and Summer term, 3 credit hours)

- Online course that involves weekly lecture videos and interactive online discussions
- SUST 1400 and SUST 1000 are exclusions – only one can be taken for credit
- SUST 1400 does not satisfy the University Writing Requirement

Questions? E-mail the ESS Academic Advisor with questions or to schedule a meeting ess.advising@dal.ca

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