

Goddard College

BA in Sustainability Degree Track

Undergraduate Student
Handbook Addendum

Effective Fall 2018

Updated: January 2019

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WELCOME

Welcome to the Handbook Addendum for the BA in Sustainability (BAS), a degree tract within the Undergraduate Program. This document is an addendum to the Undergraduate Student Handbook and the Undergraduate Curriculum Guide, with which all students are expected to be familiar. It provides specific details about the BA in Sustainability Degree Track.

BA in Sustainability (BAS) Handbook Addendum

As of October 2018, this addendum and the documents to which it refers represent current Goddard policies and procedures specific to the BAS degree track and supersede policy statements previously distributed by the College. Goddard College reserves the right to revise any policy or procedure in this addendum at any time without written prior notice. This addendum is not written as a contract and is not intended to create contractual rights.

Questions on policies or protocols not addressed here, or in the Undergraduate Student Handbook may be referred to the appropriate administrative officials, a list of College officials and their areas of responsibility is available on the Goddard website (www.goddard.edu).

By accepting admission to Goddard College and completing registration, the student acknowledges that the College has provided the student with a Student Handbook and, when appropriate, a Handbook Addendum. These documents are provided electronically, however, hard copies of each are available upon request from [Academic Services \(email: AcademicServices@goddard.edu\)](mailto:AcademicServices@goddard.edu).

The Undergraduate Handbook details information related to the terms and conditions of enrollment including the College's policies and the student's responsibilities in attending the College. As a condition of enrollment and attendance at Goddard, the student hereby agrees to comply with and abide by the terms and conditions detailed in the Handbook, Handbook Addenda, and future revisions.

For assistance or additional information, students should visit the College's website, contact their Program Director, contact [Academic Services \(email: AcademicServices@goddard.edu\)](mailto:AcademicServices@goddard.edu), or other College administrators.

Note on Language

In keeping with our community values of inclusiveness, this handbook does not use gendered pronouns. Goddard also uses the language of progressive education and has its own language, as explained in the Undergraduate Student Handbook.

Accreditation

New England Commission of Schools and Colleges

Goddard College is accredited on probation by the New England Commission of Higher Education, effective October 10, 2018, because the Commission finds that the institution is in danger of losing its accreditation because it is not in compliance with the Standards for Accreditation. Of concern are accreditation standards 3 (organization and governance) and 7 (institutional resources). A statement providing further information about the probationary status is available on the website of the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (<https://cihe.neasc.org>).

Accreditation of an institution of higher education by the Commission indicates that it meets or exceeds criteria for the assessment of institutional quality periodically applied through a peer review process. An accredited college or university is one which has available the necessary resources to achieve its stated purposes through appropriate educational programs, is substantially doing so, and gives reasonable evidence that it will continue to do so in the foreseeable future. Institutional integrity is also addressed through accreditation.

Accreditation by the Commission is not partial but applies to the institution as a whole. As such, it is not a guarantee of every course or program offered, or the competence of individual graduates. Rather, it provides reasonable assurance about the quality of opportunities available to students who attend the institution.

Inquiries regarding the accreditation status by the Commission should be directed to the administrative staff of the institution. Individuals may also contact:

New England Commission of Higher Education
3 Burlington Woods Drive, Suite 100
Burlington, MA 01803-4514
(781) 425 7785
E-Mail: info@neche.org

BAS Overview

The BA in Sustainability (BAS) is an undergraduate degree track created in response to the unsustainable pressures placed on the Earth's ecosystems and the growing need for education that prepares us to meet these challenges and restore viable and lasting relationships between people and nature.

The BAS is located in the Undergraduate Program (UGP). BAS shares a residency with the Individualized BA Degree Track (IBA) and the undergraduate Health Arts and Sciences Degree Track (BAHAS). In addition to degree track-specific work, BAS students will share many workshops and faculty with IBA and BAHAS students, and contribute to dialogue across degree tracks and disciplines. IBA, BAHAS, and BAS students are

welcome to participate in all residency activities taking place during the undergraduate residency.

BAS Mission

The BA in Sustainability (BAS) Degree Track supports students in gaining the knowledge, skills and vision essential to understanding their place in the Earth's ecosystem, navigating the options available to help transition to sustainable societies, and creating resilient lives and livelihoods in partnership with nature and Earth's citizens. Students explore the varied root causes of the stresses to our ecological, economic, and social systems and learn to design and implement strategies for solutions that build sustainability.

Transferring to the BAS Degree Track

Current Goddard students can apply to transfer to the BA in Sustainability (BAS) Degree Track at any level of study up to and including Level 6. A minimum of three semesters of enrollment in the BAS is required even if Foundation Studies were completed prior to admission.

Requests to transfer degree tracks are made in writing to the Program Director. The Program Director is responsible for determining eligibility and readiness to transfer and communicates a student's permission to transfer to the Registrar, who will notify the enrollment staff.

Degree track transfers should be made prior to the start of the semester and cannot be made after the semester residency concludes. A change in degree track may also involve a change in tuition and fees. Refer to the [Tuition and Fees](#) page of the College's website for further information.

New Students Admission to the BAS

New students seeking admission to Goddard College and the BA in Sustainability (BAS) Degree Track may be admitted at any level up to and including Level 6. No more than 75 transferable semester-hour transfer credits can be applied to the 120 required for the degree. A minimum of three semesters of enrollment in the BAS is required.

To apply to the BAS, new students complete an application, submit official transcripts from all prior colleges attended and three letters of recommendation; an application fee is required. For additional information, please contact the undergraduate admissions counselor, admissions@goddard.edu.

To apply, go to: <http://www.goddard.edu/admissions/>.

Prior Coursework

New students seeking admission to the BA in Sustainability (BAS) Degree Track can petition, during the admissions process, to have prior college course work reviewed for potential satisfaction of one or more Foundation Studies degree requirements. While prior learning outside of academic programs can **add** context to Foundation Studies, non-academic prior learning cannot be cited as work that directly addresses Foundation Studies requirements.

A petition for prior course work consideration appears as part of the new student application to the BAS. A previously completed course (of at least three semester-hour credits or more) must be identified to address one and only one specific Foundation Studies area. This prior course work cannot serve in lieu of Focus Studies requirements, which must be completed while enrolled in the BAS. The student petition will be reviewed by the Program Director or designee and notification conferred prior to the onset of residency.

BA Degree Requirements

To earn a bachelor's degree at Goddard, students must fulfill the requirements for an undergraduate degree as described in the Undergraduate Student Handbook and the Undergraduate Curriculum Guide (<https://www.goddard.edu/academics/curriculum-guides/>)

Undergraduate students are required to complete 120 credits of undergraduate study, up to 75 credits of which may be transferred from other accredited liberal arts undergraduate programs. In the completion of those credits, all undergraduate students will demonstrate learning in the following areas as described in the Undergraduate Curriculum Guide:

- Wide Knowledge
- Positive Self-Development
- Thoughtful Action
- Social and Ecological Context
- Engaged Critical Thinking

These broad undergraduate degree requirements are aligned with BA in Sustainability (BAS) degree track specific requirements in order for a student, in most cases, to simultaneously address general undergraduate and degree track-specific requirements. Refer to the [Appendix](#) to see how general undergraduate and BAS specific degree requirements are related.

Progress Reviews

Students are required to complete a Progress Review I and II (PRI/PRII) at certain levels (typically level 3 and 6 respectively), while enrolled in the undergraduate program and BAS degree track. Through a portfolio process, students must show satisfactory

completion of general undergraduate and degree track-specific requirements.

Students who have entered Goddard at the Level 6 BAS semester should refer to the PRII section in the Undergraduate Curriculum Guide regarding submission of a portfolio at Level 7.

For more information on the Progress Review process, see the Undergraduate Curriculum Guide available online at <https://www.goddard.edu/academics/curriculum-guides/>.

Semester Evaluations

Semester Evaluations, narrative student reflection and assessment of their work of the semester, are a key component of a Goddard education. Students are required to complete these evaluations at the close of each semester via the Student Information System (SIS).

BAS Degree Track Requirements

A student's required period of enrollment in the BAS degree track is determined during the admissions process and is based upon a review of transcripts relative to student goals and BAS and undergraduate degree requirements.

Progress towards completion of BAS degree requirements are documented in SIS each semester by the faculty advisor.

The BA in Sustainability Program (BAS) degree track-specific requirements are:

Foundation Studies

Students embark on their BAS studies by demonstrating their understanding of the foundations of sustainability in the four areas listed below (unless they have been addressed earlier in their college career).

Ecological Dimensions of Sustainability

Students will use the lens of the natural sciences to understand the ecological dynamics that sustain life on earth, how ecosystems and global systems have been damaged, and how they might be repaired. This study may include ecosystem dynamics, climate change, ecological design, or energy systems.

Social and Economic Dimensions of Sustainability

Students will use the lens of the social sciences to understand the social and economic origins of environmental problems and threats to sustainability, the history and defining principles of sustainability, and diverse approaches to solving these local and global problems and restoring balance in social-ecological systems. This study may include examination of the impact of population growth, consumerism, agricultural

systems, economic systems, related social movements, architecture, or sustainable design.

Environmental Justice and Ethics

Students will understand the principles and issues related to values, ethics, justice and culture that underlie sustainability problems and solutions. These principles and issues may include race, class, gender, power, privilege, law, and spirituality.

Creating a Sustainable Life

Students will reflect upon their personal and social practices and their impacts upon sustainability. This reflection includes understanding their personal footprint on the planet and strategies for making their own lives more sustainable such as reducing consumption and waste, increasing efficiency, changing diets and food sources, retrofitting homes, and changing transportation methods as well as understanding strategies of engagement that can promote sustainability goals on a larger social level.

Understanding the foundations of sustainability may be documented through:

- Studies completed prior to admission and assessed as academically equivalent through the Transfer of Credit Petition
- Studies done in another Goddard undergraduate program
- Studies done in the BAS program

Or a combination of above.

Theories of Sustainability Paper

During their first semester in the BA in Sustainability (BAS) degree track, students complete an engaged, critical essay in which they examine multiple viewpoints on the ecological, social and economic dimensions of sustainability and locate themselves in the field as they address the question, *“What is sustainability?”* Depending upon the student’s background this paper may be completed at the beginning or near the end of the semester. This paper may be included as an example of critical writing in the portfolio of learning that is submitted for Progress Review II.

Foundation Studies and the Theories of Sustainability Paper are completed before beginning the Focus of Study and Senior Study.

Focus of Study

After broadening their base of knowledge in Foundation Studies students build upon this learning in a Focus of Study in one of the four areas described below or in a hybrid of these areas. In the Focus of Study, students articulate a guiding question or specify an issue they want to explore in-depth in their chosen area. Students’ learning about this question or issue is the focal point of their Senior Study. Work on the Focus of Study spans the Level 7 and Level 8 semesters.

Sustainable Agriculture

In this focus area, a student will explore a question related to sustainable methods of agriculture. For example, organic methods of soil restoration, permaculture practices, pest management, extension of growing seasons, food preservation and storage, food security, waste management, nutrient recycling, water management, agroforestry, ethnobotany, indigenous land management, local food systems, policy development as it relates to management of natural resources, or urban sustainable agriculture.

Sustainable Energy

In this focus area, a student will explore a question related to sustainable energy. For example, identifying a range of renewable energy sources; energy issues associated with preserving water ways, climate change or energy descent; energy efficiency in the built environment; alternative energy sources; carbon trading; carbon sequestering strategies; or how to design and implement a plan to install solar, wind, biomass or hydro energy sources in their local community.

Sustainable Economies

In this focus area, a student will explore a question related to environmental economics. For example, the connection between environmental sustainability and economic justice, corporate social responsibility, the impact of globalism on sustainability, alternative currencies, green workforce development, green consumerism, repurposing furniture and textiles, fair trade, employee-owned businesses, socially responsible investing, land rights, local economic development strategies to preserve the rural character of an area, or business strategies that support social entrepreneurship activities.

Sustainable Communities

In this focus area, a student will explore a question related to sustainable communities. Some examples: the use of ecosystems as models for human communities, the Transition Town movement, sustainable construction strategies, the psychology of social change, the cultural dimensions of defining a sustainable community, community gardens, community water systems, community radio stations, public art and sustainable communities, engagement of marginalized populations in sustainability initiatives, leadership traits of effective community activists, sustainable urban planning, sustainability education, ecovillages, community health, watershed management, bioregionalism, or sustainable community development.

Documentation of Experiential Learning

Students are expected to engage in experiential learning during their BA in Sustainability (BAS) Degree track studies. Experiential learning is an opportunity to explore some aspect of sustainability first hand. It means trying out a practice, testing

an idea or applying something that you have learned about sustainability in real life. To learn experientially might mean learning first-hand from someone who has wisdom and experience in the field, participating in community activities that focus on some aspect of sustainability, or putting new skills into use in the form of a creative project.

Students document experiential learning either by describing what they did and what they learned in a reflective essay, that is included in packet work, or as part of their Senior Study.

BAS learning culminates in a yearlong Senior Study that takes place in Levels 7 and 8. In their Senior Study BAS, students seek an answer to a guiding question or explore in depth an issue that is specific to one of the areas of Focus of Study or a hybrid of these areas. Students are encouraged to use their Senior Study as an opportunity to prepare themselves for future paths such as service, career, or educational pursuits.

Senior Study Proposal

BAS students will submit, for faculty review, a draft Senior Study Proposal at the beginning of their Level 7 residency. Once approved, this proposal becomes a central element of the study plan for both Level 7 and Level 8. The Senior Study Proposal:

- Identifies the Focus of Study area.
- Articulates the question or issue that will be examined in the Senior Study.
- Identifies the Senior Study format.
- Identifies the audience that is being addressed.
- Identifies personal viewpoints or biases that the student brings to their study and which influence their viewpoint or approach.
- Identifies the theoretical perspectives that influence the student's work.
- Identifies the method of research that will be used.
- Outlines the Senior Study work that will be done at Level 7 and at Level 8.
- Includes a Bibliography of sources that are to be used.

Senior Study Formats

There are two possible formats for the Senior Study:

- **Research Paper**

This option is an in-depth, research-based paper that examines a central question or issue.

- **Creative Product With Context Paper**

This option is a creative project accompanied by a context paper. The context paper presents the personal, theoretical, historical, and other relevant foundations that have informed the creative endeavor and product. Designs for a permaculture garden, an environmental sustainability education curriculum, or a

business plan for a socially responsible business are examples of creative products that require a context paper.

Complete guidelines for creating a Senior Study Proposal (during the first days of the student's Level 7 residency), are in the Undergraduate Student Handbook (available online at http://gnet.goddard.edu/student_handbooks).

Undergraduate students working in sustainability have completed Senior Studies in areas such as:

- Local food systems
- A design for a community garden
- Sustainable maple sugaring
- Wind energy politics and installation
- Waste and water management
- Urban gardening
- Soil restoration in Ecuador
- Permaculture design principles
- Sustainable building with straw bale
- Building a low-impact small house
- A sustainable businesses handbook

Examples of previous Senior Studies are available in the Elliot Pratt Library and online at <http://www.goddard.edu/academics/undergraduate-studies/senior-study/>.

The final product of the students' Senior Study is submitted electronically through the Student Information System (SIS) at <https://sis.goddard.edu>.

Graduating Student Presentation

Each BAS graduating student is expected to share what they have learned with their peers and faculty through a presentation on their studies at the Commencement Residency (see the Undergraduate Student Handbook for more information.) Prior to the Commencement Residency, students submit a completed Graduating Student Presentation Form to Academic Services. A notification will be sent to students when this form is due.

Progressing Through the BA in Sustainability

Students may be admitted into the BA in Sustainability (BAS) Degree Track at any Level up to and including Level 6. The table below lays out the timeline for key BAS tasks for students entering the program at Levels 1-5 and for those who enter it at Level 6.

	Entering at Levels 1-5	Entering at Level 6
Levels 1-5	<p>Pre-Residency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Become familiar with the Undergraduate Student Handbook, Undergraduate Curriculum Guide and BAS Addendum. (These documents are available at: http://gnet.goddard.edu/student_handbooks.) <p>Residency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Design Study Plan to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress on BAS Foundation requirements; - Complete Theories of Sustainability Paper in first semester of BAS enrollment; - If Foundation work is to be completed this semester, progress on Focus requirements; - Progress on Undergraduate degree requirements including Progress Review. (For more information on PR see the Undergraduate Curriculum Guide); - Consider including experiential learning. ▪ Participate in residency workshops, including PR. <p>End of Semester:</p> <p>Submit self-evaluation.</p>	

	Entering at Levels 1-5	Entering at Level 6
Level 6	<p>Residency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Design Study Plan to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete any remaining BAS Foundation requirements; - Progress on Focus requirements; - Progress on Undergraduate degree requirements including PRII; - Consider including experiential learning; - By the end of the semester articulate possible guiding question/issue and format for Senior Study and. ▪ Participate in residency workshops. <p>End of Semester: Submit self-evaluation.</p>	<p>Pre-Residency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Become familiar with Undergraduate Student Handbook, Undergraduate Curriculum Guide and BAS Addendum. (These documents are available at: http://gnet.goddard.edu/student_handbooks.) <p>Residency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design Study Plan to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete BAS Foundation requirements; - Complete Theories of Sustainability Paper in first semester of BAS enrollment; - If Foundation requirements are complete, begin Focus requirements. - Progress on Undergraduate degree requirements including PRII; - Consider including experiential learning; - By the end of the semester articulate possible guiding question/issue and format for Senior Study and. ▪ Participate in residency workshops, including PR. <p>End of Semester: Submit self-evaluation.</p>

	Entering at Levels 1-5	Entering at Level 6
Level 7	<p>Residency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Submit draft of Senior Study Proposal. (See residency schedule and BAS Addendum for details). ▪ Design Study Plan to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Faculty Reviewed Senior Study proposal; - Complete Focus requirements; - Complete any remaining Undergraduate PRII requirements; - Consider including experiential learning. ▪ Participate in residency workshops. <p>End of Semester: Submit self-evaluation.</p>	<p>Residency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Submit draft of Senior Study Proposal. (See residency schedule and BAS Addendum for details). ▪ Design Study Plan to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Faculty Reviewed Senior Study proposal; - Complete Focus requirements; - Complete any remaining Undergraduate PRII requirements; - Consider including experiential learning. ▪ Participate in residency workshops. <p>End of Semester: Submit self-evaluation.</p>
Level 8	<p>Residency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Design Study Plan to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete Senior Study; - Packet 3: Draft of Senior Study to advisor/2d reader; - Packet 4: Revised draft of Senior Study to advisor that includes advisor/2d reader feedback. - Packet 5: Completed final draft of Senior to advisor/2d reader. ▪ Request 2d Reader. (See residency schedule & Undergraduate Student Handbook for more information). ▪ Participate in residency workshops. <p>End of Semester: Submit self-evaluation.</p>	<p>Residency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Design Study Plan to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete Senior Study; - Packet 3: Draft of Senior Study to advisor/2d reader; - Packet 4: Revised draft of Senior Study to advisor that includes advisor/2d reader feedback. - Packet 5: Completed final draft of Senior to advisor/2d reader. ▪ Request 2d Reader. (See residency schedule & Undergraduate Student Handbook for more information). ▪ Participate in residency workshops. <p>End of Semester: Submit self-evaluation.</p>

	Entering at Levels 1-5	Entering at Level 6
Commencement Residency	<p>Prior to Commencement Residency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prepare components of Senior Study for submission. ▪ Submit Graduating Student Workshop Presentation Form to the Academic Services Office. <p>At Commencement Residency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Submit digital version of Senior Study to the Records Office. 	<p>Prior to Commencement Residency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prepare components of Senior Study for submission. ▪ Submit Graduating Student Workshop Presentation Form to the Academic Services Office. <p>At Commencement Residency:</p> <p>Submit digital version of Senior Study to the Records Office.</p>

Simultaneous Completion of BA and BAS Degree Track Requirements

BAS students must complete both Undergraduate Degree Requirements and BAS specific Degree Requirements. Note that at all times, students enrolled in the BAS degree track may be advised by faculty affiliated with any of the three UGP degree tracks and are encouraged to pursue advising from any faculty member who can advise them appropriately on their semester's work; BAS students are never limited to working only with BAS identified faculty. As depicted below, whenever it is possible students are encouraged to simultaneously complete both an Undergraduate Degree Requirement and a BAS Degree Requirement:

Undergraduate Degree Requirements	BAS Degree Requirements
Wide Knowledge	PR1 or equivalent through transfer credit and Foundation Studies work and Theories of Sustainability Paper; PRII through transfer credit and Foundation Studies work
Thoughtful Action	Engagement with Experiential Learning BAS Degree Requirement
Positive Self-Development	
Social & Ecological Context	Foundation Studies and Focus of Studies work
Engaged Critical Thinking	Foundation Studies work, Theories of Sustainability Paper and Focus of Studies work

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