

Program Overview

The program in Law and Sustainability at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University provides world-class instruction and meaningful research experiences that equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to become influential leaders in the global sustainability movement.

The program's renowned faculty research and teach in every major area of environmental and sustainability-related policies, including climate change, water, energy, natural resources, utilities, land use, environmental protection, and international environmental law.

Faculty Expertise

The Program on Law & Sustainability features a highly accomplished collection of faculty and fellows, setting it apart as one of the strongest sustainability-focused environmental law programs in the country. Program faculty members also collaborate with the Center for Law & Global Affairs, Center for Law, Science & Innovation, Indian Legal Program, Global Institute of Sustainability, and Kyl Center for Water Policy at the Morrison Institute for Public Policy.

Benefits & Student Opportunities

ASU Law students with a particular interest in environmental sustainability law and policy can access countless benefits through ASU's Law and Sustainability program, which prepares students to secure legal jobs in sustainability-related. In addition, students can take advantage of numerous opportunities available in few other law schools across the globe to further specialize in and to gain sustainability-related experience outside the classroom.

- Since 2015, the Program on Law & Sustainability has hosted the annual **Sustainability Conference of American Legal Educators** at ASU Law. This unique event is the largest and most comprehensive gathering of law professors from throughout North America who research in areas related to environmental sustainability. Each year, more than 50 scholars present and discuss their research. Panels and presentations address a wide range of contemporary topics such as climate change policy, agricultural and food regulation, disaster law, and sustainable land use. The event supports the program's goal of bridging the gap between the world's rapid advancements in sustainability-related technologies and the policy innovations necessary to support them. For top legal scholars in the field, the conference serves as a valuable opportunity to come together to share ideas.
- The **Sustainability Law Student Research Fellowships** give students opportunities to research and write professional, publication-quality articles on current legal and policy topics related to environmental sustainability. Since its inception, all 15 student-authored papers produced through the Research Fellows Program have received offers for publication in non-ASU legal academic journals.
- The **Mentorship Initiative in Sustainability Law** is an attorney-student mentorship program for students interested in environmental sustainability-related legal careers. The program pairs students with experienced local attorneys, creating opportunities for lawyers to provide one-on-one professional guidance, to share practical knowledge and skills, and valuable mentoring experiences across the entire academic year. These interactions are intended to assist students in legal skills development, provide them additional advisors and role models, and expand their professional networks, with the main focus to aid them in the critical transition from law student to legal practitioner.
- Students may complete the requirements to earn a **Law & Sustainability Certificate** on their transcript that evidences to potential employers that they have completed specialized training in sustainability-related legal fields.
- The **Advanced Sustainability Seminar**, along with other research opportunities, allows students to work closely with faculty on legal scholarship, and has led many students to the rare accomplishment of publishing articles in environmental law journals.
- The **Environmental Law Society** brings together students interested in the relationship between law, the legal profession, and environmental and sustainability issues by organizing lectures, service projects, group hikes, and other events.
- **Externship** placements have given students real-world experience with environmental issues in practice through groups such as the Attorney General's Environmental Enforcement Section, the Arizona Department of Water Resources, and the Arizona State Land Department.
- **Moot court** competition teams from ASU Law regularly travel to compete in national environmental law competitions, strengthening students' oral and written advocacy skills and applying them to sustainability law and policy issues.
- Students can pursue a customized **LLM with an emphasis in Law & Sustainability** or supplement existing training through an **MLS in Sustainability**, with an option to concurrently earn a Master's degree in Sustainability Solutions in partnership with ASU's School of Sustainability.
- **Partnerships** with ASU's Global Institute of Sustainability and School of Sustainability offer law students unique access to diverse educational resources, interdisciplinary research, and networking opportunities beyond the law school.