



## OFFICE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

The mission of the Office for Sustainability (OfS) is to guide and assist the Western Michigan University community in fulfilling and growing its sustainability commitments. Through building a diverse and flourishing learning community around sustainability, we will continually explore and develop new opportunities to create a culture of sustainability and improve quality of life for all.

## INTERNSHIP

The goal of the **Wesustain** Internship Program is to cultivate informed, critical thinkers that serve as ambassadors for sustainability through leadership development and experiential learning. Assignments and activities will challenge individual assumptions and behaviors. Students will explore pertinent sustainability topics on campus, in the community, and around the world. The following skills- and knowledge-based learning outcomes are at the core of the program, which will be fostered through regular feedback and assessment.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

1) Students will be able to describe and discuss the state of the planet and be able to articulate the consequences of their everyday actions on multiple scales (on themselves, on their communities, and on those distant from them in time and space, including nonhumans).

Examples of these forms of knowledge: (a) learn the significance that nature plays in human survival and flourishing; (b) understand how seemingly small actions have profound consequences; (c) question dominant assumptions about the world and society that currently perpetuate unsustainability.

2) Students will develop a deep understanding of the coevolution and interconnectedness of all species and use this knowledge to explore human development opportunities and priorities that promote improvements in quality of life for all (especially the flourishing of nonhumans and endangered cultures).

3) Students will explore leadership strategies, model sustainable behaviors, and experiment with changing their (and potentially other's) patterns of thinking and behavior.

4) Students will develop an understanding of the organizational goals and corresponding short- and long-term objectives that propel sustainability efforts at Western Michigan University on local, national, and global scales.

5) Students will be able to effectively articulate, through written and oral communication, their knowledge of and appreciation for complex, interconnected, and sometimes conflicting sustainability challenges across multiple perspectives.

## MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

The student must:

1. Be enrolled as a full-time Western Michigan University student
2. Be held in good academic standing as stated on his/her transcript
3. Have a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or above

## INTERN EXPECTATIONS

- Act in a professional and ethical manner
- Be open and accepting to constructive evaluation
- Strive to grow and improve both personally and professionally
- Assert ideas in a supportive, appropriate, positive, and tactful manner
- Develop well-informed opinions while remaining open-minded and avoiding jumping to conclusions

## TIME COMMITMENT

Students are required to engage in 5-6 hours of **Wesustain**-related experiences per week. This time commitment includes both in-person activities and individual reading, studying, and writing. Activities will vary from week to week.

**Due to this time commitment, it is highly recommended that incoming interns arrange their schedules around the weekly meetings and events in the schedule below.**

## INTERNSHIP COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

- Attend a minimum of 12 out of 14 weekly internship meetings
- Engage in 5-6 hours of internship related experiences per week
- Participate in the internship orientation retreat
- Complete short, choice-based projects as assigned
- Schedule and attend a one-on-one mid-semester meeting with the internship coordinator

## COMPENSATION

Upon completion of the internship program, students will receive a \$250 total payment (pre-tax) that will be delivered at the end of the semester. Additionally, interns may request letters of recommendation from the internship coordinator at the completion of the program. Students are expected to meet OfS employee standards and the **Wesustain** Internship completion requirements. Failure to follow program expectations may result in dismissal or payment forfeiture.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications can be obtained by visiting the OfS or online ([www.wmich.edu/sustainability/opportunities/internships](http://www.wmich.edu/sustainability/opportunities/internships)). Completed applications must be submitted in hardcopy to the OfS or electronically via e-mail ([wmu-sustainability@wmich.edu](mailto:wmu-sustainability@wmich.edu)) by the candidate no later than 11:59 p.m. on November 4, 2021. The OfS is located at the southeast corner of Howard St. and West Michigan Ave.

## INTERNSHIP SCHEDULE

**Weekly discussion meetings will be held on Wednesdays from 5–7 PM**

**Most enrichment activities will be held on Fridays from 1–4PM**

November	5	<b>Wesustain</b> Applications Due
December	10	Intern Selection Deadline
January	10	Spring Semester Classes Begin
	10–14	Welcome Week
	18–21	Systems Thinking
	24–28	Clean Air, Water, Food
Jan.– Feb.	31–4	Environmental Justice
February	7–11	Reduce, Reuse
	14–18	Intro to Climate Change
	21–25	Clean Energies
Feb. – March	28–3	Sustainable Design and Building
March	7–11	Spring Break
	14–18	Circular Economy
	21–25	Alternative Transportation
March – April	28–1	Food Systems
	4–8	Regenerative Agriculture
	11–15	Rewilding
	18–22	Looking Back, Looking Forward

**Review and complete this informational packet and application by November 4, 2021 by 11:59 p.m.**

Turn in hardcopy applications to the Office for Sustainability at 2529 W Michigan Ave, or send them electronically to [wmu-sustainability@wmich.edu](mailto:wmu-sustainability@wmich.edu).