

# MIT Sloan Sustainability Certificate Requirements & Pathways

The Sustainability Certificate at MIT Sloan is the only offering of its kind among our peer institutions. It provides students with an opportunity to engage in a dialogue around organizational challenges and choices, and to develop a mindset for encouraging sustainability strategies that lead to impact in our communities and environments.

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## Sloan Fellows MBA Sequence

Sloan Fellow MBAs are on campus for one year from June to June and must plan carefully to be able to complete the Sustainability Certificate. An orientation session in July helps Fellows understand the opportunity and requirements. We consider the following exceptions on a case-by-case basis for Sloan Fellow MBA students:

- Independent studies in lieu of one of the elective requirements
- 12 credit sustainability-focused thesis in lieu of one elective requirement (seek prior approval)
- 24 credit sustainability-focused thesis in lieu of both elective requirements (seek prior approval)

# Potential Pathway

Courses		Fall	Jan	Spring
Required	15.871 Intro to System Dynamics OR 15.873 System Dynamics for Business and Policy	✓		✓
	15.915 Strategies for Sustainable Business (S-Lab)			✓
	15.878 Capstone in Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability			✓ (H4)
Suggested (2 required)	15.671 U-Lab	✓		
	15.657 Tech, Globalization, & Sustain Dev	✓		
	15.385 Innovating for Impact	✓		
	15.768 Management of Services	✓		✓
	15.769 Operations Strategy			✓
	15.S09 Managing Crucial Conversations About & Across Difference	✓		

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## LGO Sequence

Leaders for Global Operations (LGO) students arrive in June and carry out a six-month internship in the middle of their program. There are a few considerations for LGO students.

- Both Mech.E. Civil & Environmental E. have Energy and Environment tracks. LGOs can pursue this in coordination with the MIT Sloan Sustainability Certificate. If a student wants to do both, the classes in the requirements for LGO will double count towards the certificate.
- LGO students must manage credit limits for enrollment in MIT Sloan classes. If both Certificate Electives are in Course 15, we recommend that students choose electives that also meet other LGO requirements.
- LGO students may face schedule conflicts with MIT Sloan classes. Help us identify schedule conflicts early and we will try to resolve.
- Because the LGO internship requires students to be off-campus for a full semester, it can be more difficult for students to pursue the certificate. We consider the following exceptions on a case-by-case basis for LGO Students:
  - Allowing internship thesis research with a sustainability component to count towards work in 15.878 Capstone course.

# Potential Pathway

Courses		Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
Required (3)	1- 15.871 Intro to System Dynamics or 15.873 System Dynamics for Biz and Policy	✓ (H1)	✓ (H3)	✓ (H1)	✓ (H3)
	2- 15.915 Strategies for Sustainable Business (S-Lab)	✓	✓	✓	✓
	3- 15.878 Capstone in Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability				✓ (H4)
Suggested (2 required)	15.783J/2.739: Product Design & Development		✓		✓
	SCM.290 Sustainable Supply Chains		✓ (H3)		✓ (H3)
	15.792 Global Ops Leadership Seminar	✓		✓	
	15.768 Management of Services	✓		✓	
	15.385 Innovating for Impact	✓ (H1)		✓ (H1)	
	15.S09 Managing Crucial Conversations About & Across Difference	✓		✓	
	3.70 Mat Science & Engineering of Clean Energy		✓		✓

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## SDM Sequence

The sustainability certificate for SDM students is challenging if the student only plans to be on campus for one year, but with careful planning, can be done. SDM students are required to take at least 12 credits in foundation courses, 27 credits at Sloan, and 27 credits in engineering. Fortunately, many of these overlap with sustainability certificate electives. We have listed some favorites below to help you plan.

In addition, we consider the following exceptions on a case-by-case basis for SDM Students:

- Independent studies in lieu of one of the elective requirements
- 12 credit sustainability-focused thesis in lieu of one elective requirement (seek prior approval)
- 24 credit sustainability-focused thesis in lieu of both elective requirements (seek prior approval)

# Potential Pathway

Courses	Elective Credit	Fall	Jan	Spring
Required (3)	15.871 Intro to System Dynamics	Split	✓ (H1)	✓ (H3)
	1- or 15.873 System Dynamics for Biz and Policy	Split	✓	
	2- 15.915 Strategies for Sustainable Business (S-Lab)	Split		✓
3- 15.878 Capstone in Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability	Mgmt			✓ (H4)
Suggested (2 required)	15.765 Global Supply Chain Mgmt	Split		✓
	SCM.290 Sustainable Supply Chain Mgmt	Split		✓
	15.783 Prod. Design & Dev	Split		✓
	15.657 Technology, Globalization, & Sustainable Development	Split	✓	
	15.S09 Managing Crucial Conversations About & Across Difference	Mgmt	✓	
	15.385 Innovating for Impact	Mgmt	✓	

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## MBA Sequence

Students interested in the Sustainability Certificate should attend an information session hosted by the Sustainability Initiative on the 2nd Thursday of the academic year. This will provide a detailed presentation of the Initiative including curricular and extra-curricular programming, career development and networking opportunities, and focal areas of research. It also provides an opportunity to meet faculty and students leading sustainability efforts around Sloan.

We recommend that MBA students take 15.915 "Strategies for Sustainable Business (S-Lab)" in their first year, but it is not a requirement

We consider the following exceptions on a case-by-case basis for MBA Students:

- Independent studies in lieu of one of the elective requirements
- Theses in lieu of one of the elective requirements
- Special action-learning projects in non-sustainability certificate qualified courses with a sustainability component

# Potential Pathway

Courses		Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
Required (3)	1- 15.871 Intro to System Dynamics or 15.873 System Dynamics for Biz and Policy	✓ (H1)	✓ (H3)	✓ (H1)	✓ (H3)
	2- 15.915 Strategies for Sustainable Business (S-Lab)	✓	✓	✓	✓
	3- 15.878 Capstone in Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability				✓ (H4)
Suggested (2 required)	15.499 Social Impact Investing		✓ (H4)		✓ (H4)
	15.S09 Managing Crucial Conversations About & Across Difference	✓		✓	
	15.385 Innovating for Impact	✓		✓	
	15.768 Management of Services	✓		✓	
	15.769 Operations Strategy		✓		✓
	15.270 Ethical Practice		✓		✓
	15.783J Product Design & Development		✓		✓

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## EMBA Sequence

The MIT Executive MBA (EMBA) is perhaps the most rigid of all programs, with pre-selected core classes fulfilling program requirements during students' time on campus. We encourage students who are interested to reach out as soon as possible to register interest.

We recommend that EMBA students take 15.915 Strategies for Sustainable Business (S-Lab) in their first year, but it is not a requirement. This ideally is in person, on campus, but we offer a remote option. Note: S-Lab can be used as a substitute for the EMBA Global Labs action learning subject requirement- talk to your advisors with any questions. Please contact Maren Reisch ([mjreisch@mit.edu](mailto:mjreisch@mit.edu)), copying Emma Caldwell ([ecaldwel@mit.edu](mailto:ecaldwel@mit.edu)) to register your interest in taking the class.

We consider the following exceptions on a case-by-case basis for MBA Students:

- 15.705 O-Lab project with a sustainability focus can be used to fulfill a certificate elective requirement.
- Final spring action learning project (15.708: GO-Lab, 15.S10: China-Lab, or 15.S17: IDEA-Lab) with a sustainability focus substitutes for an elective requirement
- Independent studies in lieu of one of the elective requirements

EMBA students need to take S-Lab and complete two additional electives in addition to their EMBA core class work. Some certificate electives are part of the EMBA curriculum; other suggested electives can be found on the next page. If you plan to use your O-Lab project and/or another EMBA action learning class project to fulfill a Sustainability Certificate elective requirement, you must seek prior approval from Emma Caldwell ([ecaldwel@mit.edu](mailto:ecaldwel@mit.edu)).

# Potential Pathway

Courses		Fall	Jan	Spring	SU	Fall	Spring
Required	15.700 Leadership & Integrative Management	✓					
	15.915 Strategies for Sustainable Business (S-Lab)			✓			✓
	15.736 Introduction to System Dynamics				✓		
Suggested (within EMBA curriculum)	15.S10 China Lab (w/Sustainability-focused project)						✓
	15.S17 IDEA-Lab (w/Sustainability-focused project)						✓
	15.S52 Managing a Diverse Workforce			✓			
	15.701 IDEA Executive Module (w/susty-project)			✓			
	15.705 Organizations-lab (w/susty- project)				✓	✓	
	15.708 Global Organizations Lab (w/susty- project)						✓
	15.723 Advanced Applied Macroeconomics and International Institutions						✓
	15.735 Product Design		✓				
Suggested (outside EMBA curriculum)	15.038 Energy, Econ, Policy						✓
	15.270 Ethical Practice			✓			✓
	15.385 Innovating for Impact	✓				✓	
	15.S09 Managing Crucial Conversations About & Across Difference	✓				✓	
	15.662 Managing Sustainable Biz for People & Profit			✓			✓
	15.768 Management of Serv.	✓					
	15.783J Product Design & Development			✓			✓

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## SCM Sequence

SCM students are on campus for one year with a fairly rigid program. However, we work with the program staff to create a path towards the certificate that is manageable.

Students should take at least one sustainability elective in their fall term as well as System Dynamics (15.871 or 15.873). In addition, plan to complete SCM.251 Supply Chain Financial Analysis in the fall (SCM requirement, does not count towards the Sustainability Certificate) as the spring has 3 required courses. We also consider the following exceptions on a case-by-case basis for SCM Students:

- Independent studies in lieu of one of the elective requirements
- Theses in lieu of one of the elective requirements
- Special action-learning projects in non-sustainability certificate qualified courses with a sustainability component

# Potential Pathway

Courses		Fall	Jan	Spring
Required (3)	1- 15.871 Intro to System Dynamics or 15.873 System Dynamics for Biz and Policy	✓ (H1)		✓ (H3)
	2- 15.915 Strategies for Sustainable Business (S-Lab)	✓		✓
	3- 15.878 Capstone in Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability			✓ (H4)
Suggested (2 required)	15.385 Innovating for Impact	✓		
	SCM.283/284 Humanitarian Logistics			✓
	SCM.290 Sustainable Supply Chains			✓ (H3)
	15.768 Management of Services	✓		
	15.769 Operations Strategy			✓
	15.S09 Managing Crucial Conversations About & Across Difference	✓		

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## MFin Sequence

M.Fin students are on campus for a short period of time, with a stringent set of course requirements. It is therefore difficult for MFin students to pursue the certificate. However, the following exceptions can apply:

Options that count towards the certificate:

- An action learning project in the finance practicum (15.453) if the project is sustainability related (We will ensure that there are at least two projects that are sustainability related for interested MFin Students)
- A project in 15.451/Proseminar in Capital Markets/Investment Management

Alternatives to the elective requirements

- Independent study
- SIP and IAP coursework in sustainability

# Potential Pathway

Courses		Fall	Jan	Spring
Required (3)	1- 15.871 Intro to System Dynamics or 15.873 System Dynamics for Biz and Policy	✓ (H1)		✓ (H3)
	2- 15.915 Strategies for Sustainable Business (S-Lab)	✓		✓
	3- 15.878 Capstone in Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability			✓ (H4)
Suggested (2 required)	15.499 Social Impact Investing			✓ (H4)
	15.453 Finance Research Practicum		✓	✓ (H3)
	15.451 Proseminar in Cap Markets	✓		✓
	15.S09 Managing Crucial Conversations About & Across Difference	✓		
	15.385 Innovating for Impact	✓		

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## IDM Sequence

We consider the following exceptions on a case-by-case basis for IDM Students:.

- Independent studies in lieu of one of the elective requirements
- Theses in lieu of one of the elective requirements
- Special action-learning projects in non-sustainability certificate qualified courses with a sustainability component

# Potential Pathway

Courses		Fall	Jan	Spring
Required (3)	1- 15.871 Intro to System Dynamics or 15.873 System Dynamics for Biz and Policy	✓ (H1)		✓ (H3)
	2- 15.915 Strategies for Sustainable Business (S-Lab)	✓		✓
	3- 15.878 Capstone in Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability			✓ (H4)
Suggested (2 required)	15.385 Innovating for Impact	✓		
	SCM.283/284 Humanitarian Logistics			✓
	SCM.290 Sustainable Supply Chains			✓ (H3)
	15.768 Management of Services	✓		
	15.657 Technology, Globalization, & Sustainable Development	✓		
	15.S09 Managing Crucial Conversations About & Across Difference	✓		

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- Theses in lieu of one of the elective requirements
- Special action-learning projects in non-sustainability certificate qualified courses with a sustainability component

# Potential Pathway

Courses		Fall	Jan	Spring
Required (3)	1- 15.871 Intro to System Dynamics or 15.873 System Dynamics for Biz and Policy	✓ (H1)		✓ (H3)
	2- 15.915 Strategies for Sustainable Business (S-Lab)	✓		✓
	3- 15.878 Capstone in Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability			✓ (H4)
Suggested (2 required)	15.S09 Managing Crucial Conversations About & Across Difference	✓		
	SCM.283/284 Humanitarian Logistics			✓
	SCM.290 Sustainable Supply Chains			✓ (H3)
	15.385 Innovating for Impact	✓		
	15.657 Technology, Globalization, & Sustainable Development	✓		
	15.783 Prod. Design & Dev			✓

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## TPP Sequence

TPP students are on campus for two years and are primarily focused on completing their thesis (24 credits) through their time at MIT. In addition, students have an engineering systems requirement (30 credits). There are a number of overlapping courses between TPP and the requirements for the sustainability certificate. (“restricted electives” - must pick one - IDS.435, IDS.521, 15.032 (3/6 electives count (50%))

We consider the following exceptions on a case-by-case basis for TPP Students:.

- Independent studies in lieu of one of the elective requirements
- Theses in lieu of one of the elective requirements

# Potential Pathway

Courses		Fall	Jan	Spring
Required (3)	1- 15.871 Intro to System Dynamics or 15.873 System Dynamics for Biz and Policy	✓ (H1)		✓ (H3)
	2- 15.915 Strategies for Sustainable Business (S-Lab)	✓		✓
	3- 15.878 Capstone in Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability			✓ (H4)
Suggested (2 required)	IDS.435 Law, Technology, and Public Policy	✓		
	15.783 Prod. Design & Dev			✓
	SCM.290 Sustainable Supply Chains			✓ (H3)
	11.371/22.811 Sustainable Energy	✓		
	15.657 Technology, Globalization, & Sustainable Development	✓		
	15.S09 Managing Crucial Conversations About & Across Difference	✓		

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