

Pathways through the Sustainability Certificate

This section outlines the scholastic requirements for the MIT Sloan Sustainability Certificate and provides recommended classes of study for students in various programs at MIT that mesh well with the Certificate. The Certificate is only available to students in degree-granting programs at MIT who are eligible to take graduate-level classes at MIT Sloan.

Students need to register their interest in the Sustainability Certificate by filling out the Sustainability Certificate Intake Form. Once the form has been completed, a member of the Sustainability Initiative staff will reach out to meet with the student, review the requirements, and discuss pathways for completion that meet their academic and career goals. The certificate is awarded based on a review of the transcript near graduation.

Please note that before taking Sloan (Course 15) classes, students should familiarize themselves with the Sloan academic calendar (where each semester is divided into H1, SIP, and H2), and with the unique bidding process for classes. See <http://sloanbid.mit.edu> for details.

Required Courses for All Programs (24 credits total)

Number & Title	Term & Credits	Notes
15.915 Laboratory for Sustainable Business	Spring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15.915 is an Action Learning course in which students do cutting edge projects with partner organizations, introduces a strategic approach to sustainable business through lectures, simulations, and case 15.915 is a full semester course. In the first half of the semester teams form, bid on projects, and develop their work plans. Students who are not pursuing the Certificate may bid on 15.913 as a stand-alone course.
15.871 System Dynamics	(fall H1 or spring H3) 6 credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analytic approach to understanding complex systems, foundational to the MIT Sloan approach to sustainability. Students who are highly interested in system dynamics are encouraged to take 15.872 – System Dynamics II but it does not count as a Certificate Elective.
15.878 Capstone course in sustainability	(spring H5) 6 credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designed to be taken in students' final semester at MIT Sloan – 15.913 is a prerequisite. Engages students in broader debates on sustainability beyond the business sector. Students conduct a scenario analysis of how market and non-market forces will shape the industry and company approach to sustainability where they plan to work.

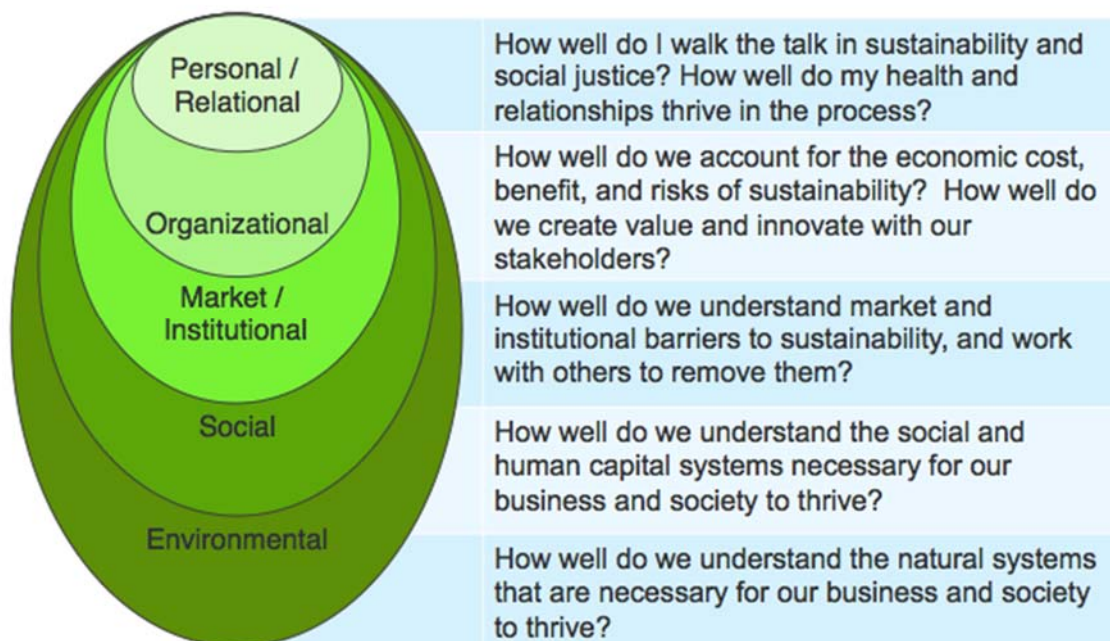
Elective Courses (12-24 credits total)

Select TWO classes from the list of approved electives, available at <http://mitsloan.mit.edu/sustainability/courses>. There are dozens of Sustainability Certificate electives in departments and schools across MIT, providing an important bridge to the strengths of the wider Institute. On a case-by-case basis, we do allow students to take electives at affiliate institutions where students are eligible to take classes for credit, such as the Harvard Kennedy School.

Electives are chosen and approved based on:

- a) Match to the overall curricular goals of the Certificate
- b) Complementarity with the required classes in the Certificate
- c) A good balance of theoretical and applied content

Through the required and elective classes, our intention is that students cover the five elements of our curriculum model, depicted below.



Program Sequence

The exact sequence of classes can be customized depending on students' interests and the constraints of their program in terms of schedule and credits. The following descriptions of pathways through the Sustainability Certificate are based on official policy and past student experience. We provide guidelines for MBA, Sloan Fellows, HKS/Sloan dual degree, SDM, M.Fin, MSMS, LGO, EMBA, SCM, TPP, DUSP and MIT undergraduates. Students in other programs around MIT are welcome to pursue the Certificate if they can complete the required classes. Anyone interesting in pursuing the Certificate should reach out to Associate Director, [Bethany Patten](#) for guidance.

HKS Joint Sequence

Students pursuing a joint degree of MPA at Harvard Kennedy School and MBA at MIT Sloan spend three years of study between the two programs. There are three “Scenarios” for completing the program – *please obtain latest materials from MBA program office.*

DUAL DEGREE OPTION WITH MIT SLOAN AND THE HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL

Scenario 1

Period of Enrollment	Sloan 1	IAP 1	Sloan 2	HKS 1	IAP 2	HKS 2	HKS 3	IAP 3	Sloan 3
Max units of MIT Sloan Elective Credit	9 (+3)	*	54	*	n/a	*	*	*	54

Scenario 2

Period of Enrollment	Sloan 1	IAP 1	Sloan 2	HKS 1	IAP 2	HKS 2	Sloan 3	IAP 3	HKS 3
Max units of MIT Sloan Elective Credit	9 (+3)	*	54	*	n/a	*	54	*	*

Scenario 3

Period of Enrollment	HKS 1	IAP 1	HKS2	Sloan 1	IAP 2	Sloan 2	HKS 3	IAP 3	Sloan 3
Max units of MIT Sloan Elective Credit	n/a	n/a	n/a	9 (+3)	n/a	54	*	*	54

*24-27 units of credits must be earned during IAP and/or HKS semester(s) (through cross registration.)

MBA/MPA Term	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3
1 st year fall	Core – no sustainability-focused courses; Sustainability Lunch Series when possible throughout the program.	Core – no sustainability-focused courses; Sustainability Lunch Series when possible throughout the program.	HKS; Sustainability Lunch Series when possible throughout the program.

1 st year spring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H1: 15.871 System Dynamics • 15.915 Laboratory for Sustainable Business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H1: 15.871 System Dynamics • 15.915 Laboratory for Sustainable Business 	HKS
2 nd year fall	HKS Cross: 0-2 Sustainability electives	HKS Cross: 0-2 Sustainability electives	Core – no sustainability-focused courses; Sustainability Lunch Series when possible
2 nd year spring	HKS Cross: 0-2 Sustainability electives	HKS Cross: 0-2 Sustainability electives	H1: 15.871 System Dynamics 15.915 Laboratory for Sustainable Business
3 rd year Fall	HKS Cross: 0-2 Sustainability electives	1-2 Sustainability electives	HKS Cross: 0-2 Sustainability electives
3 rd year Spring	0-2 Sustainability electives H2: 15.878 Capstone in Sustainability	HKS Cross-register into H2: 15.878 Capstone in Sustainability ¹	1-2 Sustainability electives H2: 15.878 Capstone in Sustainability
