



University of Florida Sustainability Exploration Program Summer 2025

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA // SUSTAINABILITY AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT
June 15, 2025 – June 29, 2025 // GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA

LEARN THROUGH HANDS-ON



Hands-on and field work is the heart of the program. Students learn through the project site visits, investigate/explore, collect data, analyze data, and draw conclusions. Students learn to communicate their plan, findings, and recommended solution(s) in an open and constructive environment.

SUSTAINABILITY EXPLORATION PROGRAM

Is a multi– discipline, pre-college summer program organized by the Sustainability and the Built Environment program at College of Design, Construction and Planning for high school upperclassman (juniors and seniors) on the day of registration.

MISSION

The primary initiative of the University of Florida's Sustainability Exploration Program (SEP) is to offer both valuable insight and first- hand experience to prospective students interested in sustainability and to understand the path to a career in sustainability.

SEMINARS

Seminars covering various aspects of sustainability issues. They aim to immerse participants in hands-on education that introduces students to core aspects of sustainability issues and the university's sustainability curriculum. Formatted as lectures and group discussions, they are led by guest professors and industry professionals in the morning and evening hours.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips provide participants with exposure to sustainability work in action and the

importance of this work.

Through on-campus and city site visits to sustainable sites, buildings, and organizations, participants learn about the significance of sustainability and the sustainability profession. Field trips including a visit to St. Augustine to see the sustainability in historic districts and the impact of sea level rise, and a trip to Orlando to learn about its sustainability as the first LEED certified city in Florida and see behind the seen Disney World sustainability.

RESIDENCE HALL

SEP participants stay at the newest and LEED Gold Certified dormitory suites conveniently located near the College of Design, Construction and Planning on the UF campus. Accommodations are semi-private bedrooms and baths, student lounges, and recreation areas where participants can relax and socialize during free time. In-house counselors provide around the clock supervision.

FOOD AND SUCH

Breakfast and lunch will be provided from June 16th to June 28th and breakfast on June 29th. Students are responsible for their own dinner.

The following restaurants are within walking distance including Bento, Chick- Fil- A, Chipotle, and Subway. Publix and CVS are also within short walking distance. There are also a variety of affordable restaurants within walking distance. Participants are responsible for their own laundry. Coin-operated facilities are conveniently located in the residence hall.

PROGRAM FEES

The \$2,250 program fee for the Sustainability Exploration Program covers the program's two weeks of instruction, on- campus housing, supplies & materials, travel expenses to St Augustine, Orlando, and other local field trips.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Program dates are June 15, 2025-June 29, 2025. The deadline for all application materials is May 1, 2025. To apply, please submit the following materials to the UF Sustainability and the Built Environment program:

Register online through link below and pay \$25 registration fee.
<https://cvent.me/q5n529>

E-mail below information to:

cwelch@dcp.ufl.edu and
barmagh@ufl.edu

- Current copy of your academic transcript from your school
- SEP Application
- Personal statement (one or two pages) describing why you are interested in sustainability, status of planet, and what benefit you anticipate getting from this.

For More Information, Contact:

Caroline Welch,
cwelch@dcp.ufl.edu
Phone: (352) 294-1457
Bahar Armaghani, LEED Fellow
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Those with communication disabilities can contact UF through the Florida Relay Service (FRS), a free service facilitating communication through telecommunication devices for deaf (TDD), by calling 1-800-955-8770 (voice) or 1-800-855-8771 (TDD).

REALIZE.

A group of students are standing on a metal walkway overlooking a large water treatment facility. The facility includes several circular tanks and industrial structures. In the background, there is a parking lot filled with cars and a line of trees under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. A tall light pole stands near the students. The students are dressed in casual summer attire, including t-shirts, shorts, and jeans. Some are looking at their phones, while others are looking towards the facility. A person's arm holding a smartphone is visible in the lower-left foreground.

Students learn the fundamentals of critical thinking and problem solving, work in teams, learn from one another, and quickly develop range of skills.

Solve.



EXPLORE.



ENJOY.

Spend one day learning about City of Orlando sustainability initiatives and see behind the scenes how sustainability is integrated into the city and parks.



Spend one day learning about sustainability and the impact of sea level rise on Florida shores and tour historic St. Augustine. Then enjoy the historic downtown and beaches of St. Augustine.



SBE

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