

Sustainable Communities Program

Instructions for the Comprehensive Statement of Intent for Admission to the Master of Arts in Sustainable Communities

Please include with your application a comprehensive statement, 3-5 pages in length. This statement is an important part of the application process. We use it to evaluate your communication skills and to match your background and interests with our program. Address the following points in your essay:

1. Introduce yourself to the Admissions Committee by telling us about your background and interests, as well as supplying any other information that you believe the committee should know.
2. Reflect on what in your biography led you to consider the Sustainable Communities Program.
3. Discuss your intended focus in the program and how this fits with the general program theme of “Good and Sustainable Societies.” We realize that you may be in the very early stages of formulating your program interests, but we would like to know what areas of study or issues you wish to begin to explore. For example, you may want to study questions surrounding water availability, distribution, and usage, or sustainable food access. Or, you may want to explore the place of various “meaning-systems” in the construction and maintenance of societies. As best as you can, give the committee members a sense of your current interests in regard to the program theme.
4. If you wish to transfer graduate course credit into the program (up to 9 credit hours may be allowed), you will need to address how the work that you have already completed is relevant to your current goals and the MA Sustainable Communities programmatic theme.

Many applicants find it useful to meet (in person or virtually) with the faculty program coordinator prior to completing the application. We encourage potential applicants to reach out to us (Sustainable.Communities@nau.edu) to set up such a visit or appointment.