

Matt Shinderman, PhD
Senior Instructor, Natural Resources
OSU-Cascades
2600 College Way
Bend, OR 97701

May 6, 2013

RE: OSU's Double Degree in Sustainability

Mr. Shinderman:

I am writing to share my support for OSU's double degree in sustainability.

In my experience, OSU's approach is unique to sustainability education for undergraduates. Your program provides a solid framework for students to acquire the integrated, interdisciplinary perspective required of sustainability thinkers and practitioners. OSU's program ensures that students are grounded in a specific, traditional discipline while also receiving a rigorous introduction to all three components of sustainability—biology, economics and social sciences. Your internship requirement also ensures that students gain some practical experience applying their academic training in the real world.

I have reviewed resumes from many young undergraduates looking to break into the sustainability field. Students who complete OSU's double degree program will stand out among their peers.

I wish my alma mater had a sustainability program like yours when I was an undergraduate. It would have provided me some needed discipline and structure while still allowing me to pursue my particular passion for blending social and biological sciences to achieve a sustainable future. I am sure there are many students today who will benefit from your approach.

Congratulations on OSU's new double degree program in sustainability. I look forward to working with your students, as interns and perhaps even employees.

Sincerely,



Mike Riley
Executive Director