



MEMO

To: AASHE STARS Reviewers

From: Ruairi O'Mahony, Executive Director

Date: 03/14/2022

Subject: AC-2 Learning Outcomes – UMass Lowell Essential Learning Outcomes

Through UMass Lowell's robust Core Curriculum requirements all of UMass Lowell's undergraduate students graduate from the institution with required sustainability learning outcomes as defined in AASHE's STARS Credit AC-2 Learning Outcomes.

Through the Essential Learning Outcomes (ELOs) students practice seven key intellectual skills- the Core ELOs- in ways that are tailored and relevant for their major. These ELOs may be met within the major or through other courses. By taking classes in all the content areas, students gain a well-rounded perspective of all the different aspects of sustainability, including ecological, economic, and social dimensions.

UMass Lowell's **Diversity and Cultural Awareness (DCA)** and **Social Responsibility and Ethics (SRE)** ELOs explicitly provide students with the knowledge and skills that address the interdependence of ecological systems and social/economic systems. Undergraduate students explore the interdependence through required courses that debate how the ecological and social/economic systems interact. Experiential learning in UMass Lowell's campus living laboratory opportunities include a wide array of sustainability focused opportunities for students to enhance their core ELO requirements. For example, the Rist Institute's Climate Mitigation Challenge is a unique offering for all undergraduate students, that encourages them to take the knowledge gained from their ELO's and find ways to reduce the university community's carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by 10,000 pounds over the span of 10 weeks. Students work on innovative approaches that tie ecological, economic, and social dimensions together both on the university's campus and in the surrounding City of Lowell.

Through a supporting program called Enriching ELOs (E2LOs) students enrich their learning and build connections between the core outcomes achieved in the classroom with the experiential, co-curricular opportunities beyond the classroom. A recent E2LO program that was hosted was called "Sowing SEEDs", which encouraged students to draw connections between what they learned in the classroom, to brainstorm projects that would solve problems on campus and simultaneously make the campus more sustainable.

Students also have access to UMass Lowell's unique Urban Agriculture program which allows them to innovate with unique projects and applications that cover the ecological, economic, and social dimensions of sustainability.