

Term

Funding to Provide the LEED Green Associate Credentialing Exam Waivers to Undergraduate Students

Primary Proposal Contact(s)

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Collaboration

- Grace Crickette, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, UW-Eau Claire
- Kyran Hamill, Special Assistant to the Vice Chancellor, UW- Eau Claire
- Lorne Mlotek, Head LEED Trainer, LeadingGreen

Project Abstract

During the 2022-2023 Academic Year UWEC is delighted to advance our sustainability programming by providing free LEED Green Associate *training workshops* to 100 individuals across the campus community (85 students and 15 faculty/staff). Vice Chancellor Grace Crickette has already purchased training workshops for the introductory LEED Green Associate credential in partnership with the company Leading Green. Leading Green provides workshop materials including webinars, recorded webinars, study materials, and practice exams designed to teach UWEC faculty, staff, and students the content they need to know to pass the entry level LEED Green Associate credential exam.

The *credentialing exam* for becoming certified as a LEED Green Associate is separate from the training workshops, and is provided by the US Green Building Council, who runs the LEED building certification program. The LEED Green Associate exam "measures general knowledge of green building practices and how to support others working on LEED projects. The exam is ideal for those newer to sustainability and LEED." This exam costs \$100 for students. The Administrative Office of Sustainability is proposing that SOS fund exam waivers for 85 students, ensuring that the credential is financially accessible to everyone who participates in the free training workshops.

The exam is two hours long and has 100 multiple-choice questions. A passing score of 170 out of 200. You have the option to take the exam at a Prometric Testing Center or from home as a remote proctored online exam. Exams are readily available, and can be booked up to two weeks in advance.

Narrative

Sustainability Area(s) Addressed

The sustainability area addressed in this proposal is educational opportunities for students.

Our goal with the LEED Green associate credentialing is to provide opportunities for students to both learn sustainability content tied to sustainable buildings, to promote a wider culture of sustainability on campus, and to provide credentialing, making participants more competitive in



Term

the workplace. Faculty who become credentialed will ensure sustainability is woven into their institutional knowledge and projects moving forward.

The LEED Green Associate program assesses building design and construction in terms of energy efficiency, water usage, air quality, and choice of building materials as well as environmental factors such as access to public transportation and responsible land use. This project aligns with the University's Climate Action Plan and the Student Office of Sustainability's goal to address various sustainability areas on campus and in campus facilities. As the exams can be virtual, it is virtually a net zero carbon opportunity, which aligns with the Climate Action Plan and goal of carbon neutrality by 2050.

Lastly, this training and exam pairs with multiple courses offered on campus this fall semester. Building Sustainability in the Academy, Taking the Measure of Sustainability, and other environmentally related courses can take advantage of this new resource.

More information can be found at: UWEC.ly/LEED

Sustainability Outcomes

Sustainability is valuing the interdependence of our economic, environmental, and social systems. Please explain how your project addresses these three components of sustainability.

1. Economic Responsibilities

This project will provide a significant benefit to the university community in terms of providing students with the opportunity to learn valuable information about sustainability, sustainable building practices, and sustainable operations for free. Incorporating sustainable practices in the workplace now will save costs as climate change intensifies.

2. Environmental Responsibilities

The main component of this proposal is certifying student's environmental and sustainable building knowledge. Since any student of any discipline can enroll in the free training and, if this proposal is approved, the free credentialing exam, this is an opportunity to spread sustainability knowledge across campus. Post graduation, students will be incorporating this sustainability knowledge into an array of career paths and professions, promoting institutional sustainability. Eventually, the 85 students who receive free training and credentialing will be able to apply this knowledge to their own homes. This is notable because energy efficiency/carbon reduction in homes is one of the most impactful personal changes an individual or family can make to reduce their carbon footprint.

3. Social Responsibilities

This credentialing provides an opportunity for students to consider our collective responsibility towards each other through the facets of building design. Considering embodied carbon, public transportation, air quality, accessibility in a building, particularly our two new buildings on campus, is all tied to our collective health and wellbeing. This project will also build behavior change not only through education, but by creating student sustainability leaders on campus through the official credentialing



Term

process. By making this opportunity free, SOS would help the AOS ensure this opportunity is equitable as possible.

Project Timeline

We will begin supplying the training in September of 2022 and will provide exam waivers as soon as we are able once funding is allocated.

The following dates are planned dates for live *LEED Green Associate trainings*.

- October 1, 2022 – 1:00PM – 5:30PM EST
- October 29, 2022 – 1:00PM – 5:30PM EST
- November 12, 2022 – 1:00PM – 5:30PM EST
- December 1, 2022 – 5:00PM – 9:30PM EST
- December 17, 2022 – 1:00PM – 5:30PM EST
- On-demand recordings completed at your own pace
- Spring training schedule is TBD.

LEED Green Associate *credentialing exams* can be scheduled either in person or as a remote proctored exam. Exams are readily available (there are multiple dates and times available throughout each week on the schedule) and can be booked up to two weeks in advance.

The AOS will contact students who sign up for the training and provide the exam waiver and sign-up process once funding has been allocated and the waivers have been attained.

Assessment

The sustainability staff will keep a record of all who sign up for the training and credentialing exam. We will also track the names and the number of people who sign up but cannot participate due to the quota of 85 students being met. This will allow us to expand the program if needed and gauge overall interest.

Maintenance

No maintenance will be required.

Communication

The credentialing will be advertised on the Admin Office of Sustainability website, in our newsletter, and in a campus wide email. We will also be advertising it on the TVs around campus. It is our goal to make this as known as possible to ensure students are aware of this great opportunity.

Project Budget

Item	Quantity	Cost	Total
Student Exam Vouchers	85	\$100	\$8,500



Term