



SCA Sustainability Professional Course

Venue Requirements: All participants must have access to reliable high-speed internet in a quiet space without ambient noise (i.e. not in a roastery or café, or driving). Headsets are recommended. All participants are expected to keep people, pets, and other household members and/or work colleagues out of sight and sound range for the duration of each class session. Students are expected to treat each class session as a “live course” and be prepared to take notes on paper as the sound of typing can be distracting. Students should arrive at least 5 minutes before the start of the first class session, and at least 2 minutes before the start of the last three classes. Finally, participants should prepare their coffee or take their bathroom breaks before the start of each class session. There will be a 5-minute break during each class.

SCA Coffee Sustainability Program: Professional Course	
Course hours	40 hours minimum over 5-6 months (10 course hours, plus 30 practicum hours; course hours split up between 8 hours of instruction and 2 hours of presentations at the end of the course)
Course aims	<p>The Professional course offers an intensive, practical experience in which students design, carry out, and assess their own sustainability project in accordance with their individual, organizational, and/or business goals and capabilities. The Professional class is designed to be taught over a period of several months, with initial in-class sessions (online or in-person) followed by remote and ongoing support to students as they design and carry out their projects.</p> <p>By the end of the course, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify measures of accountability, success, and progress on a sustainability issue of the students’ choice; • Engage extensively with debates, policies, and practices of sustainability across multiple points of the value chain; • Lead others in discussion and practice of these issues, and serve as a mentor for future students; • Identify, develop, carry out, and assess a sustainability effort that (a) fits within the student’s individual, business, and/or organizational capabilities, (b) can be measured and is traceable, (c) contains structures of accountability. Students will then assess and reflect critically about this project’s successes and failures; • Serve as an advocate for intelligent sustainability programming across the coffee industry by making educated choices about trade-offs, sustainability costs, and concepts; • Execute leadership in sustainability programming within the specialty coffee industry.

Lecture Component/In-class Coursework	
Class Session	Course Outline
First Class Session / Week One (2 hours)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Review and Reflection from Sustainability Intermediate -Introduction to Project Planning and Development -The Define, Learn, Plan, and Launch Stages of Project Planning -From Visioning to Systems Analysis -Projects vs. Programs
Second Class Session / Week Two (2 hours)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Introduction to Qualitative Research -The Define, Learn, Plan, and Launch Stages of Qualitative Research -Qualitative vs. Quantitative Research -Sustainability as Transformation
Third Class Session / Week Three (2 hours)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Introduction to Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) -The Management, Monitor, and Follow-up of MEL -Introduction to Program Theory -Introduction to Theory of Change -Use of MEL Frameworks
Fourth Class Session / Week Four (2 hours)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Review of Project Planning and Development -Review of Qualitative Research -Review of Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning -Overview of Participatory and Community-Led Development -Explanation of Independent Student Project

Independent Student Project: After the fourth class session, students will meet with their AST every other week so they can be guided through the independent student project phase. During this time, students will be responsible for fully designing as well as executing and measuring at least part of their own sustainability project with guidance from their AST. Students will also recruit and establish two industry mentors of their choice in consultation with their AST so that these mentors can provide additional support to the project. Students will have up to five months to complete their independent project assignment, write a final report on lessons learned, and present their work in plenary to other students (over the course of a 2 hour online live class).

Exam format: Successful completion of the Professional Sustainability course requires a score of at least “Meets Expectations” on each of three course sections: I) Project Proposal; II) Project Execution; and III) Project Evaluation and Final Report. If a student scores below a 70% on one or more sections, they will not pass the course. Please view the course rubric for more information (provided upon registration). Upon receiving a passing score, students will receive a certificate from the Specialty Coffee Association for the Professional level.

