

SUSTAINABLE LIBERAL ARTS FOR TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION

Sustainable Liberal Arts for Transformative Education is the core of any Green Mountain College education. Sterling College’s combination of [Foundations courses](#), [College-wide Competencies](#), and [General Education](#) and Writing Intensive requirements strongly parallel the Green Mountain SLATE core curriculum. The GMC and Sterling College competencies (below) also present parallel approaches to empowering students to think deeply and critically about a broad range of ecologically-focused issues.

For the Green Mountain College SLATE requirement students must complete:

- Four core courses (12 credits total)
- Seven additional courses (21-22 credits total) from choices in seven distribution categories. The GMC catalog specifies, “to demonstrate proficiency, students place their work documenting satisfactory completion of all learning outcomes in an electronic portfolio.”

As part of a Sterling B.A. degree, students must complete:

- Three Foundations courses, one of which must be Foundations of Ecology (10 credits total)
- Six credits of coursework in each of the following: Natural Science, Social Science, and Humanities, and one credit in Applied Science (19 credits total)

Learning Outcomes Comparison

Green Mountain College SLATE	Sterling College-wide Competencies
Systems Thinking	Ecological Fluency
Critical Thinking and Communication	Knowledge of Intersecting Social Contexts
Environmental Awareness	Critical and Creative Thinking
Reflective Self-Awareness and Responsibility	Communication Skills
Liberal Arts Understanding	Socio-Ecological Engagement and Practice

SLATE Core Courses

Green Mountain College course	Credits	Sterling College course	Credits
SLA1000 SLATE Seminar	3	INT100A A Sense of Place: Expedition I	3
SLA1500 Voices of Community: Writing Seminar	3	HM107 Foundations of Environmental Humanities	3
SLA 2000 Wicked Problems, Complex Solutions	3	NS272 Introduction to Climate Science	3
SLA 4000 A Delicate Balance: Capstone Seminar	3	Any designated Senior Seminar	3
Total Credits	12		13

Distribution Categories

Many of Sterling's courses fall into one or more of Green Mountain College's distribution categories. Students may also petition to include other courses as appropriate. Suggested courses are listed below:

Quantitative Analysis

Sterling College course	Credits
NS301 Field Ecology	4
SS308 Introduction to GIS	3
SS408 Advanced GIS	4

Natural Systems

Sterling College course	Credits
NS200 Watershed Ecosystems Analysis	3
NS235 Natural History of the Northwoods	4
NS247 Soils, Plants, and Microbes I	3
NS305 Wetlands Ecology	3
NS314 Field Botany of Flowering Plants	3
NS328 Vertebrate Natural History	4
NS348 Soils, Plants, and Microbes II	4

Human Systems

Sterling College course	Credits
HM272D Oral History: Family Stories and Cultural Identity	3
HM472B Performance Ecology	3
INT382 Ancestral Lifeways of the Southwest	4
SS336 Native Food and Farming Traditions of the Americas	3
SS382 Landscape Food and Culture	3

Aesthetic Appreciation

Sterling College course	Credits
AS195 Introduction to Handtools and Woodworking	2
HM215A A Reverence for Wood	2
HM230 Fiber Arts I	3
HM271 Pottery I	3
HM272G Wheel-Thrown Pottery	3
HM325 Fiber Arts II	3
HM320 Creative Writing	3
HM326 Nature Writing	3

Moral Reasoning

Sterling College course	Credits
HM472 Posthumanism: Exploring the Margin Between Human and Non-human	3
INT472 Environmental Justice Beyond Borders	3
NS402 Conservation Biology	3
SS280 Conflict Management, Justice Paradigms, and Mediation	2
SS380/SS382A Community Organizing for Social and Political Change	3
SS422 Security, Sovereignty, and Food Justice	3
SS425 Education and Culture	3

Historical Context

Sterling College course	Credits
HM233 Wildness and Wilderness	4
HM345 Literature of the Rural Experience	3
HM382A Race and Gender in Images of the American West	2
INT380 Ancestral Lifeways of the Southwest	3
SS272A Anthropology of Food	3

The Examined Life

Sterling College course	Credits
AS271 Trail Running	2
HM/SS245 Stories and Storytelling	3
SS233 Small Group Dynamics	2
SS285 Gender in U.S. Society	2
SS320 Group Process for Outdoor Leaders	3
SS335 Leadership and Social Change	3

Writing Intensive

Many Sterling College courses are designated as writing intensive. Current offerings are listed below:

Sterling College course	Credits
HM227 Adventure Literature	3
HM270D Oral History	3
HM326 Nature Writing	3
HM382A Race and Gender in Images of the American West	3
HM472A Resilience, Complexity, and Flow	4
NS372 Agroforestry	3
NS348 Soils, Plants, and Microbes II	4
NS402 Conservation Biology	4
SS202 Environmental Policy and Law	3