

Application for the Sustainability Leadership Semester

Welcome to the exciting learning possibilities of the Sustainability Leadership Semester (SLS) at the Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center! The SLS is a special interdisciplinary program of Goshen College, and admission into the program is not automatic. The emphases on active learning, problem-based collaborative work, and community living experiences in the SLS are likely very different from your familiar classroom and campus. This application will help us to understand your preparedness for this experience at this time. Please complete and sign the following application.

Criteria for SLS participation

Interested students should meet the following criteria. You should discuss any anticipated exceptions with the SLS Director.

- Enrolled in good standing at an accredited undergraduate program (Goshen College, or other college/university)
- Admitted to Goshen College (note to visiting students: that process precedes your application to the SLS)
- Minimum GPA of 3.0
- Junior or Senior status during the program; sophomores who demonstrate exceptional preparedness will also be considered
- Willingness to actively participate in problem-based, collaborative learning
- Ability to participate in a wide variety of outdoor experiences and frequent regional travel
- Commitment to foster a positive learning experience within the group
- Approval and recommendation of academic advisor, and one additional academic reference
- Recommendation of residential/student life and health/wellness offices at your home institution

Personal Information

Last Name	First Name	Student ID#	Age	<table border="0" style="font-size: small;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 0 5px;">1st Year</td> <td style="padding: 0 5px;">2nd Year</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 0 5px;">3rd Year</td> <td style="padding: 0 5px;">4th Year</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="padding: 0 5px;">Other</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Current Year (circle one)</td> </tr> </table>	1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year	4 th Year	Other		Current Year (circle one)	
1 st Year	2 nd Year											
3 rd Year	4 th Year											
Other												
Current Year (circle one)												
		()										
E-mail	Campus phone	Cell phone	Birthday: _____ Applying for Fall 20 _____									
Major(s): _____												
Minor(s): _____												
Academic major adviser: _____												

Please write your initials in response:

Yes ___ / No ___ I have already discussed with my academic advisor how the SLS fits into my overall program of study.
 Yes ___ / No ___ I am interested in pursuing the Minor in Sustainability. (For Goshen College students: This minor consists of the courses that compose the SLS, and one additional eligible 3-credit course taken on campus.)

Academic Performance

The SLS is an academically demanding program. Your recent successes in managing your studies on campus are important indicators of similar success in the SLS. In the academic recommendations that accompany this application and through the SLS admissions process, your academic adviser and one other professor are asked to supply the SLS admissions team with your basic record in these areas. **Your signing of this application constitutes permission for your professors to release information about your classroom performance and to offer additional perspective on your likely success in the SLS.** Have you been on academic probation of any kind during your college/university career? Please initial: Yes ___ / No ___. If your record in any previous courses seems questionable, please explain below any special circumstances, and list any other persons whom we may contact for further perspective.

Behavioral Performance

SLS necessarily requires your ability to live by the mutually agreed-upon standards and norms of the learning community, and the lifestyle expectations of Goshen College. Again, your recent success in managing these aspects of your life will help to establish that you

are ready for the SLS. Have you had any disciplinary instances at college/university in the past year? Please initial: Yes___/ No___. **If yes, please list below the instances, and indicate when and how the issues were resolved.** Your resident director and the dean of students are also consulted regarding your recent performance in this area. Whom may we contact for further interpretation?

Health Management

It is very important that you discuss fully with health professionals any medical or emotional history that may have an impact on your health during the SLS. Your privileged communication with physician, nurse, or counselor will be respected, but all students routinely complete a confidential physical and emotional health history form for the Goshen College health center and sign a release of information that may have a bearing on your safety or wellness during your studies. Health center personnel will be asked to clear your readiness for the SLS based on evidence of stable management over the past year of any recent physical or emotional health issues. **By signing this application, you agree to this process.**

All applicants should note that new or recurring behavioral and/or health issues that would affect your ability to fully engage in or to benefit from the SLS experience may affect your participation in the semester's program, even after enrollment in the SLS.

Short essays

On a separate sheet, please respond to each question below in one or two paragraphs:

1. What background, knowledge and skills do you have that will contribute to the Sustainability Leadership Semester experience?
2. What personal characteristics do you have that will contribute positively to the collaborative learning experience of the Sustainability Leadership Semester?
3. How do you envision applying what you learn about sustainability to your field of interest or major?

In addition to academic studies, the SLS program also places a strong focus on community living. Students will share in various responsibilities such as meal preparation, cleaning, and grocery shopping as part of the SLS community. Please comment on your thoughts about participating in communal living in one to two paragraphs for each question.

4. What are you most looking forward to about community living and learning?
5. What do you envision as the greatest challenges you will face?
6. How might this experience compare to another experience you have had?
7. What have you learned about how you handle conflict from your previous experiences of conflict in close residential settings?
8. Please read the "Living in a Learning Community" page on our website thoroughly. In a sentence to two, please affirm your willingness to agree to living and participating in this type of living community.

Application Agreement

I have read the above conditions for admission to the SLS, and have provided true and complete information. I agree to the processes indicated above as necessary to establish my recent academic success, my recent behavioral responsibility, and the present stability of any special physical and emotional health needs.

Applicant's Signature

Printed Name

Date

Please submit materials in hard copy or as PDF to:

Dr. Lisa Zinn, SLS Director, Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College, P.O. Box 263, Wolf Lake, IN 46796.

Questions? Please call Dr. Zinn at 260-799-5869, or email (Lisarz@goshen.edu).

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