

## GPSA Standard Curriculum

<i><b>MS Requirements</b></i>	<i><b>Graduate Credits</b></i>
Two core courses: SUSAG 509	4
SUSAG 610	3
SUSAG 600 – Colloquium (4 times)	4
Statistics – may use ISU or transfer course credits (STAT 401, 4 cr., approved for use)	3
SUSAG 699 – Research (thesis option) <u>or</u> SUSAG 599 – Creative Component (non-thesis)	6
Thematic area courses (in at least two areas)	6
Free electives	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>
<i><b>PhD Requirements</b></i>	<i><b>Graduate Credits</b></i>
Two core courses: SUSAG 509	4
SUSAG 610	3
SUSAG 600 – Colloquium (6 times)	6
Statistics – may use ISU or transfer course credits (STAT 401, 4 cr., approved for use)	3
SUSAG 699 – Research	18
Thematic area courses (in at least two areas)	12
Free electives	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>
<i><b>MS &amp; PhD Minor</b></i>	<i><b>Graduate Credits</b></i>
SUSAG 610	3
SUSAG 600 Colloquium (3 times)	3
Thematic area courses (in at least two areas)	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>

## Thematic Area Requirement

Thematic areas represent critical issues in the study of agricultural sustainability. The requirement for study within thematic areas is intended to enhance a student's ability to succeed professionally in interdisciplinary contexts. Therefore, courses selected to satisfy the thematic area requirement for a particular student must be met by taking courses ***outside the student's home department and, when applicable, outside the student's co-major.***

There are six thematic areas:

- landscape and watershed management;
- international development and food security;
- crop and livestock production and protection;
- policy, governance, and economics;
- engagement and communications;
- philosophy, ethics, and history.

The Program of Study (POS) for **Master's students and for students enrolled in sustainable agriculture as a minor** must include a minimum of six credits across at least two thematic areas.

**Doctoral students** must take 12 credits from a minimum of two thematic areas, with a minimum of three credits in at least two areas.

The GPSA maintains a list of recommended courses for each thematic area; other courses may also be appropriate. Students are advised to consult with their faculty advisors and POS Committee members to identify courses that satisfy a particular thematic area. Courses not on the recommended course list are subject to the review and approval of the GPSA DOGE.

### Examples:

A Master's student, or a student taking a minor, may satisfy the thematic area requirement by taking a 2-credit course that addresses landscape and watershed management plus a 3-credit course and a 1-credit course that address philosophy, ethics, and history. The total number of credits would be six, and the total number of thematic areas would be two.

A doctoral student may satisfy the thematic area requirement by taking three 3-credit courses that address landscape and watershed management (subtotal nine credits in one thematic area) plus one 3-credit course that addresses philosophy, ethics, and history (subtotal three credits in a different thematic area). The total number of credits would be 12 and the number of thematic areas would be two. Alternatively, a doctoral student may distribute the 12 credits across up to four thematic areas, as long as ***each proposed thematic area contains at least three credits.***