



COLUMBIA | SIPA

Sustainable Investing Research Initiative

SIRI Career Pathways Curriculum Guidance

OVERVIEW

SIPA's Sustainable Investing Research Initiative ([SIRI](#)) aims to foster education, research, and dialogue on system-level investing, which includes the interplay and interdependencies between investment and major challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, poverty, and social inequalities. SIRI's focus is on the nexus between corporations, investors, policy, and system-level challenges. SIRI contributes to several of the five key Global Policy Challenges identified by SIPA, namely Climate and Sustainable Development, Technology and Innovation, and Inclusive Prosperity and Macroeconomic Stability. As part of its mission, SIRI has developed several elective courses to deepen students' knowledge and skills in sustainable investing. For an overview of SIRI-developed courses, visit: <https://www.sipa.columbia.edu/global-research-impact/initiatives/sustainable-investing-research-initiative/resources>.

SIPA students from across programs and concentrations may be interested in pursuing careers in the broader field of sustainable investing, ranging from sustainable finance, impact investing, project finance, impact measurement and management, ESG reporting, DEI, corporate sustainability, social entrepreneurship, sustainable development, etc. Whether you aspire to work in the corporate or financial sector, in a non-profit or for-profit organization, and create a positive impact on society or the natural environment, SIPA's graduate program gives you the opportunity to gain crucial skills.

Students who seek positions in the broader sustainable investing space bring diverse experiences and aspirations to their career development efforts. As with all learning communities at SIPA, elective courses build on the core curriculum. Many employers in the sustainable investing sector value the general knowledge, skills, and perspectives developed in the core courses at least as much as the specific topics covered by electives. As such, we strongly encourage you to “double-down” on both fundamental skills and knowledge gained in core courses and specialized topics taught in electives. You will want to be competitive on the job market all around.

To help you plan your curriculum, we have developed several career pathways with suggested courses. These are intended to provide some structure and guidance in course selection if you know you are interested in a particular career path. However, you should feel free to take any

courses that you feel give you the experience and credentials you desire and help you fulfill your program requirements. Please note that this guidance only lists SIRI-developed courses. We encourage you to identify additional courses at SIPA (and across other Columbia schools) that align with your career interests and you might find valuable to take. There are many ways to align courses with career goals. We hope this guidance is helpful and we encourage you to consult with your academic advisor when selecting courses.

Also, please note that—beyond taking courses that help you acquire the necessary skillset and expertise—an important strategy for succeeding in the job search is to also build strong connections with potential employers in your field of interest during SIPA’s graduate program. We encourage you to engage in extracurricular activities such as case competitions (see [here](#)), SIRI Sustainable Investing Career Fairs, SIRI Series Panel discussions, and other opportunities. Sign up for SIRI’s newsletter to stay current on upcoming events and visit its website on a frequent basis: <https://www.sipa.columbia.edu/global-research-impact/initiatives/sustainable-investing-research-initiative/resources>.

SIRI-DEVELOPED COURSES OVERVIEW

SIRI has developed several Masters-level elective courses in the sustainable investing space. Below is an overview of SIRI-developed courses (also see: <https://www.sipa.columbia.edu/global-research-impact/initiatives/sustainable-investing-research-initiative/resources>).

- [CEEN IA7750](#) - Social Impact: Business, Society, and the Natural Environment
(Instructor: Caroline Flammer)
- [CEEN IA7799](#) - SIRI Practicum
(Instructors: C. Sara Minard and Matt Rusk)
- [CEEN IA7705](#) - Past, Present and Future of Sustainable Investing
(Instructor: David Wood)
- [CEEN IA7700](#) - Sustainable Finance I: Foundations of ESG Investing
(Instructor: Lukasz Pomorski in Spring and Frederic de Mariz in Fall)
- [CEEN IA7702](#) - Sustainable Finance II: System-level Investing
(Instructors: William Burckart and Jon Lukomnik)
- [CEEN IA7730](#) - Climate Finance, Policy, and the Just Transition
(Instructor: David Wood)
- [CEEN IA7780](#) - Capital Market Mobilization for Mitigating Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss
(Instructor: Frederic Samama)

- [CEEN IA7775](#) - Investor & Corporate Stewardship: Influencing Climate and Nature Policies
(Instructor: Tanya Khotin)
- [CEEN IA773](#) - ESG and Corporate Political Strategy
(Instructor: Dylan Minor)
- [CEEN IA7733](#) - ESG and Fiduciary Duties
(Instructors: Ingrid Dyott and Elizabeth Belanger)
- [CEEN IA7755](#) - Sustainability Reporting
(Instructor: Neri Bukspan)
- [CEEN IA7740](#) - Quantitative Valuation of the Environment: Firms' Economic Valuation of Nature and its Ecosystem Services
(Instructor: Lorie Srivastava)
- [CEEN IA7715](#) - Impact Measurement and Management
(Instructor: C. Sara Minard)
- [CEEN IA7710](#) - Impact Investing I: Foundations
(Instructor: Preeti Battacharji)
- [CEEN IA7712](#) - Impact Investing II: Blended Finance
(Instructors: Harry Guinness and Greg Levin)

Important Note:

- *Courses are typically offered one semester per academic year, not every semester.*
- *We strongly encourage you to double-down on both fundamental skills and knowledge gained in core courses and specialized topics taught in electives.*

Pathway: Sustainable Finance (Public Capital Markets)

(*Highly) Recommended SIRI-developed Courses for this specific Career Pathway:

- [CEEN IA7750](#) - Social Impact: Business, Society, and the Natural Environment
(Instructor: Caroline Flammer)
- [CEEN IA7799](#) - SIRI Practicum
(Instructors: C. Sara Minard and Matt Rusk)
- [CEEN IA7705](#) - Past, Present and Future of Sustainable Investing *
(Instructor: David Wood)
- [CEEN IA7700](#) - Sustainable Finance I: Foundations of ESG Investing *
(Instructor: Lukasz Pomorski in Spring and Frederic de Mariz in Fall)
- [CEEN IA7702](#) - Sustainable Finance II: System-level Investing *
(Instructors: William Burckart and Jon Lukomnik)
- [CEEN IA7730](#) - Climate Finance, Policy, and the Just Transition *
(Instructor: David Wood)
- [CEEN IA7780](#) - Capital Market Mobilization for Mitigating Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss *
(Instructor: Frederic Samama)
- [CEEN IA7775](#) - Investor & Corporate Stewardship: Influencing Climate and Nature Policies *
(Instructor: Tanya Khotin)
- [CEEN IA7733](#) - ESG and Fiduciary Duties *
(Instructors: Ingrid Dyott and Elizabeth Belanger)
- [CEEN IA7755](#) - Sustainability Reporting *
(Instructor: Neri Bukspan)
- [CEEN IA7740](#) - Quantitative Valuation of the Environment: Firms' Economic Valuation of Nature and its Ecosystem Services *
(Instructor: Lorie Srivastava)

Pathway: Impact Investing (Private Capital Markets) and Project Finance

(*Highly) Recommended SIRI-developed Courses for this specific Career Pathway:

- [CEEN IA7750](#) - Social Impact: Business, Society, and the Natural Environment
(Instructor: Caroline Flammer)
- [CEEN IA7799](#) - SIRI Practicum
(Instructors: C. Sara Minard and Matt Rusk)
- [CEEN IA7740](#) - Quantitative Valuation of the Environment: Firms' Economic Valuation of Nature and its Ecosystem Services *
(Instructor: Lorie Srivastava)
- [CEEN IA7715](#) - Impact Measurement and Management *
(Instructor: C. Sara Minard)
- [CEEN IA7710](#) - Impact Investing I: Foundations *
(Instructor: Preeti Battacharji)
- [CEEN IA7712](#) - Impact Investing II: Blended Finance *
(Instructors: Harry Guinness and Greg Levin)

Pathway: Corporate Sustainability (including management consulting, DEI, corporate sustainability, etc.)

(*Highly) Recommended SIRI-developed Courses for this specific Career Pathway:

- [CEEN IA7750](#) - Social Impact: Business, Society, and the Natural Environment
(Instructor: Caroline Flammer)
- [CEEN IA7799](#) - SIRI Practicum
(Instructors: C. Sara Minard and Matt Rusk)
- [CEEN IA7775](#) - Investor & Corporate Stewardship: Influencing Climate and Nature Policies *
(Instructor: Tanya Khotin)
- [CEEN IA773](#) - ESG and Corporate Political Strategy *
(Instructor: Dylan Minor)
- [CEEN IA7733](#) - ESG and Fiduciary Duties *
(Instructors: Ingrid Dyott and Elizabeth Belanger)
- [CEEN IA7755](#) - Sustainability Reporting *
(Instructor: Neri Bukspan)
- [CEEN IA7740](#) - Quantitative Valuation of the Environment: Firms' Economic Valuation of Nature and its Ecosystem Services *
(Instructor: Lorie Srivastava)

Pathway: Sustainability Reporting

(*Highly) Recommended SIRI-developed Courses for this specific Career Pathway:

- [CEEN IA7750](#) - Social Impact: Business, Society, and the Natural Environment
(Instructor: Caroline Flammer)
- [CEEN IA7799](#) - SIRI Practicum
(Instructors: C. Sara Minard and Matt Rusk)
- [CEEN IA7705](#) - Past, Present and Future of Sustainable Investing
(Instructor: David Wood)
- [CEEN IA7775](#) - Investor & Corporate Stewardship: Influencing Climate and Nature Policies
(Instructor: Tanya Khotin)
- [CEEN IA7733](#) - ESG and Fiduciary Duties
(Instructors: Ingrid Dyott and Elizabeth Belanger)
- [CEEN IA7755](#) - Sustainability Reporting *
(Instructor: Neri Bukspan)
- [CEEN IA7740](#) - Quantitative Valuation of the Environment: Firms' Economic Valuation of Nature and its Ecosystem Services *
(Instructor: Lorie Srivastava)
- [CEEN IA7715](#) - Impact Measurement and Management *
(Instructor: C. Sara Minard)

Pathway: Social Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Development

(*Highly) Recommended SIRI-developed Courses:

- [CEEN IA7750](#) - Social Impact: Business, Society, and the Natural Environment
(Instructor: Caroline Flammer)
 - [CEEN IA7799](#) - SIRI Practicum
(Instructors: C. Sara Minard and Matt Rusk)
 - [CEEN IA7730](#) - Climate Finance, Policy, and the Just Transition
(Instructor: David Wood)
 - [CEEN IA7780](#) - Capital Market Mobilization for Mitigating Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss
(Instructor: Frederic Samama)
 - [CEEN IA7740](#) - Quantitative Valuation of the Environment: Firms' Economic Valuation of Nature and its Ecosystem Services
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