



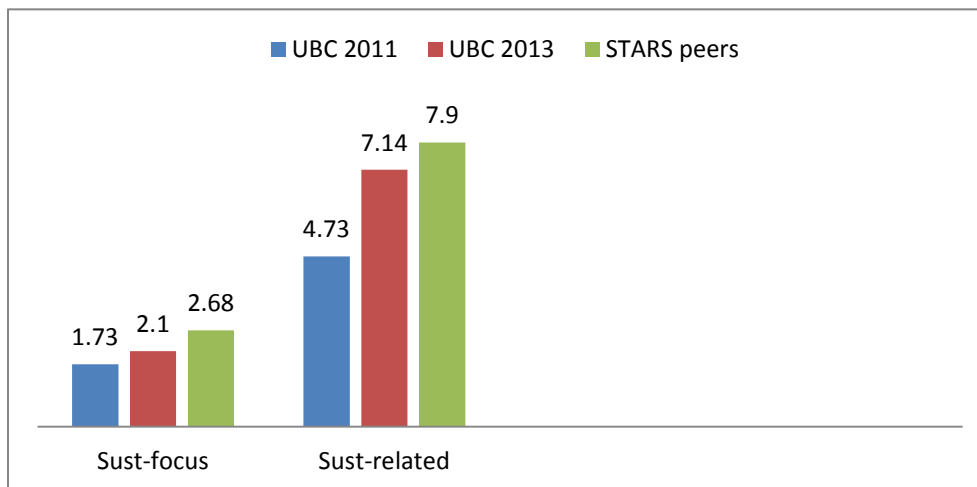
NAME

	Okanagan		Vancouver	
	2011/12	2012/13	2011/12	2012/13
Sustainability focused courses - #	14	14	96	139
- %	1.2%	1.2%	1.73%	2.10%
Sustainability related courses - #	61	61	289	472
- %	5.3%	5.3%	4.73%	7.14%

Benchmark

A benchmark can be calculated through the STARS data, which is submitted by participating colleges and universities to AASHE and is available online. UBC Vancouver campus last completed STARS reporting in July 2011.

Comparing our performance with peer universities (those who also received a Gold rating and are doctorate granting institutions), UBC Vancouver’s performance in these categories in 2011 is slightly below the median for the group, and in 2013 it is has improved to be close to the median. STARS data for our peer group shows median percentage of sustainability-focused courses at 4.99% of the courses available, and sustainability-related courses at 7.90% of all courses available.



Description

By increasing the sustainability focused and related curriculum, UBC can ensure that more of its students have access to courses that will contribute to their developing the attributes they will need in order to face the complex sustainability issues and challenges of our society.

- **Sustainability Related** courses fall within one or more of the three pillars (Environment, Society, and Economy + Technology) and either incorporate sustainability as a distinct course component or module, or concentrate on a sustainability principle or issue.
- **Sustainability Focused** courses either concentrate on the concept of sustainability, including its environmental, social and economic dimensions (overlap of the 3 pillars), or examine an issue or topic using sustainability as a lens.

Person with lead responsibility for this metric: Associate Director, Teaching and Learning Office
Campus Research and Analysis (Okanagan)

Data collection will be from: Annual snapshot
Date: Spring term



Explanation of Results

The STARS report provides a periodic snapshot of UBC Vancouver's performance, and an opportunity to compare our progress against other universities. In addition to the rigorous STARS process every three years, USI also conducts an annual update of our course inventory each year, which can provide interim data and which can be used to measure more incremental progress in this area.

On the Okanagan campus, there has not been an analysis as that done on the Vancouver campus for the STARS submission. The courses listed as 'sustainability-focused' mention sustainability in the course calendar description, and the number of courses listed as 'sustainability-related' was taken from a baseline study done by the Sustainability Office.

Comparison between UBC's original STARS reporting in 2011 and the 2013 course inventory update demonstrates that UBC's Vancouver campus has come closer to the median performance of its peer group in this measure.

Recommended Action

A number of factors will contribute to growth in sustainability courses. Programs run by USI and other departments encourage a greater focus on sustainability and provide support for faculty who wish to integrate sustainability into their courses. As awareness of sustainability builds at UBC, more faculty will self-identify their courses as sustainability focused or related. A UBC-wide process to more clearly define social sustainability will occur in 2013, which we expect will result in more social sustainability courses being identified and added to this inventory.

The Okanagan Campus will review using the STARS approach to gathering sustainability-related data to allow for comparison of sustainability in academia across both campuses and outside through comparison with the STARS data.