



**ACKERMAN CENTER**

for Excellence in Sustainability

# MBA Student Guide

2025-2026



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## Ackerman Center for Excellence in Sustainability (ACES) Overview

### Mission

The Ackerman Center for Excellence in Sustainability drives responsible thought leadership and inspired action to accelerate progress in social and environmental sustainability through innovative and profitable business solutions. We accomplish this by engaging with and connecting stakeholders to empower students, faculty and businesses to create impactful solutions, strengthen resiliency and identify breakthrough opportunities.

### World-Class Curriculum

UNC’s Kenan-Flagler Business School is ranked one of the top business schools in the world for sustainable enterprise education. Sustainable enterprise electives are integrated into the undergraduate, full-time and executive MBA programs, preparing students and executives for careers in which knowledge of sustainability frameworks and strategies enhance their skills as managers and business leaders.

### MBA Sustainable Enterprise Concentration

The enrichment concentration applies across functions and industries and complements other career concentrations. Students learn how to apply strategies that help companies pursue a triple bottom line.

- Kenan-Flagler offers 18 MBA courses in sustainable enterprise (SE).
- Fifty-four full-time MBA students in the class of 2024 graduated with the SE concentration.
- Kenan-Flagler has a strong network of almost 1,000 Sustainable Enterprise alumni working around the world in every industry and function.

### Speakers and Events

ACES hosts speakers and supports events like the Careers with Impact Forum, UNC Clean Tech Summit and FoodCon – an event that is hosted each year at one of our premiere North Carolina Universities – UNC, Duke and NC State.

### Student Competitions

Kenan-Flagler hosts schools from around the world for the LIFT Challenge. ACES also sponsors the Turner MIINT Program (MBA Impact Investment Networking and Training).



**Taylor Maffeo**

Communications and Marketing Coordinator



**Tommy Walters**

Program Coordinator

### Leadership Team



**Olga Hawn, PhD**  
Faculty Director



**Jeff Mittelstadt**  
Executive Director



**Tracy Triggs-Matthews**  
Associate Director



**Mary Kay Lemon**  
Program Manager



## Sustainability in Practice: Experiential Learning Opportunities

One of the ACES's primary objectives is to provide action-based, experiential learning opportunities to Kenan-Flagler students in the practice of sustainable enterprise. ACES works with partner organizations and companies to identify and leverage competitive advantage through sustainable enterprise strategies and practices.

### MBA Net Impact Club

Net Impact is a national student organization supporting social and environmentally responsible business. UNC's MBA Net Impact chapter is a Gold level chapter and boasts one of the largest and most active Net Impact Clubs in the world.

### Launching Investment for Future Transformation (LIFT) Challenge

The Ackerman Center for Excellence in Sustainability's Launching Investment for Future Transformation (LIFT) sponsored by Bank of America calls on students from around the world to develop blended finance strategies to drive true triple bottom line sustainability – simultaneously addressing the most pressing environmental, social and economic challenges of our time.

### Turner MBA Impact Investment Networking and Training (MIINT) Program

This program is open to 1<sup>st</sup> year MBA students as well as MBA's from all Kenan-Flagler programs to participate starting in the fall. Students engage in sourcing and conducting due diligence on real-world, early-stage impact investment opportunities through the Turner MIINT online curriculum. This 6-month program counts toward the Sustainable Enterprise Concentration (2 credits).

### Turner MBA Impact Portfolio Challenge

This Challenge is designed to marry the rigor of investment management to high, positive impact. Philanthropic and development institutions are increasingly partnering with the "mainstream" private capital markets to find innovative and sustainable financial solutions to the world's most pressing challenges. This Challenge is for constituents of both worlds. A degree or background in finance is not a necessary requirement to participate in TIPC. However, an understanding and interest in the modalities of how capital can be better aligned to social impact is crucial. Find out more and sign up here: <https://esg.wharton.upenn.edu/students/turner-impact-portfolio-challenge/>.

### Relevant Research

ACES actively pursues and promotes a rigorous applied research agenda. We support faculty and select independent study research projects in sustainable enterprise across the areas of strategy, operations, marketing, finance and entrepreneurship. We work with faculty, students and other research partners to develop and publish case studies, technical papers, models and reports.

### Research Priorities

ACES' research centers on innovation and design for sustainable enterprise; financial metrics and models for assessing and measuring sustainability; economic development with a focus on local North Carolina communities; and leadership and corporate governance for responsible and competitive business.

### Renowned Faculty

UNC Kenan-Flagler boasts more than twenty faculty who teach in sustainable enterprise including many distinguished leaders in the area of socially and environmentally responsible business.



## Events for Academic Year 2025-2026

### 2025-26 ACES Events

**Sustainability Social**, September 10, 2025, 9:00-12:30

Description: The Sustainability Social at UNC-Chapel Hill is an annual event hosted by [Sustainable Carolina](#) to connect students with various campus and community organizations focused on sustainability.

Location: UNC-CH Student Union

**Careers with Impact Forum**, October 3, 2025

Description: The Careers with Impact Forum is an annual event hosted by the UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School's Net Impact Club that serves as a platform for students to explore career paths that align their passion for sustainability with a purpose-driven approach to business.

Location: Kenan-Flagler

**LIFT Challenge**

**Proposals Due**, Noon on October 6

**Finals**, October 24

Description: The LIFT (Launching Investment for Future Transformation) Challenge is an annual competition that invites undergraduate and graduate students from around the world to develop innovative blended finance and impact investing strategies. These strategies should address the [UN Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) to promote social equity and economic mobility.

Location: Virtual

**UNC Cleantech Summit**, March 9-10, 2026

Description: The UNC Clean Tech Initiative is a program focused on fostering innovation and growth in the Southeast's cleantech industry. The initiative's flagship event is the UNC Clean Tech Summit, a large annual conference that convenes professionals from various sectors to discuss trends, challenges and opportunities in the cleantech sector.

Location: UNC Friday Center

**MBA FoodCon**, April 10, 2026

Description: FoodCon is an annual conference that brings together students, community members and business professionals who have a shared interest in the sustainable food industry. It is jointly hosted by MBA students at UNC, NC State and Duke.

Location: NC State University

**MBA ClimateCAP**, April 17-18

Description: ClimateCAP is a conference that brings together MBA students, business leaders and experts to discuss the financial risks and opportunities related to climate change.

Location: MIT Sloan

**MBA Sustainable Enterprise Concentration Celebration**, Spring 2026

Description: A luncheon celebrating the graduation of MBA students who earned a concentration in Sustainable Enterprise.

Location: UNC Kenan-Flagler Bell Hall

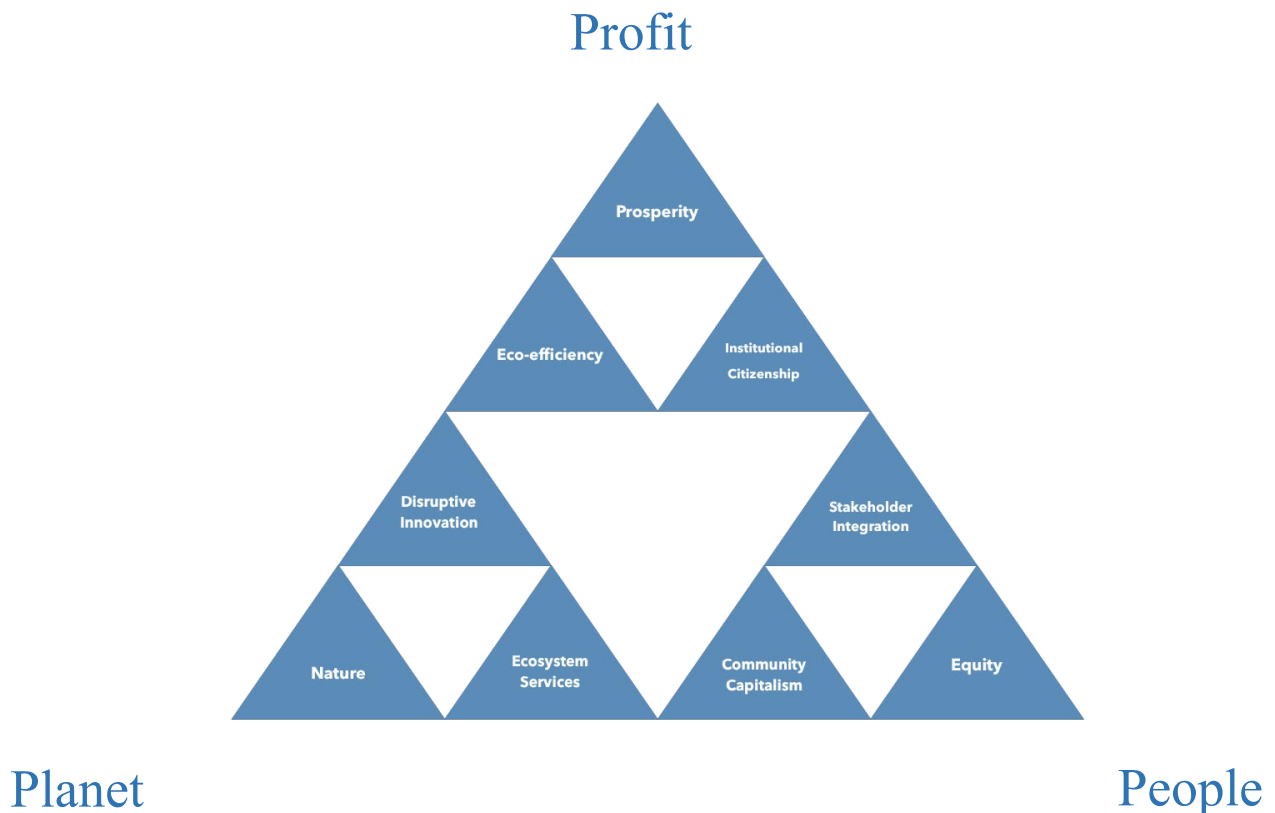
## Concentration: Sustainable Enterprise

For 25 years, the UNC Kenan-Flagler Sustainable Enterprise program has prepared students to lead and strategically approach social, environmental and governance challenges. With innovative and wide-ranging course topics, the Sustainable Enterprise curriculum is structured to give students the tools and understanding of the latest thought leadership in the sustainability space. In addition, students can expect to find well-established extracurricular opportunities, such as conferences, speaker and networking events, competitions and experiential learning programs to further engage in sustainable enterprise.

### *What is Sustainable Enterprise?*

Sustainable enterprises employ profitable strategies that approach social, environmental, and governance challenges as business opportunities. Sustainable enterprises measure success in terms of a “triple bottom line:”

- Financial profitability (profit)
- Environmental integrity (planet)
- Societal well-being (people)



\* Graphic credit: Stu Hart and Mark Milstein, used in several Kenan-Flagler Business School courses, 2002.



## Concentration Requirements

To receive the Concentration in Sustainable Enterprise, students must complete a total of 9 credit hours. As part of this requirement, students may also complete an approved sustainability-focused STAR project or independent study. For more information on independent studies, please see the MBA Policy Manual. Unless otherwise noted, all courses below are 1.5 credits.

### **Sustainable Enterprise Core Course in Ethics, Corporate and Individual Responsibility**

- **MBA 831C, Strategy and Sustainability**

### ***Sustainable Enterprise Electives (9 credits total required)***

- MBA 706A, Thinking and Communicating with Data
- MBA 713, Sustainable Operations (2.0 credits)
- MBA 790A, Renewable Energy: Project Development and Finance
- MBA 790B, The Energy Value Chain
- MBA 790F, Fossil Fuel Firms and the Challenge of Carbon
- MBA 803C, Corporate Communication: Social Advocacy & Activism
- MBA 803G, Gender and the Workplace
- MBA 803T, Storytelling to Influence and Inspire
- MBA 804M, Corporate Reputation Management
- MBA 831F, Climate Tech Startups and Investors
- MBA 833, The Business of Renewable Energy (2.0 credits)
- MBA 833A, Systems Thinking for Sustainable Enterprise
- MBA 850A, New Urbanism, Smart Growth and Sustainable Community Development
- MBA 858, Markets, Government and Sustainable Growth
- MBA 869C, Sustainable Finance
- MBA 870, Global Immersion on Sustainability and Social Entrepreneurship – Southern Africa (3.0 credits)
- MBA 840W, Women in Leadership
- MBA 899, Rural Economic Development – State-based Initiatives **(New!)**
- MBA 899-002, Stakeholder Capitalism



## Sample Concentration Sequence

YEAR ONE			
Module I	Module II	Module III	Module IV
MBA Core Curriculum only		MBA Core Curriculum + Electives (listed below)	MBA Core Curriculum + Electives (listed below)
YEAR TWO			
Module I	Module II	Module III	Module IV
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Tech Startups and Investors</li> <li>• Corporate Reputation Management</li> <li>• Markets, Government, and Sustainable Growth</li> <li>• Thinking and Communicating with Data</li> <li>• Women and Leadership</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renewable Energy: Project Development and Finance</li> <li>• Storytelling to Influence and Inspire</li> <li>• Sustainable Finance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Energy Value Chain</li> <li>• Gender and the Workplace</li> <li>• Global Immersion (GIE): Sustainability and Social Entrepreneurship - Southern Africa</li> <li>• Rural Economic Development – State-based Initiatives (<i>New!</i>)</li> <li>• Stakeholder Capitalism</li> <li>• Storytelling to Influence and Inspire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Business of Renewable Energy</li> <li>• Corporate Communication: Social Advocacy &amp; Activism</li> <li>• Fossil Fuel Firms and the Challenge of Carbon</li> <li>• New Urbanism, Smart Growth &amp; Sustainable Community Development</li> <li>• Storytelling to Influence and Inspire</li> <li>• Sustainable Operations</li> <li>• Systems Thinking for Sustainable Enterprise</li> </ul>
Approved Independent Study or other UNC Graduate Level course		Approved STAR Project, Independent Study or other UNC Graduate Level course	



## Contacts and Resources

### Faculty Director and Concentration Leader

**Dr. Olga Hawn**, Faculty Director of the Ackerman Center for Excellence in Sustainability, Sustainability Distinguished Fellow and Associate Professor of Strategy and Entrepreneurship: [Olga\\_Hawn@kenan-flagler.unc.edu](mailto:Olga_Hawn@kenan-flagler.unc.edu)

### Ackerman Center for Excellence in Sustainability

Kenan-Flagler's Ackerman Center for Excellence in Sustainability (ACES) provides curriculum support, enrichment activities, experiential learning and career development opportunities to Kenan-Flagler students. The Center leads several cutting-edge programs and works closely with both the UNC Net Impact Chapter and Energy Club to enhance the MBA experience. Visit <https://aces.unc.edu/> for details about sustainable enterprise courses, challenges and programs.

### Center and Career Contacts:

**Jeff Mittelstadt**, ACES Executive Director, [Jeffrey\\_Mittelstadt@kenan-flagler.unc.edu](mailto:Jeffrey_Mittelstadt@kenan-flagler.unc.edu)

**Tracy Triggs-Matthews**, ACES Associate Director, [Tracy\\_Triggs-Matthews@kenan-flagler.unc.edu](mailto:Tracy_Triggs-Matthews@kenan-flagler.unc.edu)

**Camille Walton**, Associate Director, Careers Coaching, [Camille\\_Walton@kenan-flagler.unc.edu](mailto:Camille_Walton@kenan-flagler.unc.edu)

## Additional Educational Opportunities

### Net Impact Club

One of the largest student clubs, Net Impact's mission is to build upon the UNC Kenan-Flagler tradition of leadership in sustainable business practices by providing students with education, opportunity and inspiration to drive social and environmental change. Our Net Impact chapter has received gold status for eight consecutive years from the national Net Impact organization.

**Abimbola Abikoye** (MBA'26), MBA Net Impact President, [Abimbola\\_Abikoye@kenan-flagler.unc.edu](mailto:Abimbola_Abikoye@kenan-flagler.unc.edu)

### Graduate Certificate in Innovation for the Public Good (CIPG)

CIPG courses emphasize evidence-based and creative problem-solving approaches, along with team-oriented, customer/community discovery methods that students can use to develop solutions to address pressing human concerns. For more information go to the Innovate at Carolina website regarding [the certificate](#). Fall application is open September 1 and closes September 15, 2025.

### Clean Tech Summit (CTS)

This two-day event, co-hosted by ACES and the Institute for the Environment, is the largest of its kind held by a university. Over 1,000 industry professionals, [government officials and students from different North Carolina universities come together to discuss research, policies and business trends in clean tech](#). Save March 9-10, 2026 on your calendars for the next CTS.

### ClimateCAP

The [Global MBA Summit on Climate, Capital, & Business](#) is an annual event that brings MBA students and industry leaders together to learn what every MBA needs to know about the business implications of climate change. It's also a platform for resources for learning more.

### Launching Investment for Future Transformation (LIFT) Challenge

LIFT Challenges students to propose blended finance and impact investing strategies for sustainability solutions that will drive social equity and economic mobility. Put together a team and sign up to participate!

### MBA FoodCon

FoodCon connects thought leaders in food and agribusiness and MBA students from UNC Kenan-Flagler, Duke University, and NC State University to create valuable professional connections while discussing pressing issues and trends within the food industry.

### Turner MIINT

The [Turner MBA Impact Investing Networking and Training](#) program equips the next generation of impact investing talent with the skills and experience they need. ACES sponsors select Kenan-Flagler MBA's to participate in this program.

## Sustainable Enterprise Course Tracks

### Recommended Courses by Functional Area



**Andrew Slaughter (MBA '20)**  
Technical Product Owner  
Leyline Renewable Capital, LLC

#### Entrepreneurship

- MBA 706A: Thinking and Communicating with Data
- MBA803G: Gender and the Workplace
- MBA803T: Storytelling to Influence and Inspire
- MBA 831C: Strategy and Sustainability
- MBA 831F: Climate Tech Startups and Investors
- MBA 833A: Systems Thinking for Sustainable Enterprise
- MBA 858: Markets, Government and Sustainable Growth
- MBA 869C: Sustainable Finance
- MBA 870: GIE, Sustainability & Social Entrepreneurship
- MBA 899: Stakeholder Capitalism



**Adam Mushnick (MBA '20)**  
Senior Manager, R&D Finance  
Genetech

#### Finance

- MBA 706A: Thinking and Communicating with Data
- MBA 790A: Renewable Energy: Project Development and Finance
- MBA 803C: Corporate Communication: Social Advocacy & Activism
- MBA 803G: Gender and the Workplace
- MBA 804M: Corporate Reputation Management
- MBA 831C: Strategy and Sustainability
- MBA 831F: Climate Tech Startups and Investors
- MBA 833A: Systems Thinking for Sustainable Enterprise
- MBA 858: Markets, Government and Sustainable Growth
- MBA 869C: Sustainable Finance
- MBA 870: GIE, Sustainability & Social Entrepreneurship
- MBA 899: Stakeholder Capitalism



**Saloni Desai (MBA '22)**  
Manager, Corporate Sustainability  
ERM

#### Global Supply Chain/Operations

- MBA 706A: Thinking and Communicating with Data
- MBA 713: Sustainable Operations
- MBA 803G: Gender and the Workplace
- MBA 804M: Corporate Reputation Management
- MBA803T: Storytelling to Influence and Inspire
- MBA 831C: Strategy and Sustainability
- MBA 833A: Systems Thinking for Sustainable Enterprise
- MBA 869C: Sustainable Finance
- MBA 858: Markets, Government and Sustainable Growth
- MBA 870: GIE, Sustainability & Social Entrepreneurship
- MBA 899: Stakeholder Capitalism

## Sustainable Enterprise Course Tracks

### Recommended Courses by Functional Area



**Jessica Hawley (MBA '16)**  
Marketing Communications Senior  
Advisor  
Dell

#### Marketing

- MBA 706A: Thinking and Communicating with Data
- MBA 803C: Corporate Communication: Social Advocacy & Activism
- MBA803T: Storytelling to Influence and Inspire
- MBA 804M: Corporate Reputation Management
- MBA 831C: Strategy and Sustainability
- MBA 833A: Systems Thinking for Sustainable Enterprise
- MBA 840W: Women and Leadership
- MBA 858: Markets, Government and Sustainable Growth
- MBA 870: GIE, Sustainability & Social Entrepreneurship
- MBA 899: Stakeholder Capitalism

## Sustainable Enterprise Course Tracks

### Recommended Courses by Field



**Tina Jeffress (MBA '18)**  
Group Manager, Sustainability & Energy  
Panasonic Energy

#### Renewable Energy/Clean Tech

MBA 706A: Thinking and Communicating with Data  
MBA 713: Sustainable Operations  
MBA 790A: Renewable Energy: Project Development and Finance  
MBA 790B: The Energy Value Chain  
MBA 790F: Fossil Fuel Firms and the Challenge of Carbon  
MBA 803G: Gender and the Workplace  
MBA 803T: Storytelling to Influence and Inspire  
MBA 804M: Corporate Reputation Management  
MBA 831C: Strategy and Sustainability  
MBA 831F: Climate Tech Startups and Investors  
MBA 833: The Business of Renewable Energy  
MBA 833A: Systems Thinking for Sustainable Enterprise  
MBA 840W: Women and Leadership  
MBA 858: Markets, Government and Sustainable Growth  
MBA 869C: Sustainable Finance  
MBA 870: GIE, Sustainability & Social Entrepreneurship



**Oyeyinka Oyelaran (MBA '14)**  
Vice President  
Wareham Development

#### Real Estate

MBA 713: Sustainable Operations  
MBA 790B: The Energy Value Chain  
MBA 804M: Corporate Reputation Management  
MBA 831C: Strategy and Sustainability  
MBA 831F: Climate Tech Startups and Investors  
MBA 833A: Systems Thinking for Sustainable Enterprise  
MBA 840W: Women and Leadership  
MBA 850A: New Urbanism, Smart Growth & Sustainable Community Development  
MBA 858: Markets, Government and Sustainable Growth  
MBA 869C: Sustainable Finance  
MBA 870: GIE, Sustainability & Social Entrepreneurship  
MBA 899: Stakeholder Capitalism



**Stephanie Nieman (MBA '10)**  
Managing Director  
Leeds Illuminate

#### Impact Investing

MBA 706A: Thinking and Communicating with Data  
MBA 790A: Renewable Energy: Project Development and Finance  
MBA 803C: Corporate Communication: Social Advocacy & Activism  
MBA 804M: Corporate Reputation Management  
MBA 831C: Strategy and Sustainability  
MBA 831F: Climate Tech Startups and Investors  
MBA 833A: Systems Thinking for Sustainable Enterprise  
MBA 840W: Women and Leadership  
MBA 850A: New Urbanism, Smart Growth & Sustainable Community Development  
MBA 858: Markets, Government and Sustainable Growth  
MBA 869C: Sustainable Finance  
MBA 870: GIE, Sustainability & Social Entrepreneurship  
MBA 899: Stakeholder Capitalism  
MBA 899: Rural Economic Development – State-based Initiatives



**Claire Castleman (MBA '20)**  
Small Business Support Program  
Associate  
Self Help Credit Union

### Community Economic Development

- MBA 706A: Thinking and Communicating with Data
- MBA 803C: Corporate Communication: Social Advocacy & Activism
- MBA 803G: Gender and the Workplace
- MBA803T: Storytelling to Influence and Inspire
- MBA 831C: Strategy and Sustainability
- MBA 833A: Systems Thinking for Sustainable Enterprise
- MBA 840W: Women and Leadership
- MBA 850A: New Urbanism, Smart Growth & Sustainable Community Development
- MBA 858: Markets, Government and Sustainable Growth
- MBA 869C: Sustainable Finance
- MBA 870: GIE, Sustainability & Social Entrepreneurship
- MBA 899: Stakeholder Capitalism
- MBA 899: Rural Economic Development – State-based Initiatives

## Sustainable Enterprise Course Tracks

### Recommended Courses by Field



**Valerie Smith (MBA '02)**  
Chief Sustainability Officer  
Citi

#### Corporate Social Responsibility

- MBA 706A: Thinking and Communicating with Data
- MBA 713: Sustainable Operations
- MBA 803C: Corporate Communication: Social Advocacy & Activism
- MBA 803G: Gender and the Workplace
- MBA 803T: Storytelling to Influence and Inspire
- MBA 804M: Corporate Reputation Management
- MBA 831C: Strategy and Sustainability
- MBA 833A: Systems Thinking for Sustainable Enterprise
- MBA 840W: Women and Leadership
- MBA 850A: New Urbanism, Smart Growth & Sustainable Community Development
- MBA 858: Markets, Government and Sustainable Growth
- MBA 869C: Sustainable Finance
- MBA 870: GIE, Sustainability & Social Entrepreneurship
- MBA 899: Stakeholder Capitalism



**Greg Dougherty (MBA '18)**  
Manager, ESG  
Brookfield Renewable U.S.

#### ESG Reporting and Certification

- MBA 706A: Thinking and Communicating with Data
- MBA 713: Sustainable Operations
- MBA 803C: Corporate Communication: Social Advocacy & Activism
- MBA 803G: Gender and the Workplace
- MBA 803T: Storytelling to Influence and Inspire
- MBA 804M: Corporate Reputation Management
- MBA 831C: Strategy and Sustainability
- MBA 833A: Systems Thinking for Sustainable Enterprise
- MBA 858: Markets, Government and Sustainable Growth
- MBA 869C: Sustainable Finance
- MBA 870: GIE, Sustainability & Social Entrepreneurship
- MBA 899: Stakeholder Capitalism

Be sure to explore other UNC Courses in the following areas that can count toward the concentration: Public policy, Public health, City & regional planning, Law and Social work. There are also courses outside of UNC: Duke & NC State, that are available, space dependent, for students to take and that will count toward the concentration

## Sustainability in Practice: Experiential Learning Opportunities

### TURNER MIINT – MBA Impact Investing Networking & Training

The Turner MBA Impact Investing Network & Training (MIINT) was started at the Wharton School to introduce or supplement impact investing curricula at top-MBA programs from around the world. UNC Kenan-Flagler has been a participant in MIINT since 2015.

MIINT is conducted virtually throughout the year and culminates in a final investment pitch competition at Wharton during the spring.

The program involves roughly eight online lessons spanning October through March, with a deliverable assigned at the end of each session to give teams an opportunity to put their acquired skills to use. Deliverables are submitted by the entire team, making it a low-pressure environment to develop or sharpen your impact investing skills and knowledge. Assignments include the development of an investment thesis, sourcing of potential investments, due diligence and a final investment pitch.



Student participation in MIINT is sponsored by ACES and requires an application and commitment to participate. The skills obtained provide a great foundation for success in UNC's LIFT competition, VCIC and any other sustainability courses or competitions.

**For more information:** visit [Turner MIINT](#).

### ClimateCAP

ClimateCAP was started to help MBA students be prepared to anticipate and manage climate risks and opportunities. UNC Kenan-Flagler through ACES was a founding school member and the initiative has grown to over 44 business school's working together to educate MBA students by providing them the skills and insights needed to lead climate action throughout their careers. Learn more about the annual summit and other opportunities here: <https://climatecap.org/>

### TURNER Impact Portfolio Challenge (TIPC)

TIPC is designed to marry the rigor of investment management to high, positive impact. Philanthropic and development institutions are increasingly partnering with the "mainstream" private capital markets to find innovative and sustainable financial solutions to the world's most pressing challenges. This Challenge is for constituents of both worlds. Learn more and sign up here: <https://esg.wharton.upenn.edu/students/turner-impact-portfolio-challenge/>



## Launching Investment for Future Transformation (LIFT)

### Overview

Using blended finance to address the United Nations' (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), if done correctly and inclusively, can drive social equity and economic mobility for underserved communities everywhere.

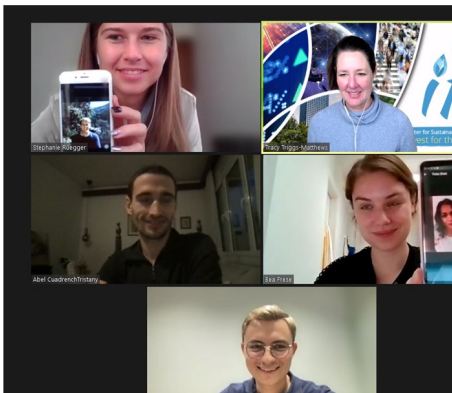
The Ackerman Center for Excellence in Sustainability's Launching Investment for Future Transformation (**LIFT**) calls on students from around the world to develop blended finance strategies to drive true triple bottom line sustainability – simultaneously addressing the most pressing environmental, social and economic challenges of our time.

We invite student teams to pitch ideas in line with the UN SDGs and identify untapped opportunities and bridge gaps to solve social inequities and create opportunities for economic mobility. The world needs ideas for all sectors, topics and regions. No matter where you are from, teams can pitch solutions for high-income countries, low-income countries, and everything in between. Fill out the student interest form **here**.

Create a team of up to 5 students and submit your best blended finance solution for a chance to win a share of \$15,000 in prizes, make powerful connections, and help change the world.

Proposals are due **October 6, 12:00 PM EDT**

The top 8 teams will compete in the finals that will take place virtually on **October 24, 2025**.



LIFT 2022 Winners, St. Galen University



LIFT 2022 Winners, NY Stern



## STAR (Student Teams Achieving Results)

UNC Kenan-Flagler's Student Teams Achieving Results program, STAR, sends teams of top MBAs and BSBA's to build comprehensive and actionable strategies for corporations and not-for-profits seeking to strengthen their global competitiveness. STAR teams receive academic credit for their four-month engagement and are guided by both a faculty advisor and an executive from the client organization.

STAR projects are of three types – STAR USA, STAR Global and STAR Virtual. Teams of UNC Kenan-Flagler MBAs and BSBA's work with their clients to develop strategies for growth and profitability. To participate in STAR students must complete the Consulting Skills and Frameworks course before or concurrently to the STAR project.

For more information and to apply visit [STAR](#).

## Graduate Certificate in Innovation for the Public Good

The Carolina Graduate Certificate in Innovation for the Public Good (CIPG) gives masters and doctoral students an educational pathway to explore modern changemaking and practice the skills they need to help create meaningful change in the world. The certificate is sponsored by three academic units: the College of Arts and Sciences, Gillings School of Global Public Health, and the School of Education.

CIPG provides students from any department with the mindset, tools and methods they need to work effectively across disciplines to solve complex problems. By earning the certificate, students become skilled in methods that they can apply to their doctoral or thesis research. CIPG also equips them with career-ready skills that they can use when working on multi-disciplinary teams in businesses, non-profits and government agencies that increasingly demand the ability to apply cross-sector, community-engaged practices.

The certificate provides graduate-level training that teaches students how to:

- Focus innovation designs around the voices, experiences, wishes and aspirations of those affected by the innovation.
- Develop an understanding of their own experiences, intentions, strengths, limitations, motivations and biases as changemakers.
- Identify, define and analyze problems.
- Recognize opportunities, challenges and the assets of communities.
- Generate optimal solutions by applying social innovation in practice.
- Understand how the context of problems and imagined solutions affects the way innovations are designed and implemented.
- Recognize and assess the strengths and limitations of various social innovation approaches – and identify which are most appropriate in specific contexts.
- Engage stakeholders in the co-design, implementation, evaluation and adaptive learning associated with an innovation.
- Build and maintain collaborations and partnerships in support of shared mission over time.

For more information and to apply: [Here](#)



## Careers in Sustainable Enterprise

### How to Get the Most Out of Career Resources

#### 1. Sign up for the Net Impact list-serve and Attend their Career focused events

To learn about opportunities from the Net Impact Club and The Ackerman Center for Excellence in Sustainability, send an email to [netimpactunc@gmail.com](mailto:netimpactunc@gmail.com) and ask to be put on the Net Impact listserv.

#### 2. Sign up for the Net Impact or Energy Club list-serves

To receive weekly updates which include events, career resources and opportunities.

#### 3. LinkedIn and Facebook groups

Join the LinkedIn group: UNC Kenan-Flagler Ackerman Center for Excellence in Sustainability

Join the Facebook group: UNC Kenan-Flagler Ackerman Center for Excellence in Sustainability

#### 4. Set up a meeting with your MBA Career Coach

Career coaches are available to understand the resources and opportunities that are available to you

#### 6. Set up individualized career path meeting with ACES

Tracy Triggs-Matthews, ACES's Associate Director can advise you on career strategy as well as connect you to the broad network of alumni and experts. Contact: [ttm@unc.edu](mailto:ttm@unc.edu)

#### 7. People to follow on twitter for jobs and announcements:

Katie Kross @Katie\_Kross Kenan-Flagler MBA Alumna

Dr. Mrim Boutla @PurposeU

Ellen Weinreb @SustainableJobs



## Careers with Impact Forum

A day long forum of panels and networking events organized by the UNC Net Impact Club that gives students information about different career paths, functions and industries in the field of sustainable enterprise.

Kenan-Flagler Alumni are making an impact at:

Acumen Fund	McKinsey & Co
B Lab	MegaWatt Solar
Bank of America	Mercy Housing
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	National Park Service
Burt's Bees	Natural Resources Defense Council
Cherokee	NextEra Energy Resources
Citi	The North Highland Company
Clean Air Action Corporation	PwC
Deloitte Consulting	Proctor & Gamble
Duke Energy	Reebok
Education Pioneers	RTI International
Ford Motor Company	ScottMadden Associates
GE	Self-Help
GlaxoSmithKline	SJF Ventures
GlobalGiving	Southern Energy Management
IBM	Starbucks
iContact	Strata Solar
Intel	Sustainable Value Partners
Interface Flooring, Inc.	Teach for America
Investors' Circle	Timberland
Johnson & Johnson	USAID
KIPP (Knowledge is Power Program)	Walmart
KPMG, Sustainability Services Group	World Wildlife Fund

*and many other companies...*

## Stacia L. Wood Social Impact Summer Grant Program

The Stacia L. Wood Kenan-Flagler Social Impact Summer Grants (SISG) provide financial support to MBA students utilizing business skills during their summer internship within organizations that make a positive social impact.

The grants supplement the salaries of UNC Kenan-Flagler MBA students who take qualified positions using business core competencies in organizations that otherwise could not afford to pay for an MBA intern. Students will enhance the capacity of the host organization to make a long-term positive impact on the community and/or industry while also raising awareness about social and environmental impact strategies at UNC Kenan-Flagler.

The 2014-15 Net Impact Club, in partnership with the Full-Time MBA Program and the Ackerman Center for Excellence in Sustainability, launched SISG as a way to better support students interested in making a positive impact with their business careers, to demonstrate UNC Kenan-Flagler's commitment to its Core Values and to strengthen UNC Kenan-Flagler's positioning among the best sustainability focused MBA programs.

To learn more visit: [SISG](#)



Hayley Andrews, MBA 2021, received the Stacia L. Woods Social Impact Summer Grant in 2020, where she worked at the Denver office of the National Park Service.

