

Directly relating sustainability with my major in accounting can be somewhat of a stretch. There is no clear overlap of my majors. However, sustainability plays a big role in my understanding of business as a whole and contributes to both my perceptions on particular corporations and my drive to make all businesses more sustainable. Accounting is a very cut-and-dry topic, some might even say boring, and there isn't a great deal of options for thinking about sustainability when you're auditing a company's financial statements or making journal entries for new equipment purchases. However, as a financial executive I will have to make decisions on capital expenditures for businesses such as choosing new equipment to buy, deciding how to dispose of waste, electing new leadership, and so on. The knowledge I have learned from my classes in sustainability have educated and informed me on the importance of sustainable thinking and will impact my future choices.

A topic that does relate to my major is systems thinking. An accountant must always think big picture, because every decision you make can affect whether a company thrives or fails. Your work now can affect investors' decision making years down the road and any mistakes can leave you and the company facing lawsuits of millions of dollars. In accounting, everything must balance. If you reach the end of your calculations and your debits and credits don't balance, there is a mistake somewhere in the whole system and you must look through each individual part to see where the error is.

It is challenging to fit sustainability into my primary major. Early business courses such as marketing and economics had sustainability concepts involved, but my upper level accounting courses are very objectively structured around the accounting profession. I do,

however, sometimes get the chance to study specific companies and when I do I always pick ones with interesting sustainability backgrounds.