# **BABSON COLLEGE**

## SES 2000 CORE COURSE CONTENT, FRAMEWORKS, AND SKILLS



Babson's socio-ecological systems (SES) core courses directly teach Babson's Undergraduate Learning Competency of integrated sustainability and are fully co-taught bringing the social sciences and ecological sciences together, which actively demonstrates the **collaboration** learning competency. These courses provide a strong background for all of our students in integrative systems thinking approaches to **problem solve** by simultaneously addressing ecological integrity, social injustice, and responsible value creation. Students learn the science behind our current major environmental issues and how human systems are intimately connected. Socioecological systems are complex, adaptive, and are governed by feedbacks within and between social and biophysical processes. Studying SES allows for the development of important skills desperately needed for future **entrepreneurial leaders**, such as approaches for incorporating uncertainty, nonlinearity, and self-reorganization from instability. Skills in systems thinking help students to develop an understanding of the interdependent and interrelated structures and feedbacks of dynamic systems. Transdisciplinary approaches are employed to **communicate** complex temporal, spatial, and organizational scales to investigate real world challenges. Beyond just social impact or corporate social responsibility, socioecological systems for sustainability, encompassed by the core content, frameworks, and skills summarized below, allows students to develop as system change leaders who bring different disciplines together to understand and solve some of humanity's greatest environmental challenges.

### **Core Material Across all SES Courses:**

#### **Sustainability Content**

- Ecological Integrity & Functionality
- Environmental Injustice
- Natural Capital, Ecosystem Services, and Externalities
- Mitigation, Adaptation, Resilience, and Circular Economy

#### Frameworks

- Planetary Boundaries Framework
- <u>UN Sustainable Development Goals</u>
- <u>Ostrom's Socio-Ecological Framework for Sustainability</u>
- <u>Safe and Just Space Framework</u>

#### Skills

- Systems Thinking, Stocks & Flows, and Concept Mapping
- Feedback Loops, Non-linearity, and Tipping Points
- Leverage Points for Sustainable Change
- Communicating Across Disciplines for Complex Problem-Solving

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