INCREASING STUDENT AWARENESS OF UW’S SUSTAINABILITY COURSES

I created two user-friendly and informative webpages, working in conjunction with the University of Washington’s Sustainability office and members of the Sustainability in the Curriculum Committee. These pages will feature courses related to and/or focused on sustainability, creating a central location for this information and increasing students’ ability to find sustainability courses offered on campus. The first webpage highlights several courses found across different colleges and departments. On the second page, visitors access a list of suggested keywords to help students find sustainable courses tailored to their interests when searching MyPlan.

Background
The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) created the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating system (STARS) in January 2010. The University of Washington has been submitting to STARS since 2012. As part of STARS, AASHE requires its members to report on the number of sustainability focused and related courses found on campus. Previously, the Sustainability office published a list of nearly 4,800 courses. This list was difficult to navigate and use by students looking for courses related to specific interest areas.

Final Product Design
GREEN.UW.EDU/COURSES

Survey
I designed a survey asking four questions, to gauge student usability.
1. How useful are the presented key terms?
2. How useful is the highlighted courses page?
3. How likely are you to use this resource?
4. Any suggestions to improve this resource?

Overall, the majority of responses were favorable. The most popular recommendation was to include course SLN numbers and times offered on the individual course pages.

Recommendations
I have come up with three recommendations for this project, after receiving feedback from students, faculty, staff and advisors:
1. These websites should be continually updated every quarter by the student program assistant at UW Sustainability and as new courses are added.
2. Quarterly blog posts highlighting sustainability classes will increase student awareness of the courses offered and the webpage resources.
3. The University should add a sustainability requirement to the general education graduation requirements.

Steps to Success
Selected Courses
Designed Webpage
Revised Webpages
Populated Webpages
Surveyed Students
Researched Courses

Key terms Usefulness?
Useful Information Presented?
Predicted Use?

Highly useful / Likely
Useful / Likely
Moderately Useful / Likely
Unlikely

45%
60%
33%
10%
11%
45%
33%
11%
11%

30%
33%
22%