The SDG Accord
The University and College Sector's Collective Response to the Global Goals

Changemaker Curriculum Developer

SDG focus

☒ Goal 4 - Quality education

What did you do?

UFV has begun building the foundations for supporting faculty in integrating sustainability into their courses. The Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC) has put in place several teaching and learning specialists and curriculum developers who support faculty on topics including sustainability, Indigenization, internationalization, changemaking, social innovation, and accessibility. Faculty can book one-on-one consultations and partake in free workshops.

One position in particular – Changemaker Curriculum Developer – plays a vital role in sustainability course integration. Through coaching, curriculum consultation, and workshops, this position supports faculty in developing or leveraging changemaking opportunities in courses, helping them integrate sustainable development and social innovation into their pedagogy.

These TLC positions all support achieving the revitalized Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs) which outline the skills, competencies, and proficiencies UFV students possess by graduation. The two most relevant ILOs to sustainability are:

- Contribute Locally and Globally
- Advocate for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Image description: An image of a weaving activity from a recent workshop titled "Environmental Learning Experience Framework - Interactive Train the Trainer at UFV"

What were the benefits and outcomes?

1. After being piloted in 2024, the Changemaker Curriculum Developer position was extended for at least two more years.
2. "[The Changemaker Curriculum Developer] role contributes to UFV's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals Accord (SDG Accord), ensuring that our students develop the necessary knowledge, skills, and mindset to become true changemakers who lead, inspire, and advance the critical role that education plays in achieving the UN SDGs," says Awneet Sivia, Associate Vice President, Teaching and Learning.
3. "Students are seeking relevance in their education," says Anna Griffith – Changemaker Curriculum Developer. "They want to work on projects that matter – projects that make a difference in their communities while at the same time giving them experience that they can put on their CVs. By using the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as a lens, we can design projects, assignments, and courses that address our most urgent challenges and resonate deeply with students' desire to create change."

What barriers or challenges did you encounter in embedding sustainability into your learning and teaching practice and how did you overcome them?

1. Integrating sustainability is not formalized in terms of policies and processes that guide the development and updating of curriculum, the tenure and promotion standards, or instructor assessment. The new Changemaker Curriculum Developer role is intended to address many of these by creating more formalized integration and development strategies.
2. Sustainability is not prioritised at a strategic level - this may be intentional or the consequence of other issues (such as financial pressures).
3. Lack of time for professional development on sustainability.

What are your conclusions and recommendations for others?

Ensuring that sustainability challenges are integrated into the Institutional Learning Outcomes was a significant turning point for the institution. It built foundational support for the integration of these topics into courses across all subjects

Having positions dedicated specifically to assisting faculty with sustainability course integration is vital to the success of this work. Without this person in place, the work was instead being done off the side of people's desks, and there was very little progress in this area and significant barriers.

For someone in a similar role as the curriculum developer, an important leverage point is developing relationships with stakeholders – especially those with significant influence and positional power at the institutional level.

Web link to further information:

Teaching and Learning Centre: https://www.ufv.ca/teaching-and-learning/

Changemaking and Curriculum: https://blogs.ufv.ca/blog/2025/01/griffith-leads-the-charge-on-changemaking-and-curriculum/

Institutional Learning Outcomes: https://www.ufv.ca/ilos/