

mining engineering

Department of Mining and Geological
Engineering



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

faq: what is the sustainable resources development specialization?

Major resource development projects must protect the environment, the local community, and the workers. In this specialization you will take the equivalent of a specialized semester in health and safety, sustainable development, microbiology, and technical electives in hydrology, resource economics, or public health.



Sustainable Resource Development – “Obtaining a social license”

We talk today about the need to obtain a social license to develop and extract mineral resources. We can only mine these resources where they exist in the earth’s crust in sufficient quantity to be extracted at a profit. In doing so, we temporarily disrupt the ground, the local environment, and any nearby communities. To minimize this disruption, a great deal of engineering and scientific analysis must be done to accommodate the specific needs of local communities and to restore the ecological productivity of disturbed lands after the minerals have been mined. This emphasis on planning for these post-mining issues is the foundation for this academic program. Several international mining companies are joining forces to create Global Mining Initiatives that establish a methodology for sustainable development around the world. Students who pursue the option in sustainable resource development could go on to work in the areas of international finance, occupational health and safety, environmental reclamation, or resource development. Options for graduate study include a master’s in Public Health, law, resource economics, environmental science or engineering, or mining engineering.



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