

# LEED<sup>®</sup> Lab<sup>™</sup>



*LEED Certified Crough Center for Architectural Studies at the Catholic University of America, the first building to be certified by students in a curriculum-based course.*

## **USING THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT TO EDUCATE AND PREPARE STUDENTS TO BECOME GREEN BUILDING LEADERS AND SUSTAINABILITY-FOCUSED CITIZENS**

This multidisciplinary immersion course utilizes the built environment to educate and prepare students to become green building leaders and sustainability-focused citizens. Students assess the performance of existing facilities on campus and choose one building to facilitate the LEED for Building Operations and Maintenance (LEED O+M) process with the goal of certifying the facility. At the close of the semester, the students are prepared to sit for the [LEED AP O+M professional credential exam](#). LEED Lab meets the demands of the industry by equipping students with career-ready skills and knowledge that can be quickly deployed upon completion.

### **LEED LAB BENEFITS**

Institutions who offer a LEED Lab will have direct access to a LEED Lab Coach at the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC<sup>®</sup>), who serves as a technical point of contact for instructors. Instructors will also be invited to participate in a faculty discussion forum intended for pedagogical conversations, collaborative work and networking. Institutions are recognized on the LEED Lab webpage and provided with LEED Lab branding guidelines for communication efforts.

Students enrolled in a LEED Lab will have access to the discounted price of \$275 for the LEED AP credential examination (normally \$550). At the completion of a LEED Lab, students will be eligible to receive a LEED Lab badge that signifies a demonstrated proficiency in sustainable operations and maintenance practices and the ability to facilitate the LEED for Building O+M certification. LEED O+M projects worked on by LEED Labs may pursue the LEED Lab Innovation Credit.

## **INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT**

In order to be recognized as having a LEED Lab and receive the LEED Lab benefits from USGBC and the Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI®), institutions commit to the following:

1. Offer the LEED Lab course for credit. The institution determines the number of credits earned for the work and the type of class (e.g. elective, special topics).
2. Register a LEED O+M project. The institution decides the location of the project. If an on-campus project is not possible, USGBC is amenable to having the students work on an off-campus project.

## **BRIDGING GAPS**

LEED Lab bridges the gap between academics and operations on campus, and in doing so, provides an integrated enterprise solution to common challenges among higher ed institutions. LEED Lab supports institutional commitments to sustainability, climate neutrality and educating for sustainability; creates a mechanism for institutions to integrate sustainable practices into daily business operations; serves as a driver to verify practices and keep staff accountable; and distinguishes institutions amongst their peers for creating authentic experiential learning opportunities.

The LEED Lab effort originated with a pilot course created and taught by Professor Patricia Andrasik at The Catholic University of America (CUA). From 2011-2013, CUA partnered with the Center for Green Schools at USGBC and GBCI to test the course concept. At the conclusion of the pilot and subsequent modifications, LEED Lab officially launched in January 2014. There has been an overwhelming response to this new curricular offering and most schools have students on waiting lists to enroll. To date the course has engaged over 50 diverse disciplines, including architecture, business, construction management, design, engineering, environmental studies, and honors programs.

For more information, as well as a complete list of participating institutions, please visit [LEED Lab](#).