

# HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.)

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Emergency preparedness has always been a critical aspect of governmental policy at the federal, state and local levels. Response to natural disasters – floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, outbreak of infectious disease – requires predisaster planning, mid-disaster operations and postdisaster reconstruction that can only be carried out successfully through a partnership between all levels of government and between the public sector, private sector and civil society. Since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in New York, Virginia and Pennsylvania the concept of emergency preparedness has been expanded to include the task of homeland security – protecting the U.S. from terrorist-caused disasters. Policy planners and operational responders at all levels of government who had previously focused upon natural disasters now have the added responsibility of preparing for and mitigating the effects of politically inspired terrorist violence.

The program in homeland security and emergency preparedness recognizes this dual nature and is designed to give students both theoretical and practical knowledge that will prepare them for the following: 1) private- or public-sector employment in the expanding area of homeland security as it relates specifically to international and domestic security, as well as emergency preparedness for both security and nonsecurity-related incidents and/or 2) further study in government, international affairs, law enforcement, policy planning or law.

Students will study homeland security and emergency preparedness from a number of perspectives: emergency planning/management principles and practicalities; the nature and effects of natural disasters; the nature of the terrorist threat to the U.S. from both foreign and domestic organizations, including terrorist motives, methods and history; counterterrorism policies ranging from law enforcement to intelligence to the use of military force; vulnerability assessment of public and private infrastructure and institutions; critical infrastructure protection; ethical, constitutional, law enforcement and civil liberties issues related to the prevention of terrorist attacks through surveillance, immigration restrictions and detention; public safety legal questions that arise during governmental responses to natural disaster; intelligence analysis of domestic and international threats; and policy-making topics, such as organizational design and management, interagency processes, and intergovernmental coordination and cooperation within emergency preparedness and counterterrorism institutions at the local, state, federal and international level.

The knowledge and skills acquired through this course of study will enable students to continue their studies at law school or graduate school in a number of areas: business, criminal justice, geography, international affairs, political science, public administration, sociology and urban planning. Students also will be able to pursue employment opportunities in various fields, such as within the government at the local, state and federal level in homeland security and emergency planning/response; law enforcement; intelligence; for-profit and nonprofit research and consultancy; and private sector employment with any business that requires emergency planning expertise to protect critical infrastructure.

## Learning outcomes

Upon completing this program, students will know and know how to do the following:

- **Analytical concepts and skills**  
Students will achieve comprehension of the theory and practice of homeland security and emergency preparedness and be able to analyze policy and synthesize information in four key areas: risk and vulnerability analysis, strategic planning dilemmas of disasters and disaster preparedness, institutional coordination and intelligence operations, and legal/constitutional aspects.
- **Homeland security and emergency preparedness**  
Students will achieve comprehension of the theoretical and practical principles of emergency preparedness for both natural disasters and terrorist incidents and be able to analyze key topics related to natural disasters, emergency planning, terrorism and counterterrorism, intelligence, and cybersecurity.
- **Research and policy analysis**  
Students will perform research, policy analysis and risk assessment using several methodological and theoretical approaches to homeland security and emergency preparedness.
- **Knowledge of government**  
Students will demonstrate a basic knowledge of the workings of the American government and the international system.
- **Oral and written presentation**  
Students will develop advanced skills in expository writing and oral presentation.
- **Evaluation**  
Students will be able to evaluate scholarly and practitioner analyses of homeland security and emergency preparedness topics.

## Collateral requirements

In addition to the homeland security and emergency preparedness courses required for the Bachelor of Arts degree, students must complete the study of a foreign language through the intermediate level (202 or 205) through courses or placement. As a prerequisite for HSEP 310, STAT 210 should be used to fulfill general education requirements for statistics.

## Honors in homeland security and emergency preparedness

Homeland security and emergency preparedness majors can earn honors within the program by completing HSEP 490 with an A grade and graduating with an overall 3.0 GPA and a 3.3 GPA in courses credited toward the 36 credits of the homeland security and emergency preparedness major.

## Special requirements

Students must earn a total of 45 credits in classes at the 300-level and above, including upper-level criminal justice course work. To graduate from the homeland security and emergency preparedness program, students must have a cumulative and major GPA of 2.0. The homeland security and emergency preparedness curriculum includes the core and major elective requirements.

## Degree requirements for Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)

### General Education requirements

Course	Title	Hours
<b>University Core Education Curriculum (minimum 21 credits)</b>		
UNIV 111 Play course video for Focused Inquiry I	Focused Inquiry I	3
UNIV 112 Play course video for Focused Inquiry II	Focused Inquiry II	3
UNIV 200	Inquiry and the Craft of Argument	3
Approved humanities/fine arts		3
Approved natural/physical sciences		3-4
Approved quantitative literacy		3-4
Approved social/behavioral sciences		3-4
Total Hours		21-24

Course	Title	Hours
<b>Additional General Education requirements</b>		
HUMS 202	Choices in a Consumer Society	1
Approved H&S diverse and global communities		3
Select six to eight credits of approved H&S general education electives		6-8
Approved H&S human, social and political behavior (fulfills University Core social/behavioral sciences)		
Approved H&S literature and civilization (fulfills University Core humanities/fine arts)		
Approved H&S science and technology (fulfills University Core natural/physical sciences)		
Experiential fine arts (course offered by the School of the Arts)		1-3
Foreign language through the 102 level (by course or placement)		0-8
Total Hours		11-23

### Collateral requirements

Course	Title	Hours
STAT 210	Basic Practice of Statistics	3
Total Hours		3

### Major requirements

Course	Title	Hours
HSEP 101	Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness	3
HSEP 301/POLI 367	Terrorism	3
HSEP 302	Emergency Planning and Incident Management	3
HSEP 310	Risk and Vulnerability Assessment	3
HSEP 314	Cybersecurity Policy	3
HSEP 320	The Intelligence Community and the Intelligence Process	3

HSEP 330	Legal and Constitutional Issues in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness	3
HSEP 490	Senior Seminar	3
POLI 103	U.S. Government (fulfills University Core social/behavioral sciences)	3
POLI 105	International Relations (fulfills approved diverse and global communities)	3
Homeland security and emergency preparedness electives (Any 300- or 400-level HSEP course and/or courses taken from the list of approved electives below)		6
Total Hours		36

### Open electives

Course	Title	Hours
Select 39-58 open electives		39-58

The minimum total of credit hours required for this degree is 120.

### Approved homeland security and emergency preparedness electives

Course	Title	Hours
CRJS 300	Forensic Criminology	3
CRJS 320	Principles of Criminal Investigation	3
CRJS 370	Criminalistics and Crime Analysis	3
CRJS 373	Crime Scene Evidence: Law and Trial Procedure	3
CRJS 463	Comparative Criminal Justice Systems	3
CRJS 475	Criminal Procedure	3
FIRE 306	Regulatory Aspects of Safety and Risk Control	3
FIRE 307	System Safety	3
FIRE 308	Incident Investigation and Analysis	3
FIRE 309	Risk and Insurance	3
FIRE 359	Issues in Risk Management and Insurance	3
GVPA 493	Government and Public Affairs Internship	1-6
POLI 310	Public Policy	3
POLI 322	State and Local Government and Politics	3
POLI 329	Intergovernmental Relations	3
POLI/INTL 351	Governments and Politics of the Middle East	3
POLI/INTL 353	Latin American Governments and Politics	3
POLI/INTL 362	International Organizations and Institutions	3
POLI/INTL 363	U.S. Foreign Policy	3
URSP 310	Introduction to Urban and Regional Planning	3
URSP/ENVS 332	Environmental Management	3
URSP 413	Policy Implementation	3
URSP/ENVS 521	Introduction to Geographic Information Systems	3

What follows is a sample plan that meets the prescribed requirements within a four-year course of study at VCU. Please contact your adviser before beginning course work toward a degree.

**Freshman year**

Fall semester		Hours
HSEP 101	Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness	3
MATH 131	Introduction to Contemporary Mathematics (or open elective)	3
POLI 103	U.S. Government (fulfills approved human, social and political behavior)	3
UNIV 101	Introduction to the University	1
UNIV 111	Focused Inquiry I	3
Play course video for Focused Inquiry I		
Foreign language (101 level)		4
Term Hours:		17

**Spring semester**

HUMS 202	Choices in a Consumer Society	1
POLI 105	International Relations (fulfills approved diverse and global communities)	3
STAT 210	Basic Practice of Statistics	3
UNIV 112	Focused Inquiry II	3
Play course video for Focused Inquiry II		
Approved science and technology		3-4
Foreign language (102 level)		4
Term Hours:		17-18

**Sophomore year**

**Fall semester**

HSEP 301/ POLI 367	Terrorism	3
HSEP 302	Emergency Planning and Incident Management	3
UNIV 200	Inquiry and the Craft of Argument	3
Approved literature and civilization		3
Approved elective		3
Term Hours:		15

**Spring semester**

HSEP 310	Risk and Vulnerability Assessment	3
Approved General Education electives		6-8
Experiential fine arts		3
Term Hours:		12-14

**Junior year**

**Fall semester**

HSEP 314	Cybersecurity Policy	3
HSEP 320	The Intelligence Community and the Intelligence Process	3
Open electives		8
Term Hours:		14

**Spring semester**

Homeland security and emergency preparedness electives		6
Open electives		9
Term Hours:		15

**Senior year**

**Fall semester**

HSEP 330	Legal and Constitutional Issues in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness	3
Open electives		12
Term Hours:		15

**Spring semester**

HSEP 490	Senior Seminar	3
Open electives		12
Term Hours:		15
Total Hours:		120-123

The minimum total of credit hours required for this degree is 120.

**HSEP 101. Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. 3 Hours.** Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An introduction to the public- and private-sector dimensions of the broad range of theoretical and practical aspects of homeland security and emergency preparedness, including: origins of natural and terrorist-caused disasters; local, state and federal emergency management planning and operations; health infrastructure capabilities; public communication strategies; business community concerns; ethical, legal and constitutional questions; as well as the social and psychological dimensions of disasters.

**HSEP 301. Terrorism. 3 Hours.**

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: POLI 103 and POLI/INTL 105; or POLI 103 and HSEP 101; or POLI/INTL 105 and HSEP 101. A survey of the modern problem of terrorism with an emphasis on the political nature of terrorist acts. Examines the history of terrorism, domestically within the U.S. and internationally, the role of religion, the structures and operations of terrorist organizations, as well as counterterrorism policies and policy-making. Crosslisted as: POLI 367.

**HSEP 302. Emergency Planning and Incident Management. 3 Hours.**

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: POLI 103 and POLI/INTL 105; or POLI 103 and HSEP 101; or POLI/INTL 105 and HSEP 101. An introduction to the basic tasks of emergency preparedness and disaster mitigation, including planning, response and recovery. Special emphasis will be placed on command arrangements, coordination and budgetary issues among emergency responders (law enforcement, firefighters and health care system officials), and within and between federal, state and local governments.

**HSEP 310. Risk and Vulnerability Assessment. 3 Hours.**

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: POLI 103 and POLI/INTL 105; or POLI 103 and HSEP 101; or POLI/INTL 105 and HSEP 101. An introduction to analytical techniques and methodologies for threat and vulnerability assessment of various types of public and private infrastructure. An all-hazard approach is employed, considering natural disaster, system failure and terrorist attack (conventional or weapons of mass destruction). Special attention will be focused on critical infrastructure protection as well as cyberterrorism.

**HSEP 311. Strategic Planning for Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. 3 Hours.**

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: POLI 103 and POLI/INTL 105; or POLI 103 and HSEP 101; or POLI/INTL 105 and HSEP 101. An examination of the strategic planning for emergency preparedness, operations and recovery for all hazards, as well as terrorist-prevention security measures. The course will focus on public goods/free rider issues, setting organizational priorities, governmental budgeting choices, legal aspects of government regulation of infrastructure and business community security concerns.

**HSEP 314. Cybersecurity Policy. 3 Hours.**

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: POLI 103 and POLI/INTL 105; or POLI 103 and HSEP 101; or POLI/INTL 105 and HSEP 101. This course addresses emerging strategic, legal and policy issues associated with computer attack, exploitation, detection and defense. Students will be introduced to research and developments across a range of issues and will engage with topics related to national security, homeland security and economic policy, and local governance.

**HSEP 320. The Intelligence Community and the Intelligence Process. 3 Hours.**

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: POLI 103 and POLI/INTL 105; or POLI 103 and HSEP 101; or POLI/INTL 105 and HSEP 101. An examination of the concepts of and challenges for state, local and federal policy making and organization for homeland security and emergency preparedness. The intelligence process – the collection, analysis, sharing and dissemination of information within and between local, state and federal governmental agencies – is a special focus.

**HSEP 330. Legal and Constitutional Issues in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. 3 Hours.**

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: POLI 103 and POLI/INTL 105; or POLI 103 and HSEP 101; or POLI/INTL 105 and HSEP 101. An analysis of the legal and civil liberties changes and challenges brought on by terrorist attacks. Topics addressed may include surveillance issues, federal legislation passed in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks, the rights of foreign nationals, the rights of U.S. citizens, the governmental infrastructure for decisions concerning legal rights and the difficulties of prosecuting terrorist suspects, such as jurisdictional issues, rules of evidence and prosecution strategies.

**HSEP 350. Emergency Public Health Preparedness. 3 Hours.**

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: HSEP 101. This course provides an introduction and understanding of the policy, strategy and practical application of emergency public health preparedness, response and mitigation from an all-hazards perspective. Through a public health perspective for communities and nations that are at risk for large-scale emergencies, it describes the strategic context presented by the 21st-century risk environment, and explores the interactions, contributions and roles of multiple sectors such as the government, non-governmental organizations, private enterprises and individuals before, during and after a public health emergency.

**HSEP 356. Making a Terrorist. 3 Hours.**

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: HSEP 301. This course examines the radicalization and deradicalization processes of violent extremists, with specific emphasis on terrorists. Students will learn about the processes and factors that lead individuals to engage in violence, as well as how these processes can be co-opted to draw individuals away from extremist organizations and ideologies.

**HSEP 360. Critical Infrastructure Protection and Resiliency. 3 Hours.**

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: HSEP 310. An advanced study of homeland security critical infrastructure protection and resiliency from an all-hazards perspective. Develops an understanding of the policy, strategy and practical application of critical infrastructure protection and resiliency issues. Special emphasis on understanding the strategic context presented by the 21st-century risk environment, DHS critical infrastructure sectors, and the challenges and opportunities.

**HSEP 375. Human Trafficking. 3 Hours.**

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Students will receive an overview of contemporary human trafficking and modern-day slavery. The course provides an understanding of the scope of the human trafficking problem, both domestically and globally, and covers the different types of human trafficking that exist, including sex, labor, organ, body and baby trafficking, as well as the exploitation of child soldiers.

**HSEP 391. Topics in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. 3 Hours.**

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Maximum total of six credits in all departmental topics courses may be applied to the major. Prerequisites: CRJS 367/HSEP 301/POLI 367 and CRJS 368/HSEP 302. An intensive focus on a specialized field of interest to the study of homeland security and emergency preparedness. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

**HSEP 418. Counterterrorism. 3 Hours.**

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: HSEP 301. This course examines the extent to which terrorism is a threat to U.S. national interests and security by analyzing terrorist organizations' strategies, tactics and methods of operation. It also evaluates the pros and cons of a variety of potential government (foreign and domestic) responses to terrorism, such as diplomacy, sanctions, covert action and military operations in both a historic and contemporary context.

**HSEP 490. Senior Seminar. 3 Hours.**

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: HSEP 310, HSEP 311, HSEP 320/CRJS 375 and HSEP 330/CRJS 330. A capstone course examining the major issues related to homeland security and emergency preparedness. Students will be required to produce a research project related to a role-playing in-class simulation of an emergency situation that will include exercises in red-teaming.

**HSEP 491. Advanced Topics in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. 3 Hours.**

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: CRJS 367/HSEP 301/POLI 367 and CRJS 368/HSEP 302. An intensive focus on a specialized field of interest to the study of homeland security and emergency preparedness within a seminar setting. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester. Maximum total of six credits in all departmental topics courses may be applied to the major.

**HSEP 492. Independent Study. 1-4 Hours.**

Semester course; 1-4 credits. Maximum total of six credits in all independent study courses may be applied to the major. Prerequisites: junior or senior standing with 12 credits in HSEP courses. Permission of instructor or program director required, with determination of course credit value prior to registration. An independent study that allows students to perform research under the direction of qualified instructor in a subject or field of major interest.