

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

Maureen Moslow-Benway

Assistant professor and program chair

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 pre-disaster 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.

Student 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.

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.)

Course	Title	Hours
General education (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/)		
Select 12-13 credits from general education foundations and 17-18 credits from areas of inquiry.		30
Major requirements		
• Major core requirements		
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
• Major electives		
Select any 300- or 400-level HSEP course and/or courses from the list of approved electives below.		9
Ancillary requirements		
GVPA 100	Making Policy Real: Social Problems and Policy Solutions	3
STAT 208	Statistical Thinking (satisfies general education quantitative foundations)	3
Open electives		
Select any course.		57
Total Hours		120

The minimum number 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	Crime and Justice in Global Perspective	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 Management 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
MATH 131 Introduction to Contemporary Mathematics (prerequisite for STAT 208; counts toward open electives)	3
UNIV 101 Introduction to the University	1
UNIV 111 Focused Inquiry I (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
Play course video for Focused Inquiry I	
General education course (HSEP 101 is suggested; satisfies AOI for diversities in the human experience)	3
General education course (POLI 103 is suggested; satisfies BOK for social/behavioral sciences)	3
Open elective	3
Term Hours: 16	

Spring semester

GVPA 100 Making Policy Real: Social Problems and Policy Solutions	3
STAT 208 Statistical Thinking (satisfies general education quantitative foundations)	3
UNIV 112 Focused Inquiry II (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
Play course video for Focused Inquiry II	
General education course (POLI 105 is suggested; satisfies AOI for global perspectives)	3
General education course (select BOK for natural sciences)	3
Term Hours: 15	

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 (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
General education course (select BOK for humanities/fine arts)	3
General education course (select remaining AOI)	3
Term Hours: 15	

Spring semester

HSEP 310 Risk and Vulnerability Assessment	3
Open electives	12
Term Hours: 15	

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
Homeland security and emergency preparedness electives		3
Open electives		9
Term Hours:		15
Spring semester		
HSEP 490	Senior Seminar	3
Open electives		12
Term Hours:		15
Total Hours:		120

The minimum number 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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 335. International Terrorism. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: HSEP 301/ POLI 367. This course covers conceptual and measurement issues associated with the study of cross-national international terrorism, which focuses on examining and explaining country-level terrorism patterns within and between countries. Students will examine global terrorism by focusing on the patterns and correlates of country-level terrorism. Using a multidisciplinary approach that draws academic insights from political science, sociology, economics and criminology, this course exposes students to three related areas of international terrorism.

HSEP 347. Intelligence Analysis. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: HSEP 320. The course provides an overview of the intelligence analysis process and explores a variety of structured analytic intelligence techniques that have been used successfully. This course was designed to contribute to the development of intelligence analysts who can think critically and will contribute to strong analytical tradecraft.

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 365. WMD Materials and Tactics. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course provides a qualitative and minimally technical introduction to weapons of mass destruction materials that might be expected in a terrorist incident and the tactics that may be employed in their use. Students will gain an understanding of the characteristics of these materials, how they might be employed tactically, how it is possible to respond to WMD incidents in a safe and effective manner and WMD countermeasures. The course will also dispel several "mythical and magical" beliefs about WMD materials.

HSEP 370. Disaster Response and Recovery. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: HSEP 302. This course surveys the research and practice of disaster response and recovery. Students will learn about disaster recovery theory and practice, recovery planning, debris management, donations, volunteer organizations, environmental recovery, sustainable recovery, post-disaster housing recovery, and disaster impacts on vulnerable populations. The course covers all relevant actors during and after disasters, including community members, government agencies, elected officials, media, nonprofit organizations and the business sector.

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/POLI 367. 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 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.