

# 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 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
<b>General education</b> ( <a href="https://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/">https://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/</a> )		
Select 30 credits of general education courses in consultation with an adviser.		30
<b>Major requirements</b>		
• Major core requirements		
HSEP 301/POLI 367	Terrorism	3
HSEP 302	Emergency Planning and Response	3
HSEP 304	Disaster Recovery and Hazard Mitigation	3
HSEP 314	Principles of Cybersecurity	3
HSEP 320	Intelligence, Espionage and Covert Action	3
HSEP 380	Leadership and Ethics	3

HSEP 400	Crisis Simulation and Exercises	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
<b>Ancillary requirements</b>		
GVPA 100	Making Policy Real: Social Problems and Policy Solutions	3
HSEP 101	Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (satisfies general education diversities in the human experience AOI)	3
STAT 208	Statistical Thinking (satisfies general education quantitative foundations)	3
<b>Open electives</b>		
Select any course.		54
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>120</b>

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
GVPA 493	Government and Public Affairs Internship	1-6
POLI 310	Public Policy	3
POLI 322	State and Local Government and Politics	3
POLI 350	Democratic and Authoritarian Rule	3
POLI/INTL 351	Middle Eastern Government and Politics	3
POLI/INTL 353	Latin American Governments and Politics	3
POLI 354	Russian and Eurasian Government and Politics	3
POLI 355	Asian Governments and Politics	3
POLI 356	African Government 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

Students who complete the requirements for this degree will receive a Bachelor of Arts in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

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.

### Recommended course sequence/plan of study

#### Freshman year

Fall semester		Hours
HSEP 101	Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (satisfies AOI for diversities in the human experience)	3
MATH 131	Introduction to Contemporary Mathematics (prerequisite for STAT 208; counts toward open electives)	3
UNIV 101	Introduction to the University	1
UNIV 111	Introduction to Focused Inquiry: Play course	3
	Investigation and Communication (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	
	Introduction to Focused Inquiry: Investigation and Communication	
	General education course (POLI 103 is suggested; satisfies BOK for social/behavioral sciences)	3
<b>Term Hours:</b>		<b>13</b>

#### 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
<b>Term Hours:</b>		<b>15</b>

#### Sophomore year

Fall semester		Hours
HSEP 301/ POLI 367	Terrorism	3
HSEP 302	Emergency Planning and Response	3
UNIV 200	Advanced Focused Inquiry: Literacies, Research and Communication (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
	General education course (select BOK for humanities/fine arts)	3
	General education course	3
<b>Term Hours:</b>		<b>15</b>

#### Spring semester

HSEP 304	Disaster Recovery and Hazard Mitigation	3
Open electives		12
<b>Term Hours:</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Junior year</b>		
<b>Fall semester</b>		
HSEP 314	Principles of Cybersecurity	3
HSEP 320	Intelligence, Espionage and Covert Action	3
Open electives		8
<b>Term Hours:</b>		<b>14</b>
<b>Spring semester</b>		
HSEP 380	Leadership and Ethics	3
Homeland security and emergency preparedness electives		6
Open electives		9
<b>Term Hours:</b>		<b>18</b>
<b>Senior year</b>		
<b>Fall semester</b>		
HSEP 400	Crisis Simulation and Exercises	3
Homeland security and emergency preparedness electives		3
Open electives		9
<b>Term Hours:</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Spring semester</b>		
HSEP 490	Senior Seminar	3
Open electives		12
<b>Term Hours:</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Total Hours:</b>		<b>120</b>

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

## Accelerated B.A. and M.A.

The accelerated B.A. and M.A. program allows qualified students to earn both the B.A. and M.A. in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness in a minimum of five years by completing approved graduate courses during the senior year of their undergraduate program. Students in the program may count up to 12 hours of graduate courses toward both the B.A. and M.A. degrees. Thus, the two degrees may be earned with a minimum of 144 credits rather than the 156 credits necessary if the two degrees are pursued separately.

Students holding these degrees will learn about the dual nature of homeland security and emergency preparedness as an adaptation of traditional policy responses to natural disasters to include those types of disasters caused by domestic or international terrorism. Students will acquire theoretical and practical knowledge that will prepare them for private or public sector employment in the expanding area of homeland security and emergency preparedness and/or further study in numerous areas of public policy. This online graduate degree takes a broad interdisciplinary approach to preparedness that gives students the ability to see the larger organizational, social, political, ethical and economic aspects of disaster studies, in addition to the policy-making and implementation aspects. The scholarly study of homeland security and emergency preparedness rests at the intersection of national defense, emergency management, law enforcement and policy management.

## Entrance to the accelerated program

Interested undergraduate students should consult with their adviser as early as possible to receive specific information about the accelerated

program, determine academic eligibility and submit (no later than two semesters prior to graduating with a baccalaureate degree, that is, before the end of the spring semester of their junior year) an Accelerated Program Declaration Form to be approved by the graduate program director. Limited spaces may be available in the accelerated program. Academically qualified students may not receive approval if capacity has been reached.

Minimum qualifications for entrance to the accelerated program include completion of 90 undergraduate credit hours including five of the six required 300-level HSEP courses; an overall GPA of 3.5 and a GPA of 3.5 in homeland security and emergency preparedness course work. Successful applicants would enter the program in the semester following the completion of their 90th credit hour. Candidates should submit applications for admission during the semester they would be completing their 90th credit, but no later than July 25 of that year. One of the required reference letters must be from a homeland security and emergency preparedness faculty member. Students who are interested in the accelerated program should consult with the Wilder School Graduate Student Services and Advising Office.

Once enrolled in the accelerated program, students must meet the standards of performance applicable to graduate students as described in the “**Satisfactory academic progress**” section of the Graduate Bulletin, including maintaining a 3.0 GPA. Students who do not maintain a 3.0 GPA in the graduate level classes will no longer be eligible for the accelerated program and may not take any additional graduate-level classes while pursuing the bachelor’s degree. Students will not begin their first semester of only graduate courses until the bachelor’s degree has been conferred. Guidance to students admitted to the accelerated program is provided by both the Wilder School undergraduate academic adviser and the senior academic adviser from Graduate Student Services and Advising.

## Admission to the graduate program

Entrance to the accelerated program enables the student to take the approved shared courses that will apply to the undergraduate and graduate degrees. However, entry into an accelerated program via an approved Accelerated Program Declaration Form does not constitute application or admission into the graduate program. Admission to the graduate program requires a separate step that occurs through a formal application to the master’s program, which is submitted through Graduate Admissions no later than a semester prior to graduation with the baccalaureate degree, that is, before the end of the fall semester of the senior year. In order to continue pursuing the master’s degree after the baccalaureate degree is conferred, accelerated students must follow the admission to graduate study requirements outlined in the VCU Bulletin.

## Degree requirements

The Bachelor of Arts in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness degree will be awarded upon completion of a minimum of 120 credits and the satisfactory completion of all undergraduate degree requirements as stated in the Undergraduate Bulletin.

A maximum of 12 graduate credits may be taken prior to completion of the baccalaureate degree. These graduate credits substitute for both homeland security and emergency preparedness electives and open electives for the undergraduate degree. These courses are shared credits with the graduate program, meaning that they will be applied to both undergraduate and graduate degree requirements.

The graduate homeland security and emergency preparedness courses that may be taken as an undergraduate, once a student is admitted to the program, are a choice of four from the following:

Course	Title	Hours
HSEP 501	Introduction to Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness	3
HSEP 502	Survey of Terrorism	3
HSEP 601	Foundations in Emergency Management	3
HSEP 602	Strategic Planning	3
HSEP 603	Risk Assessment	3

## Recommended course sequence/plan of study

What follows is the recommended plan of study for students interested in the accelerated program beginning in the fall of the junior year prior to admission to the accelerated program in the senior year.

Course	Title	Hours
<b>Junior year</b>		
Fall semester		
HSEP 314	Principles of Cybersecurity	3
HSEP 320	Intelligence, Espionage and Covert Action	3
Open electives		8
Term Hours:		14
Spring semester		
Homeland security and emergency preparedness electives		6
Open electives		9
Term Hours:		15
<b>Senior year</b>		
Fall semester		
HSEP 330	Legal and Constitutional Issues in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness	3
HSEP 501	Introduction to Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness	3
HSEP graduate course from shared list		3
Open electives		6
Term Hours:		15
Spring semester		
HSEP 490	Senior Seminar	3
HSEP graduate courses (two) from shared list		6
Open electives		6
Term Hours:		15
<b>Fifth year</b>		
Fall semester		
HSEP 623	Research Methods Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness	3
HSEP 628	Survey of Cyber Security	3
HSEP 640	Intelligence and Counterintelligence	3
Remaining HSEP graduate course from shared list		3
Term Hours:		12
Spring semester		

HSEP 610	Law Enforcement Policy and Judicial Precedent	3
HSEP 620	Private Sector Issues in Security and Preparedness	3
HSEP 650	Public Health Preparedness	3
HSEP 690	Capstone Seminar	3
Term Hours:		12

## Accelerated B.A. and M.P.A.

The accelerated B.A. and M.P.A. program allows qualified students to earn both the B.A. in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness and Master of Public Administration in a minimum of five years by completing approved graduate courses during the senior year of their undergraduate program. Students in the program may count up to 12 hours of graduate courses toward both the B.A. and M.P.A. degrees. Thus, the two degrees may be earned with a minimum of 144 or 147 credits rather than the 156 or 159 credits necessary if the two degrees are pursued separately.

Students holding these degrees will learn about the dual nature of homeland security and emergency preparedness as an adaptation of traditional policy responses to natural disasters to include those types of disasters caused by domestic or international terrorism. The program gives students both theoretical and practical knowledge in homeland security and emergency preparedness as well as the skills necessary to become professional public managers, public officials and citizens who are able to meet the challenges of public service in both government and nonprofit sectors and serve the profession and local, state, federal and international communities in this expanding field.

## Entrance to the accelerated program

Interested undergraduate students should consult with their adviser as early as possible to receive specific information about the accelerated program, determine academic eligibility and submit (no later than two semesters prior to graduating with a baccalaureate degree, that is, before the end of the spring semester of their junior year) an Accelerated Program Declaration Form to be approved by the graduate program director. Limited spaces may be available in the accelerated program. Academically qualified students may not receive approval if capacity has been reached.

Minimum qualifications for entrance to this accelerated program include completion of 90 undergraduate credit hours including five of the six required 300-level HSEP courses; an overall GPA of 3.5 and a GPA of 3.5 in homeland security and emergency preparedness course work.

Once enrolled in the accelerated program, students must meet the standards of performance applicable to graduate students as described in the "Satisfactory academic progress (<https://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/satisfactory-academic-progress/>)" section of Bulletin, including maintaining a 3.0 GPA. Guidance to students in an accelerated program is provided by both the undergraduate homeland security and emergency preparedness adviser and the faculty adviser to the Master of Public Administration program.

## Admission to the graduate program

Entrance to the accelerated program enables the student to take the approved shared courses that will apply to the undergraduate and graduate degrees. However, entry into an accelerated program via an approved Accelerated Program Declaration Form does not constitute

application or admission into the graduate program. Admission to the graduate program requires a separate step that occurs through a formal application. In order to continue pursuing the master's degree after the baccalaureate degree is conferred, accelerated students must follow the admission to graduate study requirements outlined in the VCU Bulletin.

## Degree requirements

The Bachelor of Arts in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness degree will be awarded upon completion of a minimum of 120 credits and the satisfactory completion of all undergraduate degree requirements as stated in the Undergraduate Bulletin.

A maximum of 12 graduate credits may be taken prior to completion of the baccalaureate degree. These graduate credits substitute for upper-level electives for the undergraduate degree. These courses are shared credits with the graduate program, meaning that they will be applied to both undergraduate and graduate degree requirements.

The graduate public administration courses that may be taken as an undergraduate, once a student is admitted to the program, are 12 credits from the following:

Course	Title	Hours
PADM 601	Introduction to Public Service and Administration	3
PADM 602	Critical and Creative Thinking for Public Managers	3
PADM 607	Public Human Resource Management	3
PADM 623	Applied Research Methods	3
PADM 650	Principles of Nonprofit Management	3

## Recommended course sequence/plan of study

What follows is the recommended plan of study for students interested in the accelerated program beginning in the fall of the junior year prior to admission to the accelerated program in the senior year.

Course	Title	Hours
<b>Junior year</b>		
Fall semester		
HSEP 314	Principles of Cybersecurity	3
HSEP 320	Intelligence, Espionage and Covert Action	3
Open electives		8
Term Hours:		14
Spring semester		
Homeland security and emergency preparedness electives		6
Open electives		9
Term Hours:		15
<b>Senior year</b>		
Fall semester		
HSEP 330	Legal and Constitutional Issues in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness	3
PADM 601	Introduction to Public Service and Administration	3
PADM 602	Critical and Creative Thinking for Public Managers	3
Homeland security and emergency preparedness elective		3

Open elective		3
Term Hours:		15
Spring semester		
HSEP 490	Senior Seminar	3
PADM 607	Public Human Resource Management	3
PADM 623	Applied Research Methods	3
Open electives		6
Term Hours:		14
<b>Fifth year</b>		
Fall semester		
PADM 609	Financial Management in Government	3
PADM 624	Empirical Analysis for Evidence-Based Governance	3
PADM 625	Policy Insights: Assessing Public Policies	3
Graduate elective (select 500- or 600-level from CRJS, GVPA, HSEP, URSP)		3
Term Hours:		12
Spring semester		
PADM 689	Capstone: Bridging Theory and Practice	3
GVPA 693	Internship (if required)	0-3
Graduate electives (select 500- or 600-level from CRJS, GVPA, HSEP, URSP)		9
Term Hours:		12 or 15