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

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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.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Select 30 credits of general education courses in consultation with an adviser.</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Major requirements

• Major core requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HSEP 301/POLI 367</td>
<td>Terrorism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSEP 302</td>
<td>Emergency Planning and Incident Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSEP 310</td>
<td>Risk and Vulnerability Assessment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSEP 314</td>
<td>Cybersecurity Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSEP 320</td>
<td>The Intelligence Community and the Intelligence Process</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General education (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/)
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HSEP 101</td>
<td>Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (satisfies AOI for diversities in the human experience)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 131</td>
<td>Introduction to Contemporary Mathematics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIV 101</td>
<td>Introduction to the University</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIV 111</td>
<td>Focused Inquiry I (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General education course (POLI 103 is suggested; satisfies BOK for social/behavioral sciences)
Open elective

**Term Hours:** 16

#### Spring semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GVPA 100</td>
<td>Making Policy Real: Social Problems and Policy Solutions</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 208</td>
<td>Statistical Thinking (satisfies general education quantitative foundations)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIV 112</td>
<td>Focused Inquiry II (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General education course (POLI 105 is suggested; satisfies AOI for global perspectives)
General education course (select BOK for natural sciences)

**Term Hours:** 15

### Sophomore year

#### Fall semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HSEP 301/ POLI 367</td>
<td>Terrorism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSEP 302</td>
<td>Emergency Planning and Incident Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIV 200</td>
<td>Advanced Focused Inquiry: Literacies, Research and Communication (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General education course (select BOK for humanities/fine arts)
General education course

**Term Hours:** 15

#### Spring semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HSEP 310</td>
<td>Risk and Vulnerability Assessment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Open electives

**Term Hours:** 12

### Junior year

#### Fall semester
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 (http://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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PADM 601</td>
<td>Principles of Public Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 602</td>
<td>Public Administration Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 607</td>
<td>Public Human Resource Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 623</td>
<td>Research Methods for Government and Public Affairs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 650</td>
<td>Principles of Nonprofit Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Cybersecurity Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Intelligence Community and the Intelligence Process</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 120.
| Open electives                                  | 8 |
|                                              |   |
| Term Hours:                                  | 14 |
|                                              |   |
| Spring semester                              |   |
| Homeland security and emergency preparedness electives | 6 |
| Open electives                               | 9 |
| Term Hours:                                  | 15 |

**Senior year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall semester</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PADM 601 Principles of Public Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 602 Public Administration Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeland security and emergency preparedness elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring semester</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HSE 490 Senior Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 607 Public Human Resource Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 623 Research Methods for Government and Public Affairs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open electives</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fifth year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall semester</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PADM 609 Financial Management in Government</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 624 Quantitative Methods for Public Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 625 Public Policy Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate elective (select 500- or 600-level from CRJS, GVPA, HSEP, URSP)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring semester</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PADM 689 Seminar in Public Administration: Integration of Theory and Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GVPA 693 Internship (if required)</td>
<td>0-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate electives (select 500- or 600-level from CRJS, GVPA, HSEP, URSP)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>12 or 15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>