Master of Professional Studies in Homeland Security

Penn State Harrisburg is the academic and administrative home of this 33-credit Intercollege Master of Professional Studies in Homeland Security. Based on an all-hazards approach and supported by an end-user Advisory Council, this program leads to a comprehensive online homeland security degree, providing graduates the education and employable skills to succeed as continuing future leaders in homeland security.

A partnership of seven Penn State colleges, with Penn State Harrisburg's School of Public Affairs as the academic home, this program provides a homeland security education portfolio that can suit the needs of many individuals working in this field or looking for a new career path in this field.

Career opportunities for those interested in pursuing the homeland security program include upper-level positions in the U.S. Homeland Security Enterprise and Departments such as DHS and its components (CBP, FEMA, TSA, etc.), and in particular in civil security including emergency and crisis management, business continuity, infrastructure protection, intelligence analysis, law enforcement, and physical security.

This Program is exclusively delivered online via World Campus. No residential components are required. It is open to all students from across the world.

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Program Website:
https://harrisburg.psu.edu/homeland-security
Curriculum

The following is the curriculum for the Intercollege Master of Professional Studies in Homeland Security - Base Program. Curriculum information for program options is available here:

- Information Security and Forensics Option*
- Public Health Preparedness Option*
- Geospatial Intelligence Option*
- Agricultural Biosecurity and Food Defense Option*

The 33-credit curriculum for the Base Program offers a solid foundation in homeland security theory and implementation:

Common core curriculum (9 credits):
- HLS 801 – Homeland Security Administration: Policies and Programs
- HLS 803 – Homeland Security: Social and Ethical Issues
- HLS 805 – Violence, Threats, Terror, and Insurgency

Visit for complete details.

Testimonials

From the start of the program, I developed a comprehensive understanding of this particular subset of homeland security, and advanced my awareness of its importance.

Tim Campbell, Graduate, iMPS in Homeland Security

Courses

The program curriculum offers a comprehensive learning experience in homeland security foundation and implementation, which is applicable to the workplace. The set of prescribed courses provides general foundations in homeland security, emergency management, preparedness, and resilience. It offers a multidisciplinary introduction to homeland security organizational, policy, and leadership studies, as well as to strategic analysis and planning within the whole-community and all-hazards approach. Electives are drawn from a broad field of disciplines contributing to the homeland security enterprise and its evolving mission.

Optional International Track

Civil security is a field with remarkable projected job growth around the world. In this optional track, based on state-of-the-art security research and its practical applications, you can learn about the differences and commonalities between homeland, national, and international security, as well as the characteristics of homeland security as an evolving global enterprise facing global challenges.

For course descriptions and requirements, see the Penn State University Bulletin.

Program Requirements for Admission

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<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>More Information</th>
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<tr>
<td>GPA</td>
<td>A GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (with particular attention given to the last 2 years of undergraduate work) is generally required.</td>
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<td>The GPA requirement may be relaxed if the student has professional experience or other strong evidence suggesting likely success. Some applicants may be accepted on a non-matriculated probationary basis, pending performance at the 3.0 level or higher over 15 hours of approved credit.</td>
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<td>Professional experience</td>
<td>Three years of professional work experience</td>
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<td>Supporting Materials</td>
<td>✓ a statement of career and educational goals</td>
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<td>✓ a resume</td>
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<td>✓ names and contact information (postal address, phone, and e-mail address) for three individuals willing to provide a reference</td>
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<td>✓ Satisfactory scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) are required if the GPA is less than 3.0.</td>
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<td>✓ All international students must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)</td>
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<td>✓ Two official transcripts from each institution attended</td>
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Application Deadline

This program has rolling admission, that is, no specific deadline. Note that it may take 4-6 weeks to receive transcripts and process an application.