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Overview of Penn State Homeland Security Programs and Its Curriculum Enhancement and Evolution Activities

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Overview of Penn State Homeland Security Programs and its curriculum enhancement and evolution activities

Penn State Homeland Security Info Session
Washington, D.C.

March 23, 2015



- Graduate Certificates
- Intercollege Master of Professional Studies in Homeland Security (single-degree program with currently 5 areas of specialization, a faculty of ≈50, and a total of 1,016 students and 318 graduates so far)
- Continuing Education Short Courses

Areas of specialization:

- Base Program (Policy, Strategy, Administration, Law)
- Agricultural Biosecurity and Food Defense
- Geospatial Intelligence
- Information Security and Forensics
- Public Health Preparedness

HOMELAND SECURITY

PENN STATE
ONLINE

Lead with Confidence

Join the nation's most comprehensive online homeland security graduate program:

Master of Professional Studies and Graduate Certificates

- Delivered exclusively **online** through Penn State World Campus
- Tuition based on cost-per-credit with **no** out-of-state surcharge
- All online with **no** residential component or Visa requirement
- Transfer up to **10** credits (non-degree) from external institutions



Program mission

- “The intercollege Master of Professional Studies in Homeland Security (*i*MPS-HLS) degree program is designed to prepare professionals and develop leaders for the field of homeland security by providing exceptional graduate education that includes an integrated curriculum, expert faculty, and student interaction.”



Program fundamentals

- Provides select graduate students with an integrated, cross-disciplinary curriculum that is focused on a set of unified educational goals to help them understand and manage the complexities of homeland security in a global environment.
- Is based on an all-hazards approach.
- Comprised of courses from several Penn State colleges.
- Delivered via distance education through the Penn State World Campus to accommodate the needs and careers of professionals who are already active in homeland security and related fields of civil security, or those interested in transitioning into the field.



Study plans

- 33 credits, 9-credit common core curriculum
- In addition to the common core curriculum, students choose:
 - the Base Program in Homeland Security, or
 - one of currently four Options:
 - Public Health Preparedness
 - Geospatial Intelligence
 - Information Security and Forensics
 - Agricultural Biosecurity and Food Defense



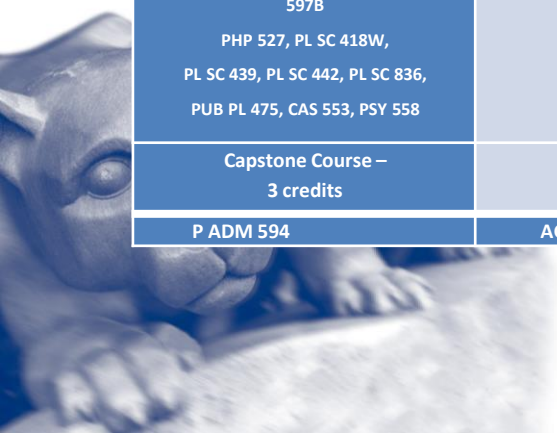
Participating academic units

- Penn State Harrisburg
(Academic & administrative home)
- College of Agricultural Sciences
- College of Earth and Mineral Sciences
- College of Information Sciences and Technology
- College of the Liberal Arts
- College of Medicine (& Milton S. Hershey Medical Center)



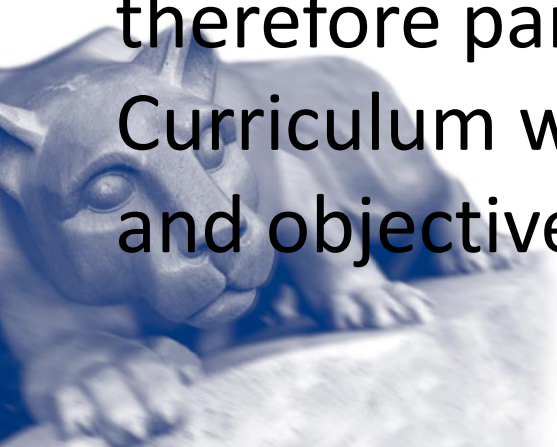
Curriculum map

Core Curriculum – 9 Credits				
<p>Non-credit orientation course (includes overview emerging challenges across the Enterprise and mission-critical jobs of the future)</p> <p>HLS 801 – Homeland Security Administration: Policies and Programs HLS 803 – Homeland Security: Social and Ethical Issues HLS 805 – Violence, Threats, Terror and Insurgency</p>				
Homeland Security	Agricultural Biosecurity	Geospatial Intelligence	Information Security and Forensics	Public Health Preparedness
Option Required Courses – 12 credits				
Base Program	AGBIO Option	GEOINT Option	ISF Option Courses	PHP Option Courses
20% flexibility rule				
P ADM 803	AGBIO 802	GEOG 885	IN SC 561	PHP 530
Elective Courses – 9 credits (3 courses) from the following lists: Students should consult with their academic adviser, as necessary, and check the World Campus website				
AGBIO 520, CAS 553, GEOG 497G, GEOG 880, GEO SC 402Y, IST 554	GEO SC 402Y, AGBIO 520, GEOG 597K, GEOG 883, GEOG	AGBIO 520, CAS 553 GEOG 482, GEOG 483 GEOG 484, GEOG 485 GEOG 486, GEOG 487	AGBIO 520, CAS 553 GEOG 880(897A), GEOG 883, IST 564, IST 885, P ADM 401,	AGBIO 520, CAS 553 GEOG 883, GEOG 897A
Possibility of special topics courses				
PADM 597A, P ADM 597B PHP 527, PL SC 418W, PL SC 439, PL SC 442, PL SC 836, PUB PL 475, CAS 553, PSY 558	MANGT 510, P ADM 401 PHP 527, PL SC 836 PL SC 439, IST 564 CAS 553, PSY 558	GEOG 588, GEOG 596I, GEOG 597K, GEOG 861 GEOG 862, GEOG 863 GEOG 883, GEOG 897A, GEOG 897C, GEOG 897D GEOG 897E, IST 554 P ADM 401, PHP 527 PL SC 439, GEO SC 402Y, GEOG 880, IST 564, IST 885	IST 456, IST 564 IST 868	PADM 597A, PHP 527 PLSC 439, VBSC 444 MANGT 510, GEO SC 402Y, PSY 558
Capstone Course – 3 credits	Capstone Course – 3 credits	Capstone Course – 3 credits	Capstone Course – 3 credits	Capstone Course – 3 credits
P ADM 594	AGBIO 594	GEOG 594	IST 594	PHP 594



Unifying goals and objectives (1/2)

Homeland security refers to the unifying core for the vast global network of organizations and institutions that are involved in the efforts to secure society. Regardless of field of specialization, or chosen discipline for graduate study, all professionals in the program will therefore participate in a Unifying Core Curriculum with the following educational goals and objectives:



Unifying goals and objectives (2/2)

- Understand major policies and legislation that shapes homeland security in a globalized society.
- Become familiar with organizations that play a key role in the implementation of homeland security policies and administration, and recognize the interactions among them.
- Understand the way in which a person or group responds to a set of conditions so as to prevent and respond to incidents and catastrophic events when needed.
- Recognize the impact that catastrophic events, both natural and man-made, have on society and the domestic and global economy.
- Identify and assess potential threats, vulnerabilities, and consequences.
- Apply leadership skills and principles that are necessary for producing and acting on information of value within a collaborative setting.
- Communicate effectively in the context of particular institutional cultures.
- Use, conduct, and interpret research and data effectively in decision-making.
- Practice ethics and integrity as a foundation for analytical debate and conclusion.
- Develop an appreciation of the cultural, social, psychological, political, and legal aspects of terrorism and counterterrorism.



Elements of residency

- Functional equivalents:
 - Live online sessions with external experts
 - Moderated student blog
 - Webinars
- Optional residential elements:
 - Internship program
 - Combined continuing education and credit-earning track one-week intensive short course program (test case in August): “HLS Updater”



Curriculum enhancement

- Live online sessions on courses
- Webinar series
- Video learning objects initiative
 - Expert interviews
 - Symposium and panel proceedings
 - Currently ca. 60 edited video learning objects
- Scenario and case study repository
- Optional residential summer course week



Continuing education track

- One-week intensive short course: Homeland Security – An Update in Research and Trends
 - Based on an all-hazard approach, has a modular structure with lectures and micro-seminars given by Penn State faculty and external experts.
 - Provides a cross-disciplinary overview of current trends in the evolving mission space, in the overarching perspective of civil security – for example:
 - Scenario-based analysis of key uncertainties
 - Emerging challenges in threat reduction
 - Geospatial intelligence and homeland security
 - Big data and visualization for decision support
 - Dealing with analytic biases
 - Ethics, Legal, and Social Issues (ELSI)
 - Also comprises interactive syndicate group work, networking receptions, and an internship information and placement service session.



End-user involvement

- Independent contractors to teach courses
- Homeland Security Advisory Council
 - Sub-Committee on Curriculum
 - Intelligence cycle as a driving force
 - Intelligence writing
 - Capabilities-based Homeland Security model
 - Addressing of “all-hazards” across mission areas
 - Internationalization, both in terms of content and community of students



Contact

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