

Independent Study Program Fact Sheet

May 2026

General Information

The National Disaster & Emergency Management University (NDEMU) Curriculum Standards and Instructional Technology Branch provides the Independent Study Program (ISP). This is a distance learning program which offers training, online and free of charge, to the nation's emergency management network and the general public. It serves as both an alternative means to deliver valuable training to the professional and volunteer emergency management community as well as an opportunity to improve public awareness and promote disaster preparedness nationally.

The NDEMU [Independent Study Program](#) offers nearly 150 training courses. There has been substantial growth in the program due to the National Incident Management System (NIMS) training requirements.

Upon successful completion, participants can access their training records and completion documents online through the [NDEMU Student Portal](#).

Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are awarded for most ISP courses.

Participants can also request an Official Transcript to be sent to a college or university for accreditation purposes.

ISP also provides a support center to assist with website navigation, exam and student portal accessibility and general program guidance. The support center can be reached by telephone at 301-447-1200 or email at independent.study@fema.dhs.gov. The hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm EST.

Program Statistics

In Fiscal Year 2025:

- ISP processed over 3.1 million test submissions.
- There were 2,473,630 successful course completions.
- The average cost per completion was \$1.48.
- The ISP customer support center assisted over 71,000 participants.