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SSU HSEM at a Glance

- SSU offers the only bachelor's degree in homeland security or emergency management in the state of Georgia.
- Students in the HSEM program prepare for careers in emergency management and homeland security, gaining knowledge and skills to improve communities' and businesses' resilience to hazards and disasters of all types (natural or human-caused).
- The program opened in August 2007 and is the first bachelor's degree in HSEM at a historically black college/university in the nation.
- The program includes three full-time faculty members and also makes use of adjunct instructors and guest lecturers.
- A limited amount of scholarship & internship support is available for select students through a U.S. Department of Homeland Security grant.

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Homeland Security & Emergency Management

SSU HSEM: An Overview

The SSU Homeland Security and Emergency Management Program (HSEM) program is built on the existing body of knowledge in homeland security and emergency management as well as current and developing research, with an emphasis on lessening the impacts of disasters on our most vulnerable citizens. The program will prepare students to move into public and private sector positions in this growing field.

The HSEM program uses an interdisciplinary approach, preparing students with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to leverage and coordinate the full range of capacity and resources to improve outcomes in a disaster – whether natural or human-caused. The program offers students knowledge specific to different types and causes of disaster, lessons from past disasters, and both comprehensive and hazard-specific

practices that improve prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

The SSU HSEM program is the only bachelor's degree program in homeland security and/or emergency management in the state of Georgia and the first in the nation at a historically black college/university.



Coastal Georgia tropical systems since 1970

The program leads to a bachelor of arts degree in homeland security and emergency management. Students must earn 125 hours to graduate, with 36 semester hours in major courses and no requirement for a subject area minor. The curriculum includes a requirement for two years of foreign language. A 15-hour minor in HSEM also is available.

Students Get Hands-On Experience in Mini-EOC Training Area

The SSU HSEM program provides its students hands-on experience with software and modeling technologies used in real-world emergency management and homeland security settings, including The program this year established a small (six-station) computer training

area to give HSEM students access to hazard modeling and incident management technologies that are in use in local, state & federal agencies and emergency operations centers (EOCs), including:

- HAZUS-MH
- ArcGIS
- CAMEO & ALOHA
- Hurrevac
- WebEOC

Students in the HSEM Tools for Decisionmaking course use the training area as they explore technology tools that help maintain situational awareness and facilitate improve decisionmaking both before and during disaster.

Coming soon:

SSU Online Certificate in Homeland Security and Emergency Management



SSU will soon offer a 15-hour online certificate in Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM). The certificate will be ideal for individuals who would like to add competencies in the HSEM field, working practitioners who want an interim benchmark for work toward a bachelor's in HSEM, and for other students who would like to take a portion of SSU HSEM classes online before relocating to the campus to complete their bachelor's degree. The certificate can be completed in as little as two semesters and can be achieved as a stand-alone certificate or as an interim step toward completion of a bachelor's degree in Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

The online certificate will include five courses in Homeland Security and Emergency Management, all offered via the university's eLearning system:

HSEM 1101, Intro to Homeland Security and Emergency Management is a survey of the emerging field of homeland security and emergency management. The course provides students with a broad picture of the emergency management system in the United States, including historical events, practices and policies. Students will gain a foundation in the roles and methods of emergency management and homeland security in protecting lives, property, and infrastructure.

HSEM 3250, Risk & Vulnerability Assessment is a study of hazard identification and risk and vulnerability assessment across all types of hazards. It uses an all-hazards approach to assessing risk, addressing natural, human-caused, and technological hazards, and includes cyber and critical infrastructure threats. Pre- or co-req: HSEM 1101.

HSEM 3130, Emergency Planning & Incident Management provides foundation knowledge and develops skills in planning, hazard mitigation and incident management. It addresses planning principles and specific types of planning including emergency operations planning, continuity of operations/ continuity of government planning, and business continuity planning. Pre- or co-req: HSEM 3250.

HSEM 3110, Politics & Policy of HSEM examines laws, policies, programs, agencies, and institutions involved in U.S. disaster and emergency management. Focus is on the role of politics, public policymaking, and intergovernmental relations in managing all hazards at the local, state, and national levels. Pre- or co-req: HSEM 1101.

HSEM 3840, Effective HSEM Communication & Leadership prepares future HSEM professionals with communication skills to fulfill crucial roles in government, private sector, and the community. The course addresses communication and leadership across a spectrum of constituencies and environments, including within the incident management system. Pre- or co-req: HSEM 3250.

Participants must enroll as a student at SSU. For the certificate program, students must have a minimum of 45 semester credit hours from an institution of higher education or an associates degree. For more information, contact HSEM program director Emily Bentley at 912.356.2540 or bentleye@savannahstate.edu.