



# The Emergency Management Master's Degree

## Portland State University, Portland, Oregon

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### Purposes & Objectives

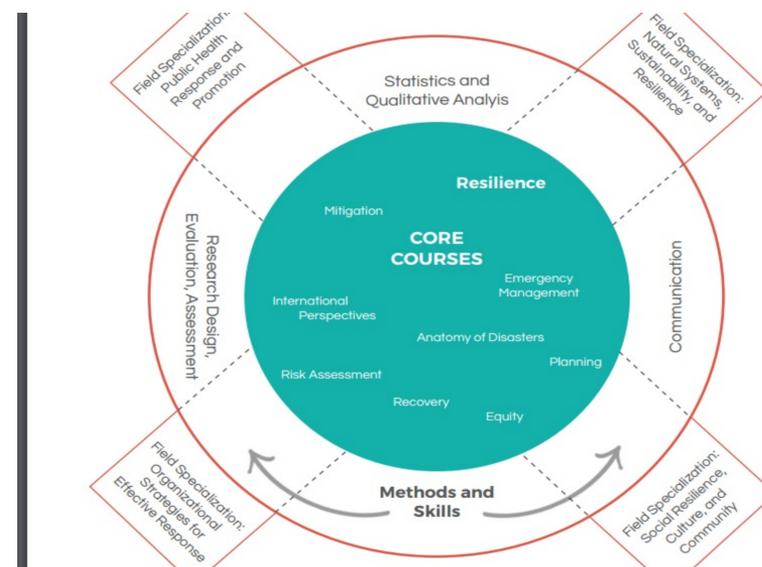
- Spurred by national attention on the likelihood of a major Cascadia Subduction Zone incident in the coming decades, the College of Urban and Public Affairs, Hatfield School of Government, envisioned a multidisciplinary program that is immediately relevant to our community, state and region.
- Across the PSU campus and the local community, there exists many types of knowledge, talent and experience related broadly to the field of disaster preparedness, response and recovery. PSU has the opportunity to create a truly innovative academic program by marshalling together this knowledge and expertise

### Course Offerings

Building Community Resilience  
 History of Natural Disasters  
 Assessing Risk for Disasters  
 Strategies-Organizing Recovery  
 Principles/Practices of EM  
 Effective Communication of Risks  
 International Perspectives,  
 Resilience

### Methods & Results

- Social and Cultural Perspective- intergovernmental collaboration, facilitating international aid, governance during emergency, social organization, group identity, community mapping, anthropogenic hazards, diachronic nature of society, community engagement, media-shaped reactions, public safety, order of emergency
- Public Health Perspective- working with vulnerable communities, access to basic health needs, psychology, data and policy
- Economic Perspective- business continuity during a disaster and rebuilding economic systems
- Ecological Perspective- natural systems and how they interact with the built environment
- Technological Perspective- designing and protecting our infrastructure, sustainable housing and roles for engineering and architecture.



### Conclusion & References

#### “Resiliency at Its Core”

- theories of resilience
- application of those theories in topical clusters of study
- systems thinking
- flexibility, adaptability and sustainability
- disaster management cycle
- equity, civil rights, civil liberties during an emergency

#### Understanding resilience

- drawing from both ecology and sociology, resilience is framed “as the capacity of a system, enterprise, or a person to maintain its core purpose and integrity in the face of dramatically changed circumstances”

#### Unique Programming in Resilience

- broader than training people to serve in the role of an emergency manager