



Homeland Security and Emergency Management: Aligning Training, Higher Education and Career Opportunities for Students

Kenneth Christopher, Associate Professor, National University, La Jolla, CA

An institutional effort to enhance students' homeland security/emergency management educational and career opportunities through a bridge between an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification program and a BS in Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM).

Collaboration between an academic program and a certification/training program at National University resulted in a curricular enhancement that: 1) enables EMT students to obtain college credit in pursuing a BS; 2) enables BS students to take EMT courses as electives for the BS; and 3) recommends specific BS electives linked to job postings in the emergency management and homeland security disciplines.

Purposes and Objectives

"EMS [Emergency Medical Services] is one of the three main response agencies notified when 911 is called, along with fire and law enforcement." With a 900,000 person trained, professional workforce, there is potential for improved functionality in homeland security mission sets, including: intelligence sensors; interpreting medical data for fusion centers; medical intelligence briefing; developing multidisciplinary mass casualty medical response plans; and enhanced syndromic surveillance systems (Kemp, 2014).

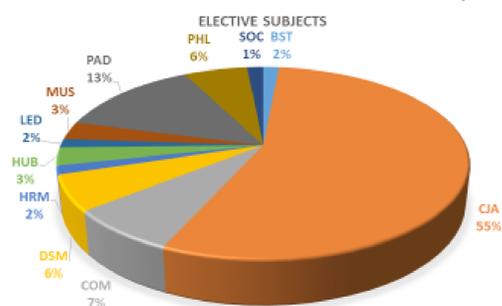
EMS personnel could benefit from educational options that help them develop skill sets to meet these mission sets.

National University's BS-HSEM program, managed by the School for Professional Studies, provides graduates with a foundation in the security issues; practices, politics and cultures of terrorism; best practices to cope with a pending emergency; and operations during and recovery from an emergency. The program focuses on the management aspects of disasters and emergencies, and developing well-rounded decision makers with a background in leadership and ethics.

The BS-HSEM program is comprised of eleven core courses and five electives. Currently students are able to choose any course as electives. The most popular discipline taken as electives by BS-HSEM students is criminal justice administration (55%) (Kymaani, 2017).

National's Division of Extended Learning, which manages an EMT Certificate program, conducted research on homeland security job postings and career choices. The largest concentrations of job postings were not in criminal justice, but in information technology, business and people management, finance, sales, and business processes (Kymaani, 2017).

HSEM Students Electives Sampling



The most popular subject to be taken as an elective for BSHSEM students is CIA, overwhelmingly.

Methods and Results

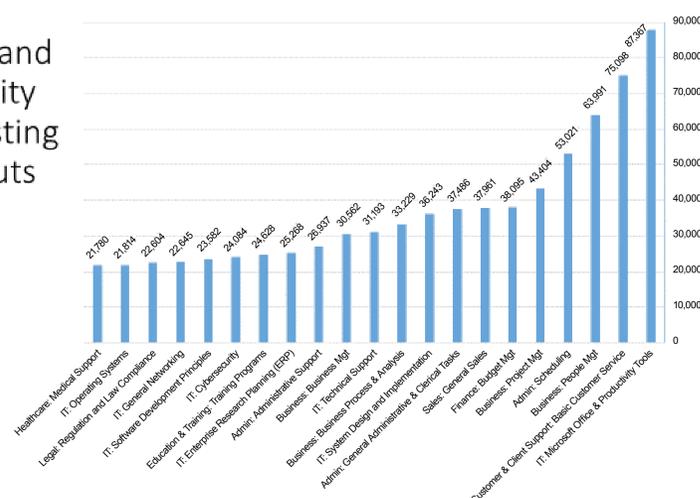
This institutional research generated a collaborative curricular proposal between National's School of Professional Studies and Division of Extended Learning to revise the BS-HSEM and EMT Certificate Programs:

- Within BS-HSEM, provide a more detailed "strong recommendation" list of course elective options to better guide students into courses that will support their career goals with skills that employers are looking for.
- As part of the meeting the elective unit requirement, BS-HSEM students have the option to complete an EMT Certificate providing entry-level basic knowledge, essential skills and an understanding of emergency medical assistance in outpatient and emergency settings.

The process used a mapping of BS-HSEM Program Learning Outcomes (PLO) to EMT Certification PLOs. The two programs jointly developed a matrix aligning BS-HSEM PLOs with EMT course content. For example, the BS-HSEM PLO **Apply relevant criticism in sustained analysis and interpretations of security management thinking** was aligned with EMT PLO **Evaluate emergency disaster pre-plans, recovery plans, and after-action reports**.

Adding the EMT Certificate as a BS elective option offers a strong connection between homeland security education and EMS training. Combined with the more detailed list of recommended electives, BS-HSEM graduates will be much more competitive in the homeland security job market.

Homeland Security Job Posting Outputs



Conclusion and References

The curricular revision was approved in spring 2017 and has been added to the National University Catalog.

The dialog between an academic program and a training program was focused on continuous curricular improvements designed to serve our student population.

A process was developed for collaboration among diverse institutional actors for degree and certification/training program enhancements.

The process used research on student elective choices and job market outputs to support homeland security, emergency management and emergency medical services curriculum revision and program development.

Caused the institution to critically review both similarities and differences between academic degree and certification/training programs.

Enabled National University to compare and contrast curriculum development processes across the institution.

The process enabled program directors to ask and think about the subject areas in emergency management and homeland security relevant to student career prospects.

The process suggested data points that might support homeland security/emergency management program development in educational institutions.

References

- Kemp, M. (2014). EMS and Homeland Security. Homeland Security Affairs, 10(4).
- Kymaani, R. (2017). Report on Homeland Security and Emergency Management Electives. Division of Extended Learning. National University, La Jolla, CA.

Homeland Security Job Skill Clusters	Academic Elective
IT: Microsoft Office & Productivity Tools	
Customer & Client Support: Basic Customer Service	
Business: People Mgt	LED 430 Conflict/Negotiation for Leaders or LED 410 Diverse Groups & Teams or MGT 422 Team Building & Interpers Dynamics
Admin: Scheduling	
Business: Project Mgt	MGT 451 Production & Ops Mgt
Finance: Budget Mgt	
Sales: General Sales	MKT 302a Marketing Fundamentals
Admin: General Administrative & Clerical Tasks	
IT: System Design and Implementation	
Business: Business Process & Analysis	MGT 442 Strategic Business Mgt (need approval)
IT: Technical Support	
Business: Business Mgt	MGT 451 Production & Ops Mgt
Admin: Administration Support	
IT: Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)	BKM 400 Bus Knowledge Mgt Strategy
Education & Training: Training Programs	
IT: Cybersecurity	CYB 453 Network Defense
IT: Software Development Principles	
IT: General Networking	
Legal: Regulation & Law Compliance	Law 445 Admin Law for Business
IT: Operating Systems	ITM 340 IT Clients using MS Windows & ITM 345 IT Services Using Linux
Health Care: Medical Support	HED 311 Health Literacy