The Metropolitan College of New York is offering a Master of Public Administration (MPA) Degree in Emergency and Disaster Management. The MPA in Emergency and Disaster Management is a 45-credit advanced degree program which opens new career tracks for recent college graduates and further develops professionals already working in the field. Over a sixteen month period, the students explore the complex world of emergency management and homeland security issues learning from industry leaders from throughout the New York metropolitan area. This highly-specialized degree covers the planning, management, logistics, response, relief, recovery and economics associated with managing emergency situations. To accommodate working professionals, classes meet on Friday evenings and Saturday.

The program is centered on the concept of a “constructive action”, which is a 3-semester long research project, beginning in the second semester, around which the courses are designed, and which results in a graduate-level thesis. The constructive action entails development of an emergency operations plan, implementing the plan, and assessing the impact of the plan. The constructive action is done as a group project, with students working as a class on a single, comprehensive emergency management plan for a real agency or organization. The final product has to be in compliance with the NFPA 1600 Standards and introduced to the actual client with a table-top exercise followed by After Action Report. In addition to the constructive action project, students are encouraged to do internships at various public, private, and not-for-profit agencies. As preparation for these internship opportunities, students in the second purpose study Project Management and Business Continuity.

Most of the Emergency and Disaster Management graduates are currently employed in Major Hospitals, City; state; and Federal agencies, major Airlines, banks, international relief organizations, NY/NJ Port Authority, Con Edison, and National Grid.

Some of the program graduates chose to do International relief work in countries such as- Kenya, Chile, Philippines , Italy, Sudan; ME , Macedonia, Liberia, South America, Haiti, Pakistan, Nepal, and the Caribbean. The program has multiple memorandum of Understanding with universities in Chile, Italy, Turkey, Ecuador, Mexico, and Spain.

A unique feature of this program is a 10-day field experience that is included in the tuition and integrated into the curriculum. This on-site study component involves a "hands-on" approach to Emergency and Disaster Management which focuses on Recovery from large scale disaster anywhere in the world. The program director will monitor global disaster activity and select the geographic region that best suits the student’s educational experience. Recent trips have been to Chile; Istanbul; Italy; and Barcelona to study best practices in Emergency Management.

Courses include:

Semester One:
- Impact of Disaster on Cultures and Communities
- Evaluating Service Delivery Systems
- Research and Analysis Methods in Disasters
• Values and Ethics for Admin Decision Making
• Economics of Hazards and Disasters

Semester Two:
• Systematic Approaches to Management
• Organizational and Municipal Continuity/Community Planning
• Public Health Systems and Preparedness
• Identification of Disaster Response Needs
• Field Experience

Semester Three:
• Individual and Collective Response to Disaster
• Economic/Social Trends and Org of Services
• Private Sector Emergency Management
• Information Technology Disaster Planning
• Initiating and Managing Service Innovation
• Field Experience

Semester Four:
• Public Safety in the 21st Century
• The Federal Government’s Management of Natural and Man Made Disasters
• Introduction to International Disaster Management
• Long Range Planning for Service Improvement
• Field Experience and 10 day trip to disaster location

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Update: 7/16/2015
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