

Naval Postgraduate School - Center for Homeland Defense and Security – Homeland Security Master of Arts Degree

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's National Preparedness Directorate, FEMA and the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS) have pioneered graduate education programs for homeland security since 2003. The Master of Arts (M.A.) degree program is offered at no cost to eligible local, tribal, territorial, state, and federal officials.

The degree provides leaders with the knowledge and skills to:

- Develop policies, strategies, plans and programs to prevent terrorist attacks within the United States, and reduce America's vulnerability to terrorism and catastrophic events;
- Build the organizational and interagency arrangements needed to strengthen homeland security;
- Help mayors, governors, other elected officials and federal leaders improve homeland security preparedness by developing actionable policies and strategies.

Recognizing the time constraints and particular needs of today's participants and their agencies, the program is structured as follows:

- Each quarter requires just two weeks in-residence at the NPS campus, located in Monterey, California or at the National Capital Region campus (currently in Hagerstown, Maryland);
- The total in-residence requirement for the 18-month program is 12 weeks; remainder of the coursework is completed via network-based learning;
- Participants spend an average of 15-20 hours per week during the network-based learning periods of study – reading assigned materials, participating in online discussions, and preparing papers and projects;
- Program requires 18 months of continuous enrollment and coursework and a thesis in order to graduate;
- The thesis is a qualitative or quantitative research project on a topic beneficial to the participant's sponsoring agency/jurisdiction.

The Master's Degree Program provides participants with an enhanced understanding of how to effectively manage homeland security threats and challenges, including asymmetric threats and terrorism, critical infrastructure protection, planning & budget strategies, communication and collaboration across jurisdictions and agencies.

Required Courses:

- Introduction to Homeland Security
- The Unconventional Threat to Homeland Security
- Research and Writing for Homeland Security
- Technology for Homeland Security
- Intelligence for Homeland Security: Organizational and Policy Challenges
- Research Colloquium
- Critical Infrastructure: Vulnerability Analysis and Protection

- Strategic Planning and Budgeting for Homeland Security
- Multi-discipline Approaches to Homeland Security
- Comparative Government for Homeland Security
- Internet, Society, and Cyberconflict
- Special Topics in American Government for Homeland Security
- Knowledge into Practice: A Homeland Security Capstone Course

The Naval Postgraduate School is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

For more information contact:

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Additional Information: Online application information is available at <https://www.chds.us/c/academic-programs/masters-degree-program>. Application deadlines are May 1 and December 1 annually. Visit the Center for Homeland Defense and Security's website at www.chds.us to learn more.

Update: 8/1/2017

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