University of Texas Rio Grande Valley - Disaster Studies MA Program

Natural and technological hazards pose increasing risks to the health and economic security of communities in the Rio Grande Valley and elsewhere in the United States, resulting in a growing need for trained emergency management professionals. The M.A. Degree in Disaster Studies at UTRGV provides students with critical training and experience in the field of emergency management to assist in preparing for and managing disasters when and where they occur. Offered on both the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses, the program is designed to accommodate the needs of professional students with coursework offered both online and evenings. Graduates from the program will enjoy a wide range of career opportunities as emergency management specialists, homeland security officers, hospital emergency preparedness administrators, public health planners, communication officers, and emergency response technicians. For those planning careers in research and teaching, the program also prepares students for Ph.D. programs in emergency management, public health, and related fields. Funding opportunities in the form of assistantships are available for both domestic and international students.

Thesis Option
Required core courses – 18 hours
Core electives – 6 hours
Prescribed Electives – 6 hours
Thesis – 6 hours
TOTAL – 36 hours

Non-Thesis Option
Required core courses – 18 hours
Core electives – 6 hours
Prescribed Electives – 9 hours
Capstone – 3 hours
TOTAL – 36 hours
Note: Students must petition the Graduate Director to pursue the non-thesis option.

Required Core Courses
SOCI 6300 Graduate Statistics
SOCI 6302 Graduate Methods (or SOCI 6301)
SOCI 6331 Disaster and Society
SOCI 6332 Geographic Information Systems for Disaster Management (or SOCI 6315).
SOCI 6333 Principles of Emergency Management
SOCI 6334 Social Demography

Core Electives
PAFF 6380 Global Security
CRIJ 6322 Terrorism
SOCI 6334 Disaster Vulnerability
SOCI 6335 Environmental Sociology
SOCI 6336 Disaster Mitigation and Preparedness

**Prescribed Elective Courses**
Thesis Option: Choose one from at least two areas  
Non-Thesis Option: 3 credits in any area, but with 6 additional credits in prescribed electives, which must be in the same area.

**Government and Public Administration**
PAFF 6303 Policy Implementation and Program Evaluation  
PAFF 6305 Political Leadership: Decision Making and Management in Public Organizations  
PAFF 6306 Public Personnel Administration  
PAFF 6312 State and Local Government  
POLS 63XX Urban Sustainability and Policy

**Organizational Communication**
ENGL 6326 Professional Writing  
COMM 6322 Culture and Communication  
MGMT 6301 Foundations of Management

**Natural Science**
GEOL 6410 Geoscience for Teachers  
GEOL 5301 Geology and Geography  
GEOL 5302 Meteorology and Oceanography  
ENVR 63XX Remote Sensing and Disasters  
ENGR 63XX Water Resources and Disaster Management

**Demographics and Culture**
ANTH 6306 Anthropology of Borders  
ANTH 6314 Environmental Anthropology

**Thesis and Capstone Courses**
SOCI 7300 Thesis I  
SOCI 7301 Thesis II  
SOCI 6304 Research Capstone

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley is accredited by the Southern Association on Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

For more information contact:

Dr. William Donner  
Associate Professor  
College of Liberal Arts  
1201 W University Dr.  
Edinburg, TX 78539
Phone: 956-665-2367
Email: william.donner@utrgv.edu

Dr. Dean Kyne
Associate Professor
College of Liberal Arts
1201 W University Dr.
Edinburg, TX 78539
Phone: 956-665-2572
Email: dean.kyne@utrgv.edu

Dr. Dawid Wladyka
Associate Professor
College of Liberal Arts
1201 W University Dr.
Edinburg, TX 78539
Phone: 956-882-7384
Email: dawid.wladyka@utrgv.edu

Additional Information:
https://www.utrgv.edu/sociology/graduate/disaster-studies-ma/index.htm

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