Virginia Commonwealth University – Bachelor of Arts in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness

Virginia Commonwealth University, L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, offers a Bachelor of Arts in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. The School has expertise in government (local, state, federal, and foreign), international affairs, public administration, criminal justice, policy planning and geography. Virginia Commonwealth University’s programs in medicine, engineering, and business also provide outstanding resources and excellent opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration. The university’s location - in a state capital situated 90 minutes from the nation's capital - also provides easy access to homeland security and emergency management institutions and practitioners. The opportunities for guest lectures, adjunct faculty arrangements, and internships are numerous. The program is designed for undergraduate students interested in a career in homeland security and emergency preparedness. Students will learn both theoretical and practical knowledge and skills that will prepare them for the following: 1) further study in international affairs, government, law enforcement, policy planning, or law; and/or 2) private or public sector employment in the expanding area of homeland security as it relates specifically to international and domestic security as well as emergency preparedness for both security and non-security related incidents (for example, natural disasters).

Students with a B.A. in Homeland Security can pursue a number of employment opportunities: governmental employment at the local, state, and federal level in homeland security and emergency planning/response (Federal Emergency Management Agency and its counterparts at the state level); law enforcement (Justice Dept, FBI, Dept. of Homeland Security); intelligence; research (numerous for-profit consultancy firms on homeland security and emergency preparedness as well as non-profit research organizations are being created); private sector employment with any business that requires emergency planning to protect critical infrastructure (90% of all critical infrastructure in the US is owned by private corporations).

The Bachelor of Arts curriculum in homeland security and emergency preparedness requires a minimum of 120 credits, with at least 36 of those credits in homeland security and emergency preparedness.

Along with the general education requirements of the College of Humanities and Sciences and Monroe Park campus requirements, the students must complete the following 30 credits of core courses. Students are required to take HSEP 101 Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, POLI 103 U.S. Government and POLI/INTL 105 International Relations as prerequisites to HSEP 301/CRJS 367/POLI 367 Terrorism, and HSEP 302 Emergency Planning and Incident Management. HSEP 301 and HSEP 302 are prerequisites to all other upper-level HSEP core courses. These prerequisites can be waived with permission of the instructor.

HSEP Core Courses
HSEP 101 Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
POLI 103 U. S. Government
POLI/INTL105 International Relations
HSEP 301/CRJS 367/POLI 367 Terrorism
HSEP 302  Emergency Planning and Incident Management
HSEP 310  Risk and Vulnerability Assessment
HSEP 311  Strategic Planning for HS and Emergency Preparedness
HSEP 320/CRJS 375  The Intelligence Community and the Intelligence Process
HSEP 490  Senior Seminar

Students must then select their remaining six credits from the following course list. Students can also count three credits of internship and three credits of independent study toward the major requirement.

HSEP Elective Courses

CRJS 300  Forensic Criminology
CRJS 320  Principles of Criminal Investigation
CRJS 370  Criminalistics and Crime Analysis
CRJS 373  Crime Scene Evidence, Law, and Trial Procedure
CRJS 463  Comparative Criminal Justice Systems
CRJS 475  Case Studies in Criminal Procedure
FIRE 330  Regulatory Aspects of Safety and Risk Control
FIRE 332  System Safety
FIRE 333  Risk and Insurance
FIRE 334  Incident Investigation and Analysis
FIRE 430  Issues in Risk Management and Insurance
POLI 310  Public Policy
POLI 322  State and Local Government
POLI 329  Intergovernmental Relations
POLI/INTL 351  Comparative Politics of the Middle East
POLI/INTL 353  Latin American Politics
POLI/INTL 362  International Organizations and Institutions
POLI/INTL 363  U. S. Foreign Policy
URSP 310  Introduction to Public Planning
URSP 332  Environmental Management
URSP 413  Policy Implementation
URSP 521  Introduction to GIS
URSP 552  Urban Transportation Systems

Collateral Requirements
In addition to the homeland security and emergency preparedness courses required for the Bachelor of Arts degree, students must complete the study of a foreign language through the intermediate level (202 or 205) through courses or placement.

Honors in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
Homeland security and emergency preparedness majors can earn honors within the program by completing HSEP 490 senior Seminar with an “A” grade and graduating with an overall 3.0 GPA and a 3.3 GPA in courses credited toward the 36 credits of the homeland security and emergency preparedness major.
Minor in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness

A minor in homeland security and emergency preparedness consists of 18 credits. Students are required to take the following:

- HSEP 101 Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
- HSEP 301/CRJS 367/POLI 367 Terrorism
- HSEP 302 Emergency Planning and Incident Management

*Students should choose three credits from the following list:*

- HSEP 310 Risk and Vulnerability Assessment
- HSEP 311 Strategic Planning for HS and Emergency Preparedness
- HSEP 320/CRJS 375 The Intelligence Community and the Intelligence Process

Students should choose three additional elective credits from HSEP Electives list above in consultation with an adviser (students may also choose these credits from whichever HSEP core courses they have not already taken).

The program was reviewed by officials from the US Department of Homeland Security, the US Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Virginia Governor’s Office of Public Safety, the Virginia House of Delegates, and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

Virginia Commonwealth University is granted accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges.

For more information contact:

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Additional Information:

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