Virginia Commonwealth University – Master of Arts Degree and Graduate Certificate in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness

Building upon the success of the Bachelor of Arts degree program in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (HSEP) launched in the fall of 2005, the Virginia Commonwealth University L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs has designed and implemented a Master of Arts degree and Graduate Certificate in HSEP. Graduate level courses in HSEP applicable to the HSEP Graduate Certificate and the HSEP MA are currently being offered.

The HSEP MA degree (36 credit hours) and the HSEP Graduate certificate (15 credit hours) are designed in the broadest interdisciplinary sense. Students will learn theoretical and practical knowledge that will prepare them for private or public sector employment in the expanding area of homeland security and emergency preparedness and/or further study in numerous areas of public policy. This curriculum focuses upon international and domestic security and preparedness issues related to terrorist threats, such as the 9/11 attack, and natural disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina.

This is an entirely online academic program although some classes have small face-to-face elements (such as a presentation at the end of the semester). These courses will find ways to work with remote students to accommodate their location and travel capabilities.

Curriculum: Master of Arts (36 credit hours)

The curriculum is interdisciplinary in focus. Faculty from the School of Government and Public Affairs, School of Business, School of Public Health, School of Engineering, and the Dept. of Statistical Sciences and Operations Research have been involved in the design and development of courses and participate as program faculty.

- HSEP 502 Survey of Terrorism
- HSEP 601 EM: Response Planning and Incident Command
- PADM 623 Research Methods for Government and Public Affairs
- HSEP 602 Government, Private Industry, and Community Strategic Planning
- HSEP 603 Risk Assessment
- HSEP 610 Law Enforcement Policy and Judicial Precedent
- ENGR 630 Technology, Security, and Preparedness
- INFO 644 Principles of Information System Security
- HSEP 650 Public Health System Preparedness
- HSEP 690 Capstone Seminar

*PADM623: Research Methods for Government and Public Affairs can also be GVPA 623, CRJS 623, or URSP 623
Curriculum: Graduate Certificate (15 credit hours)

HSEP 501 Institutional Challenges of Security and Prep.
HSEP 502 Survey of Terrorism
HSEP 601 EM: Response Planning and Incident Command
HSEP 602 Government, Private Industry and Community Strategic Planning
HSEP 603 Risk Assessment

Application Requirements and Materials

Application for the Graduate Certificate or Master of Arts degree requires:

Completion of an official application form:
- three letters of reference (from academic sources);
- a letter of intent describing interest in applying for the HSEP Graduate Certificate or Master of Arts degree;
- a current resume;
- an official transcript documenting successful completion of a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent form from an accredited college or university with a minimum grade point average of 2.7 (on a 4.0 scale) in the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate study;
- And for the Master of Arts degree only, current Graduate Record Exam score or other approved standardized test.

Students not meeting these requirements who have demonstrated advanced competency on a professional basis may be admitted to the Graduate Certificate program provisionally. The provisional period shall consist of the first six hours of designated graduate work in which all grades must be no less than “B.”

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:
Please refer to the L. Douglas Wider School of Government and Public Affairs Web Site for additional HSEP program information:
http://www.pubapps.vcu.edu/gov/academics/default.asp?ID=165

Please refer to the VCU Admissions Site to access the application form, letter of recommendation forms, transcript request forms and general instructions/information: http://www.vcu.edu/graduate/

Please refer to the VCU Web for tuition and fee information. The HSEP graduate courses are classified as Monroe Park Campus courses:
http://www.vcu.edu/enroll/sa/tuition/

“Please note: Some of the Web sites linked to in this document are not federal government Web sites, and may not necessarily operate under the same laws, regulations, and policies as federal Web sites.”