Western Illinois University-Bachelor of Science Degree in Emergency Management

The B.S. in Emergency Management was approved August 15, 2006 and courses were first offered January 2007. Revisions to the program were approved in April 2008. The program is designed to educate students about disaster response and emergency management coordination activities, preparation of emergency plans and procedures for disasters and bioterrorism situations, and effective emergency management networking skills. The program prepares students as emergency management professionals in local, state, and federal government settings, with emphasis on emergency response agencies (e.g., law enforcement, fire, public health, offices of emergency management services, and voluntary agencies such as the American Red Cross) as well as private sector organizations. Admission to Western Illinois University may be made online through the main website: http://admissions.wiu.edu/.

The degree requires a minimum of 120 hours comprised of 43 hours of General Education courses, 33 hours of core courses, 12 hours of directed electives, as well as General Chemistry I, Introduction to Computers I, Personal Health Promotion, Introduction to Weather and Climate, an approved minor, and 6 hours of open electives. Core courses include:

EM 276 Hazards and Disasters in Emergency Management
EM 304 Principles of Emergency Management
EM 305 Dimensions of Disaster
EM 323 Emergency Preparedness and Response
EM 324 Legal Aspects of Emergency Management
EM 401 Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Recovery
EM 460 Weapons of Mass Destruction in Health Science
EM 479 Emergency Management Pre-Internship
EM 491 Emergency Management Internship
HS 370 Research Methods in Health Sciences

Directed electives can be chosen from a list of courses in community/public health, emergency management, emergency medical technician training, environmental health, geography, microbiology, or occupational safety. Suggested minors include Chemistry, Communications, Community Health, Fire Science, Forensic Science, Geographic Information Systems, Law Enforcement, Management, Microbiology, and Public Administration.

The professional internship provides students with 360-480 contact hours of work experience in an emergency management work setting. The professional internship is a vital element of the program and provides students with appropriate experience and training to support employment and career development.

Western Illinois University is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

For more information contact:

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