



FEMA

Independent Study Program Fact Sheet

May 2021

General Information:

The Emergency Management Institute's (EMI) Curriculum Standards and Instructional Technology Branch provides the Independent Study Program (ISP). This is a distance learning program which offers training, online and free of charge, to the nation's emergency management network and the general public. It serves as both an alternative means to deliver valuable training to the professional and volunteer emergency management community as well as an opportunity to improve public awareness and promote disaster preparedness nationally. The Independent Study Program offers over 200 training courses via our training [website](#). There has been substantial growth in the program since 2004 due to the National Incident Management System training requirements.

Students are able to obtain continuing education units for all ISP courses. ISP also offers college credit for many of the courses through an agreement with Frederick Community College in Maryland. Students who successfully complete courses can also request transcripts be provided to institutions to assist in obtaining continuing education units and/or to military institutions for military personnel to earn retirement points. In addition, the program offers a customer support center to assist students. The customer support center can be reached through [email](mailto:Independent.Study@fema.dhs.gov) at Independent.Study@fema.dhs.gov or telephone at 301-447-1200. The hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8:00 am - 6:00 pm EST.

In an effort to continually enhance the program, improvements are being planned. Some of these improvements include: upgrading our systems to offer additional features; changing our website to provide a more intuitive approach for users to access the information they need; establishing reporting tools for state training officers and organizations to assist in tracking completions; offering easier access for students to the course content and their certificates of completion; capturing course evaluation data; and developing courses that use a variety of distance learning technologies.

Program Statistics:

- In fiscal year 2020, there were 2,471,770 course completions within the program.
- The average cost per student completion was \$1.20.
- The ISP customer support center provided assistance with approximately 2,500 student inquiries each week.
- The ISP processed approximately 47,500 test submissions weekly.
- There was an average of 43 student orders placed for college credits each week, resulting in nearly 13,000 credits awarded through Frederick Community College.

