

# National Disaster and Emergency Management University (NDEMU) Executive Public Information Officer Program (EPIO)

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The National Disaster and Emergency Management University's Master Public Information Officer (MPIO) program has evolved into the Executive Public Information Officer (EPIO) program to better reflect the evolving terminology and broadened scope of the field of public information. This transition reflects our commitment to preparing PIOs for executive-level leadership, strategic decision-making, and trusted advisor roles.

## Key Changes

- **Name change:** From Master Public Information Officer (MPIO) to Executive Public Information Officer (EPIO). The new name emphasizes leadership at the executive level and reflects the advanced nature of the curriculum.
- **Updated curriculum:**
  - Greater focus on executive-level skills, including strategic thinking, advocacy, leadership, personal influence, change management, executive communication, ethics, and whole community connections.
  - Streamlined content to focus on the most critical competencies for public information leaders.
  - The program still consists of three courses over the course of 10-months, culminating with a final EPIO paper.
- **Alignment with industry standards:** The EPIO mirrors naming conventions used for elite, leadership-focused programs within NDEMU and across industries.

## Alumni of the MPIO Program

Your achievements in the MPIO program remain valid and recognized. The rebranding did not affect the academic rigor, curriculum standards, or outcomes associated with the MPIO program. Graduates of the MPIO program earned certificates under the same high academic standards and comprehensive training that are now recognized under the EPIO program and still enjoy all the rights, privileges, and value originally conveyed by that certificate. This transformation enhances the program's reputation, adding value to your certificate and part of its legacy.



## FAQ's

### **WHY DID THE NAME CHANGE TO EXECUTIVE PIO?**

The change in name was part of a broader effort to ensure the program's relevance and adaptability while maintaining its core values and quality. The new name establishes the program's shift to focus on preparing public information officer professionals for executive-level leadership roles and becoming trusted advisors in their organizations.

### **WILL THE CURRICULUM BE HARDER?**

The curriculum is designed to be more streamlined and impactful, with an emphasis on executive -level skills. It maintains the program's rigorous standards while ensuring all content is current and relevant to high-level public information leadership.

### **DOES THIS AFFECT THE VALUE OF MY MPIO CERTIFICATE?**

Absolutely not. The MPIO certificate retains its value and remains a testament to your advanced training. The transformation builds on the strong foundation of the MPIO program. If you would like an updated certificate with the new name, please email your request to [FEMA-NDEMU\\_PIO\\_Program@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-NDEMU_PIO_Program@fema.dhs.gov). **New certificates will be issued by request only.**

### **HOW SHOULD MPIO GRADUATES APPROPRIATELY COMMUNICATE CHANGES TO THE TITLE?**

A possible response: "I completed the Master Public Information Officer program which is now called the Executive Public Information Officer program. The standards are the same; the title was updated after my graduation to reflect the evolving scope of the field."

### **IF I COMPLETED THE MPIO, DO I NEED TO COMPLETE THE PROGRAM AGAIN?**

No. The title change does not affect the validity of your completed program. Your certificate reflects the program you successfully completed at the time.

### **HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE EPIO PROGRAM AND HOW TO APPLY?**

Visit our website at [NDEMU | Public Information Officer Program](https://training.fema.gov/programs/empp/pio/) for detailed information about the program, application requirements, and deadlines.