

INTEGRATED HOMELAND SECURITY MANAGEMENT M.S.

Degree: Master of Science
<https://www.towson.edu/cla/departments/interdisciplinary/grad/homelandsecurity/>

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The Master of Science degree in Integrated Homeland Security Management and the embedded graduate certificate in Security Assessment and Management (see below) form an interdisciplinary program to provide an applied graduate education for personnel working in various areas of homeland security, risk assessment and management, emergency response and crisis communications. The intent is to provide students with advanced studies and experience to extend their expertise in one area while reaching out to work with other areas in an integrated response.

The core courses provide a common base to familiarize students with the overall issues and concerns of homeland security. Students do additional work in their own areas of expertise in specialized courses, but reach across to other areas by taking introductory graduate-level courses in three other areas. The project is a key part of the program, providing hands-on experience in dealing with real-world problems of homeland security. Work on the project begins midway through the program and continues to provide a sense of reality as the student moves through the program. Ideally, students will work together in joint projects, sharing skills and gaining experience in collaborative problem-solving.

Online Instruction

The entire Integrated Homeland Security Management program is delivered online. The goal of the online program is to provide students all of the necessary resources at their fingertips. Students participate in online classroom discussions and review class materials whenever they choose. Towson University utilizes Blackboard as the learning platform for all online courses, so there is a consistent format from course to course. The application process and curriculum requirements for online learners are identical to those for students attending courses on TU's campus.

Admission Requirements

- A bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university** in a relevant field (for example, political science, health science, information technology or others).
- A cumulative GPA of 3.00 on a scale of 4.00 (2.75 for conditional admission) for the most recent 60 units of graduate or undergraduate work.
- Three years post-bachelor's experience working in health, information technology, security or related areas.
- A minimum TOEFL score of 550 (where applicable).
- Submission of an online application. (<https://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/apply>)
- Submission of a resumé and two-page statement describing past relevant experience.
- Submission of a three-page essay discussing a specific, current threat to homeland security and a potential policy response

to it. (Applicants are encouraged to think broadly in regard to threats and consider the panoply of homeland security issues – including (but not limited to) terrorism, natural disasters, community policing, political extremism, community wellness, or the effects of environmental change.)

- Two reference letters attesting to their ability to withstand the rigors of a graduate education.

Non-immigrant International Students

Program Enrollment: F-1 and J-1 students are required to be enrolled full-time. The majority of their classes must be in-person and on campus. See the list of programs that satisfy these requirements (<https://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/international/programs-complying-j1-f1-regulations.html>), and contact the International Student and Scholars Office (<https://www.towson.edu/academics/international/isso>) with questions.

Admission Procedures: See additional information regarding Graduate Admission policies (<https://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/policies.html>) and International Graduate Application (<https://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/international>) online.

See **Exceptions to Policy in Graduate Admissions (<https://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/policies.html>).

Degree Requirements

Students must complete a total of at least 36 units:

- 15 units in five core courses taken by all students
- 9 units in three specialization courses
- 6 units in two collateral courses from other specialization areas
- 3 units of capstone project
- 3 units in one elective course

Code	Title	Units
Required Courses		
IHSM 611	CRITICAL NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURES	3
IHSM 612	PLANNING, PREVENTION AND RISK MANAGEMENT	3
IHSM 613	EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION AND MANAGEMENT	3
IHSM 614	TEAM BUILDING AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS	3
IHSM 615	STRATEGIC AND TACTICAL PLANNING	3

Note: The five core courses above constitute the Certificate in Security Assessment and Management.

Tracks		
Select one of three tracks:		
Information Assurance Track		
IHSM 621	INFORMATION SYSTEMS VULNERABILITY AND RISK ANALYSIS	
IHSM 622	INTRODUCTION TO SOFTWARE SECURITY	
IHSM 623	NETWORK SECURITY	
Health Preparedness Track		
IHSM 631	MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE	

IHSM 632	BIOTERROR PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS
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IHSM 633	DISASTER RESPONSE AND COMMUNITY HEALTH
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Security Policy Track

IHSM 641	TERRORISM AND POLITICAL VIOLENCE
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IHSM 642	INTELLIGENCE AND HOMELAND SECURITY
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IHSM 643	HOMELAND SECURITY AND CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS
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Collateral Courses

Select one introductory course in each of the two areas outside of the selected track: 6

Information Assurance

IHSM 620	INTRODUCTION TO INFORMATION ASSURANCE
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Health Preparedness

IHSM 630	HEALTH SYSTEM PREPAREDNESS
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Security Policy

IHSM 640	U.S. HOMELAND SECURITY POLICY
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Elective Courses

Each student must take one elective course from the following: 3

IHSM 660	GIS APPLICATIONS: HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
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IHSM 670	SPECIAL TOPICS IN HOMELAND SECURITY
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IHSM 695	INDEPENDENT STUDY IN HOMELAND SECURITY
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Graduate Project

The extended project offers a practical, real-world problem-solving experience for the student. Ideally, students will form working groups to take on a project from an agency of federal, state or local government, or a private business. They will begin to work on the project after taking 15 units in the program and continue the project while completing other course work.

IHSM 881	CAPSTONE PROJECT I	3
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Students may also select from two continuum options:

IHSM 882	CAPSTONE PROJECT II
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IHSM 885	CAPSTONE PROJECT CONTINUUM
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Total Units 36

1. Analyze, evaluate, and apply threat monitoring and risk mitigation, theories, models and resources to protect critical national infrastructures.
2. Compare homeland security leadership principles and apply them to solve various strategic and tactical disaster resilience, threat mitigation and emergency management problems.
3. Apply disaster management precepts to coordinate scalable, interagency and cross-jurisdictional efforts that minimize public harm and restore intersectoral integrity.
4. Evaluate and apply current homeland security precepts, theories and resources to recommend effective risk mitigation activities.