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/issos) 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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IHSM 611</td>
<td>CRITICAL NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURES</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IHSM 612</td>
<td>PLANNING, PREVENTION AND RISK MANAGEMENT</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>IHSM 613</td>
<td>EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION AND MANAGEMENT</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>IHSM 614</td>
<td>TEAM BUILDING AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>IHSM 615</td>
<td>STRATEGIC AND TACTICAL PLANNING</td>
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Note: The five core courses above constitute the Certificate in Security Assessment and Management.

Tracks

Select one of three tracks: 9

Information Assurance Track

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IHSM 621</td>
<td>INFORMATION SYSTEMS VULNERABILITY AND RISK ANALYSIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IHSM 622</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO SOFTWARE SECURITY</td>
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<td>IHSM 623</td>
<td>NETWORK SECURITY</td>
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Health Preparedness Track

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<tr>
<td>IHSM 631</td>
<td>MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE</td>
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IHSM 632  BIOTERROR PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS
IHSM 633  DISASTER RESPONSE AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

Security Policy Track
IHSM 641  TERRORISM AND POLITICAL VIOLENCE
IHSM 642  INTELLIGENCE AND HOMELAND SECURITY
IHSM 643  HOMELAND SECURITY AND CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

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

Health Preparedness
IHSM 630  HEALTH SYSTEM PREPAREDNESS

Security Policy
IHSM 640  U.S. HOMELAND SECURITY POLICY

Elective Courses
Each student must take one elective course from the following: 3
IHSM 660  GIS APPLICATIONS: HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
IHSM 670  SPECIAL TOPICS IN HOMELAND SECURITY
IHSM 695  INDEPENDENT STUDY IN HOMELAND SECURITY

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

Students may also select from two continuum options:
IHSM 882  CAPSTONE PROJECT II
IHSM 885  CAPSTONE PROJECT CONTINUUM

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.