INTEGRATED HOMELAND SECURITY MANAGEMENT M.S.

Degree: Master of Science
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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. The 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 Towson’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:** See additional admission information in Graduate Admissions (https://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/international.html)

**Exceptions to Policy** in Graduate Admissions (https://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/apply/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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IHSM 613</td>
<td>EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION AND MANAGEMENT</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IHSM 614</td>
<td>TEAM BUILDING AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IHSM 615</td>
<td>STRATEGIC AND TACTICAL PLANNING</td>
<td>3</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 units

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
- 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 units

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IHSM 660</td>
<td>GIS APPLICATIONS: HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT</td>
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<tr>
<td>IHSM 670</td>
<td>SPECIAL TOPICS IN HOMELAND SECURITY</td>
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<tr>
<td>IHSM 695</td>
<td>INDEPENDENT STUDY IN HOMELAND SECURITY</td>
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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

Students may also select from two continuum options:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IHSM 882</td>
<td>CAPSTONE PROJECT II</td>
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<tr>
<td>IHSM 885</td>
<td>CAPSTONE PROJECT CONTINUUM</td>
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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