MASTER OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES IN THE FIELD OF HOMELAND SECURITY

The master of professional studies in the field of homeland security is a 36-credit program designed for industry professionals—including those in the military—who wish to develop leadership skills as well as an in-depth understanding of current and emerging homeland security issues. The program provides a pioneering education on counter-terrorism, intelligence analysis, emerging security threats, and relevant legislation, enhancing the implementation of security practices in both public and private sectors.

Specific admission requirements can be found on the Graduate Program Finder (http://www.gwu.edu/all-graduate-programs). Visit the program website (https://cps.gwu.edu/homelandsecurity) for additional information.

REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be fulfilled: 36 credits in required courses.

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FACULTY

Director E. Lammert

COURSES

Explanation of Course Numbers

- Courses in the 1000s are primarily introductory undergraduate courses
- Those in the 2000s to 4000s are upper-division undergraduate courses that can also be taken for graduate credit with permission and additional work
- Those in the 6000s and 8000s are for master’s, doctoral, and professional-level students
- The 6000s are open to advanced undergraduate students with approval of the instructor and the dean or advising office

PSHS 6240. Political Violence and Terrorism. 3 Credits.
The evolution of terrorism and politically motivated violence; causes and origins in regional, national, and international terrorist and insurgent groups and so-called terrorist states; trends in terrorist modus operandi, including asymmetric attacks; formulating effective counterterrorist strategies. Restricted to students in the MPS in homeland security program.

PSHS 6241. Globalization of Threats and International Security. 3 Credits.
The intersection of globalization and national and international security; how globalization may create new threats while amplifying existing threats; the relationship of specific forms of globalized threat to globalization; responses of states and non-state actors to such threats; the role of international organizations. Restricted to students in the MPS in homeland security program.

PSHS 6242. Security and Civil Liberties. 3 Credits.
Examination of U.S. government activities designed to protect the security of American citizens while balancing those interests against citizens’ civil liberties; limitations placed on government activities by the First and Fourth Amendments of the Constitution; complexities associated with the characterization of criminals and terrorists. Restricted to students in the MPS in homeland security program.

PSHS 6243. Intelligence and Strategic Analysis. 3 Credits.
The structure and components of the national intelligence community and law enforcement communities; international intelligence comparison; analysis of intelligence policies and strategies at the international, national, and regional levels. Restricted to students in the MPS in homeland security program.

PSHS 6244. Information Systems Protection. 3 Credits.
Exploration of the major areas of information security including risk management, cybercrime, cyberconflict, and the technologies involved in both cyberattacks and information systems protection; creating, implementing, and maintaining an information security program; root causes of insecurity in information systems.
PSHS 6250. Strategic Planning and Budgeting. 3 Credits.
The adaptation of strategic planning and performance measures beyond budgeting by government agencies dealing with long-term security issues; integrative approach to strategic planning and management, focusing on the implementation, evaluation, and oversight of strategy and policy; development of budgets, accountability plans, and risk management to ensure compliance with stated goals; analytical tools and techniques that inform organizational strategies and actions. Restricted to students in the MPS in homeland security program.

PSHS 6251. Inter-Agency Cooperation. 3 Credits.
In-depth study of interagency cooperation issues relevant to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s organizational structure; cooperative initiatives through mutual assistance agreements and regional, national, and international structures; technology interoperability, legal, and interorganizational challenges. Restricted to students in the MPS in homeland security program.

PSHS 6252. Emergency Management and Crisis Communication. 3 Credits.
The role of crisis communications in the overall management of emergency operations; critical communications tasks, functions, and operations of the emergency operations center, incident command, and associated emergency personnel; strategies and tactics to enhance and promote effective crisis communications among government emergency managers. Restricted to students in the MPS in homeland security program.

PSHS 6253. Managing the Politics of Leadership. 3 Credits.
The role of power and influence in organizations; complexity and challenges of developing political strategies and mobilizing the political support and resources needed to implement objectives. Restricted to students in the MPS in homeland security program.

PSHS 6254. Strategic Change Management. 3 Credits.
The challenges, techniques, burdens, and successes associated with initiating and implementing major change within organizations; the process of organizational change from multiple theoretical perspectives. Restricted to students in the MPS in homeland security program.

PSHS 6260. Methods of Analysis in Security. 3 Credits.
Methods and problems of data collection in security fields; analytical design, instrument utilization, sampling, and measurement; data analysis techniques. Restricted to students in the MPS in homeland security program.

PSHS 6270. Capstone Project. 3 Credits.
Students refine their conception of leadership and knowledge of the homeland security field. Participants experience leadership in action and enhance independent learning while working in both small and large group dynamics. Restricted to students enrolled in the PSHS cohort. Prerequisites: All the curriculum in the PSHS must be completed before registering for this course.