



MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM (MA)

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's National Preparedness Directorate, FEMA and the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS) have pioneered graduate education programs for homeland security. Since 2003, CHDS has built a cadre of graduate education programs and resources used by universities and agencies across the country. The Master of Arts (MA) degree program is offered at no cost to eligible local, state, tribal, territorial, and federal officials. To accommodate participants' time constraints, students are in residence just two weeks every quarter during the 18-month program. Students complete the remainder of their coursework via web-enabled instruction. The degree is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and is awarded by the Naval Postgraduate School.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The degree provides leaders with the knowledge and skills to:

- Develop policies, strategies, plans and programs to prevent terrorist attacks within the United States, and reduce America's vulnerability to the full range of other homeland security threats and potential catastrophic events.
- Build the organizational and interagency arrangements needed to strengthen homeland security.
- Help mayors, governors, other elected officials and federal leaders improve homeland security preparedness by developing actionable policies and strategies.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The degree program requires 18 months of continuous enrollment and coursework and a thesis. It involves a significant commitment on the part of the participants and their agencies. The courses are organized in quarters rather than semesters. Each quarter requires two weeks in residence at the NPS campus, located in Monterey, California or in the National Capital Region (at the Bolger Center outside of Washington, DC). The remainder of the coursework is completed via network-based learning. Participants spend an average of 15-20 hours per week during the network-based learning periods of study – reading assigned materials, participating in online discussions with faculty and other participants, and preparing papers and projects. Participants and their agencies must be cognizant of this commitment and should view it as an investment in enhancing the individual's and the jurisdiction's homeland security capabilities.

The internationally respected faculty guide discussions and focus the attention of the participants, establishing the predicate for continued study through network-based learning methodologies for the non-residential period. The thesis is a qualitative or quantitative research project on a significant homeland security topic. The thesis may, for example, have a strategic planning focus, a model-development perspective, or a threat-risk assessment concentration. The thesis should be of significant benefit to the participant's agency or jurisdiction.

ANNUAL APPLICATION DEADLINES

MAY 1ST | DECEMBER 1ST

www.chds.us/masters

ALUMNI AND COHORTS

2018	
Graduated Cohorts	3
Alumni	89
In Progress Participants	123

since inception January 2003

GRADUATED
COHORTS

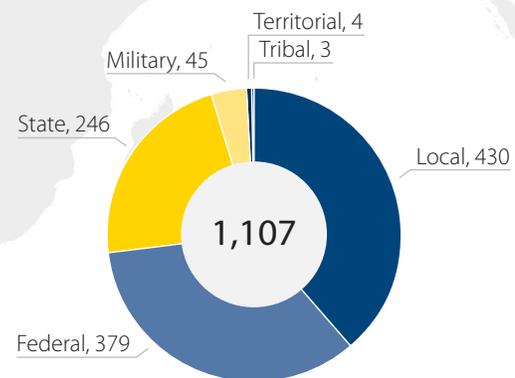
40

ALUMNI

1,107

ALUMNI

by jurisdiction



WHAT LEADERS HAVE TO SAY:

“I applied to CHDS because I wholeheartedly wanted to learn about homeland security from a prestigious academic university that promoted independent thinking and problem solving methods. I wanted to understand how the homeland security enterprise impacted my role as an FBI supervisory intel analyst and ways I can better assess vulnerabilities in protecting the US. I also wanted to write a thesis to strengthen my research, analysis, and writing skills and examine a problem that was currently on my plate. The caliber of the professors and classmates and the discussions about homeland security and problem-solving went above my expectations. The resources and facilities were outstanding and I am forever grateful for the experience.”

— **LAURA JAMISON**
Supervisory Intelligence Analyst (SIA)
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

“I began looking for a master’s degree program in 2015, looking for something that would be relevant for my job now and in the future. My Chief of Police suggested applying to the CHDS program through the Naval Postgraduate School. I got my bachelor’s degree from the Naval Academy, so I was immediately enthusiastic. The application process was rigorous, and I was not accepted into the program until about a year after I applied. It was the best educational experience I have had since attending USNA almost 28 years ago. The faculty and staff are fantastic, as were the members of my cohort. I loved our time together during the in-residence sessions in the National Capitol Region, and miss our discussions, classes, and networking already, just a month after graduating. I gained a broader view of homeland security and my agency’s place in the enterprise. I wrote my thesis on a topic I could apply immediately at work, and I hope my thesis work will benefit other law enforcement agencies across the country as they look to implement unmanned aircraft or other controversial technologies.

If you are thinking about applying to this program, do it! It will be both difficult and one of the best experiences of your life.”

— **CRAIG SCHWARTZ**
Captain
Santa Rosa Police Department, CA

“As the chairman of the Joint Committee on Kansas Security, I thought it might be wise to have a better understanding of what the issues in homeland security actually were. I asked the Adjutant General of Kansas for recommendations. He recommended CHDS and I am glad he did.

The learning I was able to absorb showed me there was truly a need at the local and state level, not just the federal level, to focus on homeland security. I spent six more years on the Joint Committee and three years as deputy homeland security advisor for the state of Kansas. I continue to use my training to work with utilities on CIKR in Kansas and across the nation. The contacts and friendships developed at CHDS are invaluable!”

— **JAY SCOTT EMLER**
Commissioner
Kansas Corporation Commission

“I applied upon the recommendation of my State Homeland Security Advisory and was very hesitant to do so based upon coming from a relatively small county. My experience was unbelievable and was a game changer in my career and how I approached my job. The opportunity to write my thesis with guidance from two dedicated advisors allowed me to change the direction of our program and better understand the importance of creating a whole community focusing more on resilience. I have and continue to recommend the program and all other benefits of CHDS.”

— **JEFF FRIEDLAND**
HSEM Director
St. Clair County, MI

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MA PROGRAM:

HEATHER ISSVORAN
Director, Strategic Communications
hissvora@nps.edu | 831.402.4672 (c)