



MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM

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) are collaborating to provide 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 network-based learning. 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 potentially 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.

COHORTS 2019

PARTICIPANTS
91
COHORTS
3

SINCE INCEPTION JANUARY 2003

COHORTS
43
ALUMNI
1,189

ANNUAL APPLICATION DEADLINES

MAY 1st
AND
DEC. 1st
APPLY NOW
chds.us/masters

LOCATIONS



MONTEREY, CA.
**NATIONAL CAPITAL
REGION (NCR)**

ALUMNI BY JURISDICTION

1,189



LOCAL
469



FEDERAL
411



STATE
256



MILITARY
46



TERRITORIAL
4



TRIBAL
3

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MA PROGRAM

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