



MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM

PRIVATE SECTOR

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Defense, and the Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS) collaborate to deliver graduate-level education for homeland defense and security professionals. Since 2003, CHDS has prepared leaders to think strategically and operate effectively in complex national security and public safety environments.

The Master of Arts in Security Studies (MA) degree program serves eligible officials from local, state, tribal, territorial, federal, and private-sector organizations. Participants complete an 18-month program that combines two-week, in-residence sessions each quarter with distance learning. The degree is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and awarded by the Naval Postgraduate School.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The MA degree prepares leaders to:

- Exercise sound judgment in complex, high-consequence environments, integrating critical and strategic thinking with operational realities.
- Strengthen the nation's resilience by advancing capability at the state, local, tribal, and territorial levels, where homeland security and defense outcomes are most directly achieved.
- Operate effectively across boundaries, aligning efforts among government, defense, and private-sector partners to achieve unity of effort in fragmented systems.
- Anticipate and adapt to emerging threats and conditions, using innovative approaches, applied learning, and cross-sector insight to address evolving public safety challenges.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The 18-month Master of Arts degree program integrates academic study with ongoing professional practice. Participants remain continuously enrolled while completing graduate coursework and a thesis within quarterly cycles that combine two-week, in-residence sessions at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, with distance learning between sessions.

During non-residence periods, participants dedicate approximately 15–20 hours per week to reading, faculty-guided discussion, and applied written work. This structure requires a deliberate commitment from participants and their agencies or companies and is designed to translate directly into improved organizational performance.

The thesis serves as the program's capstone: a qualitative or quantitative research project addressing a significant homeland security or defense issue. Each thesis is intended to produce actionable insight and practical value for the participant's organization or line of work, contributing to more effective strategy, planning, and decision-making.

WHO'S ELIGIBLE

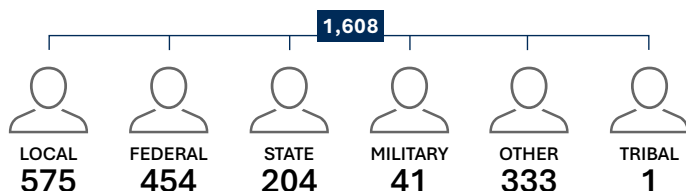
Private sector applicants are considered based on the direct relevance of their role and organization to homeland defense and security.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Responsibility for securing mass gatherings or major special events
- Responsibility for protecting the nation's critical infrastructure (e.g., energy systems, financial systems)
- Responsibility for supporting the defense and homeland security industrial base
- Responsibility for emergency management
- Responsibility for global, physical security

COHORTS 2025	SINCE INCEPTION JANUARY 2003	COST	ANNUAL APPLICATION DEADLINES
<p>COHORTS 5</p> <p>PARTICIPANTS 139</p>	<p>COHORTS 61</p> <p>ALUMNI 1,608</p>	<p>To inquire about additional information regarding tuition, travel, and associated expenses for private-sector participants, please contact: hissvora@nps.edu</p>	<p>May 1st, Fall Start December 1st, Spring Start</p> <hr/> <p>Apply Now www.chds.us/masters</p>

ALUMNI BY JURISDICTION



LEARN MORE ABOUT
THE MASTER'S PROGRAM
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