

HOMELAND SECURITY

Degree Requirements

Master of Professional Studies (M.P.S)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Policies (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>).

The Master of Professional Studies in Homeland Security program requires a minimum of 33 credits, 24 of which must be earned at Penn State. Up to 10 graduate credits may be transferred in from a regionally accredited institution (subject to restrictions outlined in GCAC-309 Transfer Credit (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/transfer-credit>)); if the full 10 credits are transferred, the minimum total number of credits in the degree program will be 34. At least 18 credits must be courses at the 500 or 800 level, of which 6 credits must be in 500-level courses.

Students are expected to maintain a B (3.0) or better average in academic courses to be retained in the program. Graduate Council policy requires that students must have a GPA of 3.0 or above in order to graduate from the program.

Each student will take a 9-credit *core curriculum* consisting of HLS 801, HLS 803/PHIL 803, and HLS 805/PLSC 805, as well as an optional non-credit Orientation Course. Students will also take 12 credits of prescribed courses for the specialized option. There are 9 elective credits that are chosen from an approved list in consultation with the student's academic adviser. The list of electives is maintained by the Option Directors and is provided to the students in the respective specialization area. Finally, each degree candidate must complete a capstone project on a topic related to homeland security and defense, in association with HLS 594/AGBIO 594/GEORG 594/PHP 594/PLSC 594.

Time Limitation

All degree requirements for the Master of Professional Studies in Homeland Security must be met within five years of admission to degree status.

Curriculum

Homeland security refers to the unifying core for the vast global network of organizations and institutions that are involved in the efforts to secure society. Regardless of field of specialization, or chosen discipline for graduate study, all professionals in the program will participate in a Unifying Core Curriculum. The Core Curriculum consists of the following three courses:

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
HLS 801	Homeland Security Administration: Policies and Programs	3
HLS/PHIL 803	Homeland Security: Social and Ethical Issues	3
HLS/PLSC 805	Violence, Threats, Terror, and Insurgency	3
Total Credits		9

After completing the Unifying Core Curriculum, students will then move on to their specialized field of study within one of the Options. Each specialized Option curriculum is listed below:

Homeland Security (Base Option)

Code	Title	Credits
<i>Base Option Prescribed Courses</i>		
HLS 811	Fundamentals of Homeland Security and Emergency Management	3
HLS 812	Homeland Security and Homeland Defense in Practice	3
HLS 820	Emerging Threats to Homeland Security	3
HLS 558	Whole-Community Disaster Preparedness	3
Electives		
Choose 9 credits from an approved elective list in consultation with adviser. The list of electives is maintained by the Base Option Director and is provided to the students in the base program.		9
Capstone Experience		
HLS 594	Research Topics	3
Total Credits		24

Agricultural, Environmental, and Food Systems Security Option

Code	Title	Credits
<i>Agricultural, Environmental, and Food Systems Security Option Prescribed Courses</i>		
AGBIO 520	Agricultural Biosecurity: Protecting a Key Infrastructure	3
AGBIO 521	Food Defense: Prevention Planning for Food Processors	3
AGBIO 801	Veterinary Infectious Disease Diagnostic and Surveillance Systems	3
AGBIO 802	Plant Protection: Responding to Introductions of Threatening Pests and Pathogens	3
Electives		
Choose 9 credits from an approved elective list in consultation with adviser. The list of electives is maintained by the Option Director and is provided to the students in the option.		9
Capstone Experience		
AGBIO 594	Agricultural Biosecurity and Food Defense Capstone Experience	3
Total Credits		24

Counterterrorism Option

Code	Title	Credits
<i>Counterterrorism Option Prescribed Courses</i>		
PLSC 836	Root Causes of Terrorism	3
PLSC 569	Counterterrorism	3
PLSC 838	Tools and Analysis of Counterterrorism	3
PLSC 837	Radicalization, Counter-Radicalization, and De-Radicalization	3
Electives		
Choose 9 credits from an approved elective list in consultation with adviser. The list of electives is maintained by the Option Director and is provided to the students in the option.		9
Capstone Experience		
PLSC 594	Research in Political Science	3
Total Credits		24

Cyber Threat Analytics and Prevention Option

Code	Title	Credits
<i>Cyber Threat Analytics and Prevention Option Prescribed Courses</i>		
DAAN 545	Data Mining	3
DAAN 871	Data Visualization	3
INSC 561	Web Security and Privacy	3
INSC 831	Contemporary Information Systems Architecture	3
Electives		
Choose 9 credits from an approved elective list in consultation with adviser. The list of electives is maintained by the Option Director and is provided to the students in the option.		9
Capstone Experience		
INSC 594	Research Topics	3
Total Credits		24

Intelligence and Geospatial Analysis Option

Code	Title	Credits
<i>Intelligence and Geospatial Analysis Option Prescribed Courses</i>		
GEOG 882	Geographic Foundations of Geospatial Intelligence	3
GEOG 483	Problem-Solving with GIS	3
GEOG 479	Geospatial Social Network Analysis	3
GEOG 885	Analytical Methods and GeoAI in Geospatial Intelligence	3
Electives		
Choose 9 credits from an approved elective list in consultation with adviser. The list of electives is maintained by the Option Director and is provided to the students in the option.		9
Capstone Experience		
GEOG 594A	Culminating Experiences in Geospatial Intelligence	3
Total Credits		24

Public Health Preparedness Option

Code	Title	Credits
<i>Public Health Preparedness Option Prescribed Courses</i>		
PHP 410	Public Health Preparedness for Disaster and Terrorist Emergencies I	3
PHP 510	Public Health Preparedness for Disaster and Terrorist Emergencies II	3
PHP 527	Public Health Evaluation of Disasters and Bioterrorism	3
PHP 830	Critical Infrastructure Protection of Health Care Delivery Systems	3
Electives		
Choose 9 credits from an approved elective list in consultation with adviser. The list of electives is maintained by the Option Director and is provided to the students in the option.		9
Capstone Experience		
PHP 594	Research Topics	3
Total Credits		24