In the College of Sciences

Homeland Security

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General Information

The homeland security program offers interdisciplinary graduate
study leading to the Master of Science degree in homeland security.
The homeland security program is the first of its kind in the nation,
taking advantage of the unique learning and research opportunities
offered by the “living laboratory” that is the San Diego/Tijuana border
region. The program provides a strong, active interdisciplinary
educational environment that welcomes students with diverse
professional, disciplinary, and cultural backgrounds.
The mission of the homeland security program is to produce leaders
from a variety of educational and professional backgrounds who can
effectively and efficiently identify, design, and mobilize the appropriate
community resources to prevent, deter, preempt, defend against, and
respond to terrorist attacks and other critical incidents and
emergencies on the local, regional, national and international levels.
The active participation of graduate students and faculty with
community partners is a primary focus of the homeland security
program. Therefore, the program has established a number of
collaborative relationships with public, private, and non-profit sector
partners on the international, federal, state, and local levels. These
relationships allow the homeland security graduate student to engage
in a number of service-learning opportunities.
The homeland security program provides an intellectually and
professionally vibrant educational environment that welcome students with a strong desire to engage in interdisciplinary study,
critical thinking, and research. Both domestic and international
students are encouraged to apply.

Study Abroad and Comparative Homeland Security

The homeland security program emphasizes international and
comparative approaches in the educational process. To that end,
study abroad is required for all students in the homeland security
program. Short-term (one to two weeks), semester, and academic
year study abroad opportunities are provided in countries such as
Afghanistan, Australia, Canada, China, England, France, Germany,
India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Morocco, The
Netherlands, The Philippines, Poland, Russia, Spain, and Turkey.

Of particular note the homeland security program sponsors a
semester study abroad program in India that allows select students to
earn up to two semesters of full-time academic credit while
conducting intensive research in India. The India program is not
mandatory. Rather, it provides homeland security students a program-
Based semester-length study abroad option for meeting their study
abroad requirement.
The India study-abroad program is set up for enrolled students in
the homeland security program to study and conduct research in India
while earning course-related credits based on a four-month course
structure available during the spring and fall semesters. The study
abroad program is restricted to graduate students in good academic
standing at SDSU and with two faculty recommendations. Graduate
students from outside of the program will be considered on a case-by-
case basis.

Students are encouraged to apply for the India program after
completing at least nine units of graduate study at SDSU (six of these
nine units must come from H SEC 601, 602, 603, or 604). A maximum
of two semesters or 18 units can be earned by any student in the study
abroad program during a two semester (eight month) stay in India,
though it is anticipated that most individual student programs of study
will accommodate just one semester or nine unit courses of study.

Courses offered as part of this India program will be drawn from the
homeland security course list on a semester-by-semester basis. The
courses will include examinations, essays, reports, and preparation of
journal papers presenting research findings and lessons learned. The
courses will be taught with a focus on comparative approaches to
enhance homeland security, infrastructure protection, and humanitar-
ian assistance disaster relief for the region.

In addition to the India program, the proximity of San Diego State
University to the Mexican state of Baja California Norte allows for a
number of convenient study abroad experiences that are rare for many
American universities. For example, one can live in San Diego and
takes courses at Mexican universities that have student exchange
agreements with SDSU. Students may also pursue a graduate-level
certificate in Transborder Public Administration and Governance
through the School of Public Affairs and/or take advantage of the
homeland security program’s U.S. and Mexico-based courses on
border security. Language and cultural learning opportunities are
provided by SDSU’s congressionally established Language
Acquisition Resource Center.

Please contact the co-directors of the homeland security program
for more information on study abroad opportunities.

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Admission to Graduate Study
The homeland security program accepts admission for both the fall and spring semesters. The application deadlines are posted on the Web site at http://homelandsecurityprogram.sdsu.edu or can be obtained from the homeland security program directors or graduate adviser. All students must satisfy the general requirements for admission to the university with classified graduate standing as described in Part Two of this bulletin. In addition, students must demonstrate sufficient preparation for the program. This may include a bachelor’s degree in sciences, engineering, law enforcement, international security, public policy, or a related discipline providing educational preparation for a career in homeland security. The degree must be from an accredited institution or indicate completion of equivalent academic preparation as determined by the Graduate Dean. Evaluation of a student’s transcript will be made on an individual basis by the admissions committee to determine whether evidence of sufficient preparation can be demonstrated. A student whose preparation is deemed insufficient by the admissions committee may be admitted as conditionally classified and will be required to complete specified courses in addition to the minimum of 30 units required for the degree.

The grade-point average required for admission to the master’s program in homeland security is 2.85 in undergraduate coursework plus satisfactory scores on the verbal and quantitative sections of the GRE. An interview by the admissions committee may also be required. Students applying for admission should electronically submit the university application available at http://www.csumentor.edu along with the $55 application fee.

All applicants must submit admissions materials separately to SDSU Graduate Admissions and to the Homeland Security Program.

Graduate Admissions
The following materials should be submitted as a complete package directly to:

Graduate Admissions
Enrollment Services
San Diego State University
San Diego, CA 92182-7416

(1) Official transcripts (in sealed envelopes) from all postsecondary institutions attended:
Note:
• Students who attended SDSU need only submit transcripts for work completed since last attendance.
• Students with international coursework must submit both the official transcript and proof of degree. If documents are in a language other than English, they must be accompanied by a certified English translation.

(2) GRE scores (http://www.ets.org, SDSU institution code 4682);

(3) English language score, if medium of instruction was in a language other than English (http://www.ets.org, SDSU institution code 4682).

Homeland Security Program
The following materials should be mailed or delivered to:

Homeland Security Program Admissions Committee
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA 92182-1020

(1) Two letters of recommendation from persons in a position to judge academic ability (in sealed, signed envelopes);

(2) One letter of recommendation from a person in a position to judge professional ability and potential (in sealed, signed envelope);

(3) A two-page maximum personal statement giving reasons for choosing homeland security as a degree objective;

(4) A two-page maximum personal statement summarizing applicant’s qualifications, skill sets, and life experiences as they apply to the homeland security degree.

Advancement to Candidacy
All students must satisfy the general requirements for advancement to candidacy as described in Part Four of this bulletin.

Specific Requirements for the Master of Science Degree
(Major Code: 22102) (SIMS Code: 779001)

In addition to meeting the requirements for the Master of Science degree, as described in Part Four of this bulletin, students must complete 30 units of coursework in an officially approved course of study as outlined below. Students must earn a minimum grade point average of B (3.0) in the master’s program and no less than a C in each course.

Students may meet the culminating experience requirement through Plan A by completing H SEC 799A or through Plan B by completing H SEC 790 and successfully passing a comprehensive examination.

Graduate Program (30 units)

I. Core Courses (12 units)
H SEC 601 Seminar in Homeland Security (3)
H SEC 602 Seminar in Science, Technology, and Homeland Security (3)
H SEC 603 Seminar in Emergency Preparedness and Response (3)
H SEC 604 Seminar in Law, Society, and Homeland Security (3)

II. Homeland Security electives: Six units in consultation with program adviser.

III. Non-Homeland Security electives: Six units in consultation with program adviser.

IV. Study Abroad (3 units). All homeland security graduate students are required to complete a homeland security-related study abroad experience. To meet this requirement, students must complete one of the following with the preapproved and written consent of the program adviser:
1. H SEC 650 Homeland Security Study Abroad (3 or 6);
2. H SEC 652 Border Security: The Case of Mexico (3);
3. A CSU Study Abroad Program;
4. An SDSU Exchange Program;
5. An SDSU Semester Abroad Program;
6. An SDSU Travel Study Program;
7. A homeland security practicum, special topics, special study, or research conducted abroad.

See the program adviser to make arrangements to meet the study abroad requirement.

V. Plan A or Plan B (3 units). Students who complete Plan A, thesis or project option must include H SEC 799A in their program of study. Students who complete Plan B, non-thesis option must include H SEC 790 in their program of study and pass a comprehensive examination.

Courses Acceptable on Master’s Degree Program in Homeland Security (H SEC)

Refer to Courses and Curricula and Regulations of the Division of Graduate Affairs sections of this bulletin for explanation of the course numbering system, unit or credit hour, prerequisites, and related information.

GRADUATE COURSES

H SEC 601. Seminar in Homeland Security (3)
Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.
Domestic, national security, and foreign policies as they relate to prevention, deterrence, preemption, defense against, and response to terrorist attacks and other man-made and natural critical incidents and emergencies on local, regional, national, and international levels.
Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.  
Interdisciplinary analysis of science and technology to homeland security policy. Use of technology and science for decision-making and collaboration. Ethical issues associated with application of technology and science to security.

H SEC 603. Seminar in Emergency Preparedness and Response (3)  
Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.  
Practices of emergency management and response in civilian and military settings. Historical development of management of and response to emergencies and critical incidents. Interrelationship of public, private, and non-profit sectors on local, regional, national, and international levels.

H SEC 604. Seminar in Law, Society, and Homeland Security (3)  
Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.  
Role and function of law related to homeland security on domestic and international levels. Historical development of ideas and rules of homeland security-related law and their relation to domestic and international legal, social, and political structures. Interrelationship of security, human, and civil rights.

H SEC 620. Seminar in Warfare and Homeland Security (3)  
Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.  
Principles, rules, and laws of warfare. Offensive and defensive tactics and strategies related to homeland security. Relationship of warfare to grand strategy. Asymmetrical warfare tactics and strategies and their use to exploit power constraints inherent to democracies and the institutions. Changing nature of battlefields in contemporary warfare.

H SEC 625. Seminar in Terrorism and Counterterrorism (3)  
Prerequisites: Graduate standing and consent of instructor.  

H SEC 650. Homeland Security Study Abroad (3)  
(Offered only in Extension)  
Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.  
Selected topics in homeland security taught abroad. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master’s degree. Contact program adviser for more information.

H SEC 651. Border Security: The Case of the United States (3)  
(Offered only in Extension)  
One lecture and four hours of activity.  
Prerequisites: Graduate standing and consent of instructor.  
Interdisciplinary analysis of social ecology of borders and its impact on border security. Technologies used for border security. Field visits in U.S. to assess infrastructure and geography. Contact program adviser for more information.

H SEC 652. Border Security: The Case of Mexico (3)  
(Offered only in Extension)  
One lecture and four hours of activity.  
Prerequisites: Graduate standing and consent of instructor. Valid U.S. passport, foreign travel and repatriation insurance, and approval of Office of International Programs.  
Interdisciplinary analysis of social ecology of borders and its impact on border security. Technologies used for border security. Field visits in Mexico to assess infrastructure and geography. Contact program adviser for more information.

H SEC 690. Seminar (3)  
Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.  
Intensive study in specific areas of homeland security on themes such as intelligence, domestic and international law and security, GIS and security, sensors and security, privacy and security. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Maximum credit six units.

H SEC 695. Practicum in Homeland Security (3)  
Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.  
Practical exercises related to homeland security. Cooperative exercises with first responders, homeland security officials, and/or non-governmental organizations on local, regional, national, and/or international level. Maximum credit three units applicable to a master’s degree.

H SEC 790. Directed Readings in Homeland Security (3-3)  
Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.  
Study in specific areas of homeland security. May be repeated with new content with the approval of graduate adviser. See Class Schedule for specific content. Credit for 596 and 696 applicable to a master’s degree with approval of the graduate adviser.

H SEC 797. Research (1-3) Cr/NC  
Prerequisites: Classified graduate standing and consent of instructor.  
Supervised research in an area of homeland security. Maximum credit three units of Homeland Security 790, 797, or 798 applicable to a master’s degree.

H SEC 798. Special Study (1-3) Cr/NC  
Prerequisites: Classified graduate standing and consent of instructor.  
Individual study, generally for thesis research. Maximum credit three units of Homeland Security 790, 797, or 798 applicable to a master’s degree.

H SEC 799A. Thesis or Project (3) Cr/NC/RP  
Prerequisites: An officially appointed thesis committee and advancement to candidacy.  
Preparation of a thesis for the master’s degree.

H SEC 799B. Thesis or Project (0) Cr/NC  
Prerequisite: Prior registration in Thesis or Project 799A with an assigned grade of RP.  
Registration required in any semester or term following assignment of RP in Course 799A in which the student expects to use the facilities and resources of the university; also student must be registered in the course when the completed thesis is granted final approval.

H SEC 799C. Comprehensive Examination Extension (0) Cr/NC  
Prerequisite: Completion of degree program courses.  
Registration required of students whose only requirement is completion of the comprehensive examination for the master’s degree. Registration in 799C limited to two semesters.