

Savannah State University
Homeland Security and Emergency Management Program

The SSU Homeland Security and Emergency Management Program (HSEM) program is built on the existing body of knowledge in homeland security and emergency management as well as current and developing research, with an emphasis on improving community and infrastructure disaster resilience. The program prepares students to move into public and private sector positions in these growing fields.

The HSEM program uses an interdisciplinary approach, preparing students with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to leverage and coordinate the full range of capacity and resources to improve outcomes in a disaster – whether natural or human-caused. The program offers students knowledge specific to different types and causes of disaster, lessons from past disasters, and both comprehensive and hazard-specific practices that lead to effective prevention, protection, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

The SSU HSEM program is the only bachelor’s degree program in homeland security and/or emergency management in the state of Georgia and the first in the nation at a historically black college/university. The program leads to the bachelor’s degree in homeland security and emergency management. Students must earn 125 hours to graduate, with 36 semester hours in major required courses and no requirement for a subject area minor. A 15-hour minor in HSEM also is available for students majoring in other disciplines.

Major in Homeland Security and Emergency Management (125 hours)

Core Curriculum **47 hours**
 (Areas A, B, C, D, E, and Additional Requirements)

Area F, Courses appropriate to the program **18 hours**

HSEM 1101, Introduction to HSEM	3 hours
GEOG 1101, Introduction to Human Geography <i>or</i>	
ANTH 1101, Introduction to Anthropology	3 hours
HIST 2111, U.S. History to Post-Civil War <i>or</i>	
HIST 2112 U.S. History Post-Civil War to Present	3 hours
SOCI 210, Social Statistics	3 hours
Foreign Language	6 hours

Major required courses **36 hours**

HSEM 3110	Politics and Policy of HSEM*	
HSEM 3120	Law and Ethics in HSEM*	
HSEM 3130	Emergency Planning, Mitigation & Incident Management**	
HSEM 3140	Social Diversity Issues in HSEM	
HSEM 3250	Risk and Vulnerability Assessment*	
HSEM 3260	Terrorism in the Modern World	
HSEM 3840	Effective HSEM Communication and Leadership*	
HSEM 3822	Tools for Decision Making in HSEM**	
HSEM 3901	Internship** #	
HSEM 4901	Senior Capstone Seminar** #	
Foreign language	(6 hours in addition to those in Area F)	

Electives **24 hours**

HSEM electives	9 hours
General electives	15 hours

Total 125 hours |

**HSEM 1101 is a pre- or co-requisite*

***HSEM 3250 is a pre- or co-requisite*

student must have passed a minimum of 75 credit hours or have permission of instructor.

Minor in Homeland Security and Emergency Management (15 hours)

For students majoring in other disciplines. Requirements for the HSEM minor are:

- HSEM 3250, Assessing Risk and Vulnerability*
- HSEM 3130, Emergency Planning, Mitigation and Incident Management*
- Plus three additional HSEM courses at 3000-level or above.

*HSEM 1101 is a pre- or co-requisite; it does not count toward hours for the minor.

HSEM Course Descriptions

HSEM Required Courses

HSEM 1101, Intro to HSEM, is a survey of the emerging field of homeland security and emergency management. The course provides students with a broad picture of the emergency management system in the United States, including historical events, practices and policies that have had impacted the development of emergency management and homeland security as a governmental function and as a profession. Students will get an overview of the role and methods of emergency management and homeland security in protecting lives, property, and infrastructure. (3 hours)

HSEM 3110, Politics and Policy of HSEM, examines laws, policies, programs, agencies, and institutions involved in U.S. disaster and emergency management. Focus is on the role of politics, public policymaking, and intergovernmental relations in managing all hazards at the local, state, and national levels. Emergency management and homeland security encompass a wide range of expertise and activities; policy and politics have significant impact on these preparedness, response and related activities before and during a disaster. Pre- or co-req: HSEM 1101. (3 hours)

HSEM 3120, Law and Ethics in HSEM, focuses on the legal, liability and ethical concepts underlying U.S. civil liberties and rights in the context of HSEM activities, from mitigation and prevention, to declarations of emergency or acts of terrorism. Topics addressed include surveillance, public health quarantine, property buyouts, federal laws passed in the aftermath of September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, rights of citizens and foreign nationals, government infrastructure for decisions concerning national and international legal rights, and jurisdictional issues. Pre-req: HSEM 1101. (3 hours)

HSEM 3130, Emergency Planning, Mitigation and Incident Management, provides foundation knowledge and develops skills and abilities in planning, hazard mitigation and incident management. It addresses planning principles and specific types of planning including emergency operations planning, continuity of operations and continuity of government planning, and business continuity planning. It includes instruction on incident management, addressing direction, control and coordination challenges, systems, and approaches across disciplines and levels of government. Training and exercises as key components of preparedness also are addressed. Pre- or co-req: HSEM 3250. (3 hours)

HSEM 3140, Diversity Issues in HSEM, examines the extent to which HSEM practitioners and their organizations serve the needs of diverse groups, including the elderly, disabled, women, racial and ethnic groups, the poor and/or disadvantaged, and other segments of the community. The course also explores ways of expanding participation of diverse groups in the design and implementation of disaster planning and policy. Pre- or co-req: HSEM 3250. (3 hours)

HSEM 3250, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, is a study of hazard identification and risk and vulnerability assessment across all types of hazards. The course provides instruction in analytical techniques and methodologies for threat and vulnerability assessment for public and private entities. It uses an all-hazards approach to assessing risk, addressing natural, human-caused, and technological hazards, and will include cyber and critical infrastructure threats. Pre- or co-req: HSEM 1101. (3 hours)

HSEM 3260, Terrorism in the Modern World, is a survey of the problem of terrorism from a contemporary perspective, emphasizing political and ideological roots of terrorism. Examines the history of terrorism, domestically and internationally, the roles of religion and culture, the structures and operations of terrorist organizations, and antiterrorism polices and policymaking. (3 hours)

HSEM 3822, Tools for Decisionmaking in HSEM, is a study of technology tools and organizational and decision-making techniques useful in homeland security and emergency management. Examines use of communications, software, information management and other tools in HSEM settings. Includes use of hazard analysis and mapping software applications, including geographic information systems (GIS), and incident management technologies. Pre-req: HSEM 3250. (3 hours)

HSEM 3840, Effective HSEM Communication and Leadership, prepares future HSEM professionals with communication and leadership skills to fulfill crucial roles of communicating and team-building with individuals in government, private sector, and the community. The course will explore the need for and provide tools for developing strong communication and leadership across a spectrum of constituencies and environments, including within the incident management system, with the objective of improved outcomes in disasters. Pre- or co-req: HSEM 3250. (3 hours)

HSEM 3901, HSEM Internship, is designed to provide the HSEM major or minor with an opportunity to relate theory to practice through observation and actual experience with government, private sector, and/or non-profit sector organizations that have responsibilities for developing policy or performing work in the area of homeland security and emergency management. Prereq: 75 credit hours or permission of instructor. (3 hours)

HSEM 4901, Senior Capstone Seminar, is a capstone course examining major issues in homeland security and emergency management. Students will produce a research project. Prereq: required HSEM courses through 3200 level or permission of instructor. (3 hours)

HSEM Electives

HSEM 3122, International Humanitarian Law, is an elective that provides an introduction to concepts and rules related to human rights law of armed conflict. Topics include humanitarian aid, legal principles, non-governmental organizations, the Nuremberg Charter, Geneva Convention, Genocide Convention, and background, statutes and experiences related to United Nations tribunals and the International Criminal Court. (3 hours)

HSEM 3360, The Intelligence Community and the Intelligence Process, is an elective course that examines the processes and challenges of state, local, and federal intelligence gathering and dissemination. Intelligence policy and practice will be addressed. Pre-req: HSEM 3110. (3 hours)

HSEM 3400, Public Health Issues in HSEM, is an elective course that explores public health issues involved in homeland security and emergency management, including study of biological agents, prevention, preparedness, public health communications, pandemic planning, and public health response. (3 hours)

HSEM 4000, Independent Study, is an elective open to students with junior or senior standing who have earned at least 12 credit hours in HSEM. Independent study, which requires permission of the HSEM program coordinator, offers students an opportunity to conduct research under the direction of an instructor qualified in the subject or field of major interest. (3 hours)

HSEM 4601, Topics in HSEM, is an elective that addresses an HSEM topic of special interest. Pre-req: HSEM 1101 and permission of instructor. (3 hours)