

Online Graduate Level Professional Development for the National Guard Bureau

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Since the events of September 11, 2001, experts in emergency management, disaster recovery, and global security have been in high demand. Among those professionals experiencing an increased demand for their expertise are members of the National Guard. These professionals must meet the challenges of managing complex emergencies that result from a wide range of disasters from floods to terrorist attacks. Advancement requires not only experience, but also an increasing level of education. Yet, it can be difficult during extended deployments to obtain additional education and training. Our university, in keeping with its commitment to global education, has developed a graduate curriculum that enables National Guard personnel to pursue a Master of Administrative Science degree or a Graduate Certificate in Emergency Management Administration or Global Security and Terrorism Studies while continuing to meet domestic and national security requirements anywhere in the world. The wholly online curriculum can be completed anywhere there is a computer and Internet access. Students can select from the following courses:

- Theory and Practice of Administration
- Ethics and Public Values
- Leadership Plus
- Building Strategic Partnerships
- Global Preparedness for Catastrophic Emergencies
- Community Threat Assessment and Risk Analysis
- Disaster Recovery and Organizational Continuity
- Special Topics: Current Issues in Terrorism and Security
- Special Topics: Environmental Response and Reporting
- Emergency Management and Safety Administration
- GIS and Emergency Administration
- Seminar on Strategic Management
- Productivity and Human Performance

The university developed its Shareable Content Object Reference Model (SCORM) conformant and American Disabilities Act (ADA) 508 compliant program to meet the educational needs of the National Guard in response to today's increased threat of disasters and terrorism. The program is designed to meet the career development needs of professionals in the field, whether civilian or military, and to enable them to meet the challenges of managing complex emergencies from response to recovery. The ten course Master of Administrative Science degree or the four course Graduate Certificate Program integrates diverse expertise and current research related to crisis, disaster, and risk management for persons engaged in or seeking professional careers in global security, terrorism studies, crisis, disaster, and emergency management in the public, private, and not-for-profit sectors. Instructors include university faculty, local and state law enforcement experts, legal professionals, and experienced program specialists who are scholar-practitioners able to draw from their professional experience in providing a rich educational experience in an online learning environment.