

B.S. in Homeland Security and Intelligence

Bachelor of Science

The Department of Security Studies and International Affairs (SSIA) offers a Bachelor of Science degree in Homeland Security and Intelligence (HSI) based on the needs of the U.S. government and its citizens and the needs of the private sector. The HSI degree combines the University's General Education requirements with a solid core of homeland security and intelligence courses as well as available minors in uncrewed aircraft systems, geographic information systems, strategic foreign languages, military science, forensic accounting, global conflict studies, terrorism studies, cybersecurity, or other minors available to the student. In addition, this degree allows the student to take advantage of transfer credits and electives to allow for breadth in related areas of study.

The Homeland Security and Intelligence degree is designed for students who have an interest in obtaining a solid foundation in many of the domains of the homeland security and intelligence enterprises, including terrorism studies, law and policy, emergency management, risk analysis, critical thinking, physical security, environmental security, asymmetric warfare, and decision making/strategic planning. Students then choose one of two ways to specialize their homeland security education, either through (1) taking one minor or (2) at least a 15-credit "coherent block of courses" (with permission from the HSI program coordinator). Senior capstone projects require students to work with local organizations to solve actual homeland security or emergency management challenges. A simulation lab course will provide immersive learning experiences. Internships or cooperative work experiences optimize the student's professional preparation and credentials. The goal of the degree is to produce highly marketable graduates with entry-level capabilities such as performing risk analyses, analyzing intelligence, writing emergency management and continuity of operations plans, and designing and evaluating exercises. In addition, students create and perform physical security evaluations, deliver professional briefings, and determine how to identify and protect critical infrastructure. Graduates of this program will find employment opportunities in federal or state government, universities, the military, or the private sector. In addition, the HSI program is ideal preparation for further study in graduate school, including law, public policy, emergency management, intelligence analysis, business, criminal justice, political science, national security studies, or international affairs.

Degree Requirements

The Bachelor of Science degree in Homeland Security and Intelligence requires successful completion of a minimum of 125 credit hours and is generally completed in eight semesters as outlined below. The breadth area requirement can be accomplished by either:

- Completing one minor (a minimum of 15 credit hours)
- Completing a coherent set of coursework of at least 15 credits approved through the advising process

All Homeland Security and Intelligence majors must complete a senior capstone course HSI 490 and a 3-credit (at least 300 hours) internship at some point during or after their sophomore year. All university requirements for eligibility for internships apply; the HSI program works with Career Services to administrate all internship experiences.

Students transferring into the program who have earned academic credits in homeland security-related coursework or professional experience may be granted credit hours to be applied to the degree program with approval from the program coordinator.