



UPDATE: Master's degree program in homeland security

Summary

- Enrollment is expected to start by Fall 2008.
- Interdisciplinary degree may be offered in residence, online or both.
- Tentative title is "Master of Science in Policy, Science, Engineering and Technology for Homeland Security."
- For details, contact Dr. Jeannine Kantz at ICHS (979-862-2432).
- Visit the ICHS web site at <http://homelandsecurity.tamu.edu> .

Work is now in progress at Texas A&M University on a master's degree program that will take a unique approach to the study of homeland security.

"More than 250 schools in the United States have some form of homeland security education in place," said Dr. David H. McIntyre, director of the Integrative Center for Homeland Security (ICHS). "But at Texas A&M, senior faculty are working to create an interdisciplinary program that touches every academic department. That is unique in the nation."

ICHS, a unit of the university's Division of Research and Graduate Studies, played host to the first meeting of the Interim Faculty Steering Committee on Oct. 17. The committee plans to meet monthly.

Tentatively entitled "Master of Science in Policy, Science, Engineering and Technology for Homeland Security," the degree would require 36 hours of graduate work or 30 hours with a thesis. The degree may be delivered in residence, on line, or both. Student enrollment in the master's degree program is expected to begin by the fall semester of 2008.

Texas A&M already offers numerous homeland security related courses across the university, as well as two related and nationally recognized graduate certificate programs. The Graduate Certificate in Homeland Security is offered by the Bush School of Government & Public Service. A graduate Certificate in Environmental Hazard Management is offered by the College of Architecture. Scores of staff and faculty are involved with homeland security teaching or research.

Members of the committee volunteered to serve and were nominated by their deans. This interim committee will create the program structure required to establish a broader interdisciplinary faculty in this subject area. It will also begin establishment of new curriculum and classes.

As by-laws and other structures are drafted, opportunities will be announced for the many other interested faculty members at Texas A&M to participate in this course and curriculum development. The new interdisciplinary degree will involve multiple colleges and departments on campus and will be available to graduate students of all majors who are interested in homeland security as a career or as an additional qualification in their selected field.

The following required courses are under consideration:

- Fundamentals of Homeland Security (policy focus)
- Science and Homeland Security
- Engineering and Homeland Security
- Technology and Homeland Security
- Quantitative Research Methods for Homeland Security
- Qualitative Research Methods for Homeland Security

Additional courses could be focused in a single discipline or drawn from across the university.