The Homeland Security Degree—Who Is It Designed For?

Homeland security and emergency management is a growing field with connections to a wide range of professions. At Concordia University, we offer a multidisciplinary program that will prepare you to communicate clearly, adapt to any situation, and lead by example. Relevant, career-ready courses will help your resume stand out or prepare you for graduate studies. Whether you come to Concordia as a college freshman or as someone looking to change careers, a Bachelor of Science degree in homeland security will provide the in-depth knowledge and experience needed for success in your career.

STUDENTS JUST ENTERING COLLEGE

Recognizing his passion for national security, Cody Eastley wanted to find a security-specific bachelor’s degree program to suit his interests. His search led him to the homeland security program at Concordia University—a program that fits him perfectly. He finds the curriculum engaging and balanced, and he appreciates that the faculty really drive home the importance of not overstepping the Constitution in the name of US security. “The importance of acting ethically is really emphasized.”

Eastley values the real-world experience his professors bring to their teaching as well as their evenhanded presentation of material. His goal is to work in a hands-on national security-focused position “in the US or ideally abroad, either for a private security agency or for the NSA, DEA, or FBI.”

YOUNG ADULTS LOOKING FOR A NEW CAREER PATH

In her role as an Emergency Preparedness Coordinator at the Hanford Nuclear Site, Concordia graduate Cecilia Rocha spends her days creating emergency scenarios, developing drills, coordinating response plans with local first responders, and training employees at the site. But she wasn’t always planning for a career in emergency preparedness.

Rocha’s original career was social work, and she was considering studying for a master’s degree—until her additional training in medical nuclear technology and radiation left her fascinated with the nuclear industry. Not sure which career path to follow, Rocha began looking for universities with safety-related programs and discovered Concordia’s homeland security and emergency preparedness program.

Rocha credits the program’s coursework with giving her everything she needs for on-the-job success. “I still utilize the reference material from these courses. Much of it is applicable to a variety of scenarios and issues I’ve encountered,” she says.
As a veteran and someone interested in public safety, Pat Dean chose to enroll in Concordia University’s homeland security program for several reasons. But perhaps the most important reason was the invaluable real-world experience in the field that the instructors bring to the program.

Several of Concordia’s homeland security courses are taught by active and retired police and fire commanders, military leaders, and federal agents who draw from their professional experience managing complex threat environments to train and prepare their students. With their guidance, students build the skill sets necessary to accomplish everything from risk assessments and intelligence analysis to managing volunteers, resources, and donations following a disaster.

Able to build off his military background, Dean enjoys what he learned through the program, including how to assess critically, seek new solutions, and risk failure while acting ethically. “The coursework is informative and intellectually challenging, and the instructors are always ready to help.” Dean is now putting his education to good use as a police officer.

CURRENT OR FORMER MILITARY MEMBERS WHO WANT TO TRANSITION TO THE CIVILIAN SECTOR

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A family medical emergency proved to be a major turning point in Concordia student Amani Atallah’s life. Deeply impressed by the paramedics who assisted her grandfather, she decided to follow their footsteps into the emergency medical field. She earned her EMT license at age 18 and her paramedic license shortly thereafter.

After several years in the emergency medical field, Atallah wanted to transition to working behind the scenes in emergency management. She wanted to further her expertise and knowledge by earning a formal degree. “It felt like fate to find Concordia’s Homeland Security program.” She finished her associate’s degree and then transferred to Concordia to complete her bachelor’s degree online.

Atallah enjoys the highly engaging faculty and the diversity of backgrounds and perspectives of her fellow students. She appreciates the wide range of topics presented in her coursework, including incident command hierarchy, cyber security, and morals and ethics. Her “Intro to Homeland Security” class led her to discover her passion for the transportation sector. “My goal is to make traveling by train safer for visitors and residents of Chicago, my hometown.”

PRACTITIONERS IN A RELATED FIELD WHO HAVEN’T COMPLETED THEIR DEGREE

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