

## Certificate in National Preparedness and Homeland Security

The Certificate in National Preparedness and Homeland Security (NPHS) is designed to teach current and future emergency professionals to analyze information and make decisions in dynamic and complex crisis environments using new and powerful analytic tools. Through experience-based learning activities, certificate students will develop the skills they need to thrive in homeland security and emergency preparedness careers.

This unique 18-credit certificate incorporates hands-on learning methods. The program features dynamic modeling tools developed at the University of Pittsburgh to plan for and respond to disasters; exercises and simulations that follow protocols established by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security; and tools that use virtual reality, visualization, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software to integrate information for crisis decision making.

### Who should participate:

- Employees of local, state, and federal entities engaged in emergency preparedness, homeland security, and related fields.
- Business people who are charged with risk management and are interested in applying industry tested analytics to developing emergency management and continuity of operations (COOP) plans.
- Professionals in organizations with first-responders and first-receivers, and those looking to step into such leadership positions.
- Veterans interested in building on their expertise in decision-making and crisis leadership.
- Career changers and current degree seekers looking to enter a growing and important field that uses a data-driven approach to preparedness activities involving both planning and implementation.

### Upon completion of this certificate, participants will be able to:

- Develop and implement organizational risk profiles, COOP plans, business recovery plans, and other risk management activities.
- Use knowledge of federal, state and local agency responsibilities to effectively plan and execute emergency response plans.
- Apply incident command protocols and consensus building approaches.
- Communicate effectively in a crisis, orally and in writing, and transfer information effectively to obtain positive outcomes.
- Plan prevention and preparedness operations and measures that help communities handle efforts related to damage limitation, emergency response, and recovery.

### Admission requirements

Applicants must have completed at least 60 credits with a grade point average of 2.0. If you are not currently enrolled at the University of Pittsburgh, you must submit official transcripts from all prior institutions with the application.

Students must meet requirements for admission to a certificate program in the College of General Studies. For admission guidelines and an application, go to [www.cgs.pitt.edu](http://www.cgs.pitt.edu).

### NPHS Program Web site

Many program-related questions are answered on the NPHS program website. Students can see a schedule of upcoming classes, peruse the list of approved electives, learn about program partners, and see a list of news and events. Upon registration, students will be given a password to access special course-related materials.

[www.cnp.pitt.edu/certificate/](http://www.cnp.pitt.edu/certificate/)

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## Curriculum: 18 credits

The certificate is composed of twelve credits of required core courses, and six credits of elective courses. Core courses cover foundational content and procedures central to national preparedness and emergency response, in addition to analytical tools and approaches. They include a capstone experience in which students will plan, role-play, and report on a complete disaster scenario involving critical infrastructure sectors such as energy, government, transportation, health, and telecommunications. Elective courses allow students to gain further knowledge or experience relevant to their current or intended career paths in such fields as health, information security, and business continuity.

- No course with a grade below C will be accepted for certificate credit.
- To earn the certificate, students must maintain at least a 2.0 grade point average.
- All four required core courses must be completed at the University of Pittsburgh to earn the certificate.
- A maximum of six credits may be accepted from other institutions for elective courses.
- Students should consult with their advisor and/or core course faculty early in their program to identify elective courses appropriate for their career and/or academic interests.

## Required courses: 12 credits

Students must have successfully completed at least one other core course prior to registering for the capstone course. The capstone course may be taken concurrently with another core course.

NPHS	1510	Federal and International Framework for Emergency Preparedness	3 cr.
NPHS	1520	State and Local Framework for Emergency Preparedness	3 cr.
NPHS	1530	Analysis, Intelligence, and Decision Tools for Emergency Preparedness	3 cr.
NPHS	1540	Capstone Course in Emergency Preparedness	3 cr.

## Elective courses: 6 credits

The following list shows a sample of courses already approved as electives:

ADMJ	1234	Introduction to Cybercrime	3 cr.
ADMJ	1238	Cyber Security, Law, and Money Laundering	3 cr.
ADMJ	1252	Critical Incident Management	3 cr.
ADMJ	1260	Resource Protection Planning	3 cr.
ADMJ/ PUBSRV	1425	Principles of Homeland Security	3 cr.
CS	0261	Computer Security	3 cr.
CS	1655	Secure Data Management and Web Applications	3 cr.
NPHS	1900	Internship	3 cr.
NPHS	1901	Independent Study	3 cr.
NUR	1061	Independent Study	1 cr.
NUR	1830	Healthcare in an Age of Terrorism	2 cr.
NUR	2865	Fundamentals of Disaster and Mass Casualty Care	2 cr.
PS	1583	Topics in International Relations: European and Global Security	3 cr.
PUBSRV	1320	GIS in the Public Service	3 cr.

Students must meet all relevant course prerequisites. NPHS Internship and NPHS Independent Study courses may be repeated for credit with permission.

Requirements subject to change. Check with an academic advisor before registering.

## Center for National Preparedness

The Center for National Preparedness ([www.cnp.pitt.edu](http://www.cnp.pitt.edu)) is an interdisciplinary collaboration of experts and departments at the University of Pittsburgh. It provides research, education, and service aimed at advancing the science, policy and implementation of effective federal, state, and local preparedness efforts across the public and private sectors. The Center possesses expertise in business continuity, information technology, engineering, medical research, national security policy, and public health.

## College of General Studies

The College of General Studies (CGS) provides adult and continuing education programs that are designed to address changing employer and student needs. The high-quality, flexible programs include degree completion, certificates, and enrichment courses. CGS provides a single point of access to the University's innovative programs and services that both enrich lives and promote the economic health of the region.

For more information, contact:  
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