

Online HSEM certificate application questions/responses

1. Describe the rationale for converting the program to distance delivery

By making the graduate certificate in Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) available in a fully online format, we can dramatically expand the access of students for whom the degree was designed such as key state and local government employees working in emergency management or homeland security, as well as non-governmental workers such as hospital emergency management coordinators or security personnel for large companies. Using a face-to-face delivery mechanism, requires that students have regular access to the IUPUI campus. This effectively limits the audience for our degrees to Central Indiana who can come to campus on a regular basis.

By creating a fully online version, we will dramatically expand access to potential students in two ways. First, it is not uncommon for those who might be interested in earning the certificate to have highly variable schedules that create serious hardships in meeting on campus with regularity. For example, firefighters typically have a rotating 24 hour schedule that differs from week to week, and police officers face similar difficulties in scheduling regular trips to campus. So, making this an online program will increase the appeal of the program even for those living in Central Indiana. Second, creating a fully online program will allow us to effectively deliver the degree state, nation, and even worldwide. The appeal of the degree is likely to be especially great for individuals working in emergency management or related fields at the state or local level that do not have easy physical access to similar programs near where they live. Although the program is not unique, it is the only one in Indiana and one of a small number of programs nationwide.

2. Explain why you are uniquely suited to offer this program via distance delivery. What are the distinctive features of the distance delivered program?

The mission of SPEA is to prepare future leaders in public, non-profit and profit agencies to effectively handle complex issues. SPEA has a long tradition of education in public and non-profit management, including criminal justice and public safety. In addition, SPEA has extensive experience in delivering coursework online. We have graduate certificates in public management and nonprofit management that are currently offered in a fully online format. These certificates have been in place for some time and we have learned a great deal about the general issues that are associated with the delivery of online graduate certificates.

In addition, we have a faculty member (Laura Littlepage) that oversees all of our online courses to ensure that they are delivered with cutting edge instructional design features. We also have training for faculty members that are developing online courses and have very close relationships with the Center for Teaching and Learning here at IUPUI. In addition, we have a graduate research assistant that assists faculty with development and execution of online aspects of courses. SPEA leadership is committed to seeing that these programs are implemented with the highest quality and has provided additional support to faculty members who are interested in online course development. For example, SPEA faculty members have been awarded a Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) Curriculum Enhancement Grant (CEG) to convert the courses to a fully online format over the next several semesters, which entails a one-to-one match from SPEA. The online program will generally parallel the face to face version of the certificate with adjustments for the online environment such as discussion forums rather than in-class discussions.

3. Describe the program review plan and any plans for acquiring/maintaining program accreditation.

There is no current accrediting body for a certificate of this type. SPEA has determined the program learning outcomes for all its degree/certificate programs including the HSEM certificate. SPEA has a regular review mechanism for all its degree and certificate programs that begins at the course level. We review all courses to ensure that they are delivering high quality content, enhancing student learning, and consistent with overall program learning outcomes. This review is primarily

done by the faculty member serving as the program director with assistance and advice from the other faculty members teaching in the area. For online programs specifically, there is also an additional level of review at the course level that is done by the faculty member overseeing all online courses. With the development of the online certificate we plan to review the curriculum and all issues associated with the online aspects of the certificate on an annual basis through a faculty committee that will review course outcomes, student course evaluations, and re-examine the program learning outcomes to ensure that the courses align with them or make adjustments as necessary. We will also engage in overall program assessment through exit surveys with students. We are also in the process of developing tracking mechanisms for employment outcomes for students.

4. Describe the evidence that you have that indicates there is a market demand for the distance delivery of this program at the state, regional, national or international level.

Since the tragic events of September 11th, 2001 and Hurricane Katrina in 2005, there has been an increasing demand for graduate education by organizations and agencies who work in the emergency management and homeland security areas. Consequently, the HSEM certificate was designed to meet this growing demand. By creating a fully online version, we will dramatically expand access to potential students, both inside and outside Central Indiana.

Although we have not done a formal market analysis, we have considerable anecdotal evidence that an online program would be beneficial. We have several graduate classes (including J531 National Homeland Security, which is a required course for the certificate) that are available in an online format and those sections typically fill first and have waiting lists. Second, we have alternative format courses that do not meet in a semester-long, 15-week format. For example, we have courses that meet five full-day sessions on campus. The feedback that we have gotten from students is that these courses are much easier to fit into their schedules. So it is reasonable to expect that the additional flexibility that would come with a completely online program would enhance the appeal of the program for some students. Finally, we regularly field questions from students across the country on whether we have online options and one student who is finishing the face-to-face program this summer was willing to come from Northern Indiana to take the courses. She indicated that the coursework was extremely useful for her and therefore was willing to travel to complete the coursework but would have definitely benefitted from an online program. Although there are a few other programs nationwide that are available online, none have reputation of Indiana University. We believe that this will be a strong selling point for potential students.

Additional evidence of demand comes from our face to face course HSEM program. From 2010 to 2012 our enrollments increased from 10 students to 27 students. Although not official, as of August 9, 2013, there were 23 students currently enrolled in the program. We believe a mature face to face program will have 30 to 40 students and we expect to be able to match that number within three years with the addition of an online HSEM certificate. Until that time, face to face and online class offerings will be monitored to ensure that growth is managed effectively.

5. Are there any related distance delivered or on-campus programs offered by IU campuses. If so, please describe the extent to which plans to deliver this program via distance delivery have been discussed with the appropriate stakeholders associated with these related IU programs.

No.

6. Provide letters of support from peer departments and/or any related programs within Indiana University campuses.

N/A

7. What are the expected tuition and fees of the proposed program?

Our tuition and fees will be consistent with University-level directives on the minimum that can be charged for graduate online courses.

8. Describe any additional resources needed to implement the program (i.e. faculty, staff, student support, technical support services).

As noted in responding to question #2, we have extensive resources in place to support the development and continued delivery of graduate certificates online. We do not anticipate the need for any additional resources to implement this certificate. Existing SPEA instructors will primarily be used to implement the program. If needed, a few additional part time instructors will be recruited to deliver additional courses. These instructors will be employed on a per-course basis with frequency of course offerings determined by market demand. The HSEM certificate has three required courses: J524, J528, and J531. One of these, J531, is already available online. The other two required courses have been offered several times face-to-face by current SPEA faculty and online versions are currently being developed using CEG funds. The HSEM certificate currently lists four electives including: J520, J581, J586, and J682 (see below). Two of these electives (J520 and J581) are currently being converted to an online format. The remaining two courses (J586 and J682) will be converted to a fully online format within the 18-24 months. Once all courses are converted to online formats, we will have the ability to offer a 100 percent online certificate by 2015. If approved for 2014, students should be able to complete the HSEM certificate fully online within one year.

CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

15 Credit Hours

Dept	Course	Title	Credit
Required Courses (9 Credit Hours)			
EACH of the following courses:			
SPEA-J	524	Emergency Management	3.0
SPEA-J	528	Risk Analysis for Public Safety	3.0
SPEA-J	531	National and Homeland Security in America	3.0
Electives (6 Credit Hours)			
TWO additional SPEA graduate courses that cannot include independent research studies, readings, or internship classes.			
SPEA-J	520	Mapping and Analysis for Public Safety	3.0
SPEA-J	581	Public Safety Law	3.0
SPEA-J	586	Public Safety in America	3.0
SPEA-J	682	Planning and Management for Criminal Justice and Public Safety	3.0

Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) certificate Program Learning Outcomes

HSEM certificate recipients will be able to:

- Discuss the historical foundations, current organization, and major policy issues of homeland security and emergency management and how criminal justice, emergency management, and homeland security actors, agencies, and processes interact to produce safety and security
- Define and describe homeland security, how federal state and local agencies work to maintain homeland security, and how it relates to public safety, in theory and in practice
- Discuss emergency management and homeland security issues in local, state, national, and international contexts
- Identify critical elements of emergency preparedness, response, and mitigation before, during, and after major public safety events
- Identify, analyze, and mitigate risks using various risk analysis tools including geographic information systems and other geospatial technologies
- Describe the elements of effective leadership and management before, during, and after national disasters and incidents of national significance
- Evaluate the role of legal issues, ethical underpinnings, and professional standards in complex emergency management, public safety, and homeland security events
- Communicate effectively and interact productively within a complex and diverse criminal justice, public safety, and homeland security environment