

# Homeland Security

IN THE COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

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## General Information

The homeland security program emphasizes international and collaborative approaches in the educational process and study abroad is required for all students in the program. Semester, short-term (one to two weeks), and summer study abroad opportunities are provided by the college and university in countries depending on the interests of students. Topics include art and antiquities smuggling and fraud, collaboration, communications, counter human trafficking, law enforcement, locations of major disasters, nation building, opportunities to assist other countries in their efforts with disaster response, security diplomacy, technology, and other interest areas. Study abroad is a research component for the thesis or thesis project and develops student credibility and capability for eventual career advancement.

Of particular note, the homeland security program sponsors collaborative study abroad efforts in Mexico that builds positive relationships with government, non-government, and the private-sector in Baja California who work together to make the border region a productive, secure, and vibrant partnership. Working with Mexican officials to solve shared problems offers opportunities to build solutions to complex problems as models for problems and opportunities worldwide.

Contact a homeland security academic adviser for evaluation and approval of a program of study and information on study abroad opportunities. The primary focus is to build classes, research, and study abroad for a career preparation portfolio.

## Admission to Graduate Study

The homeland security program accepts admission for both the fall and spring semesters. The application deadlines are posted on the website at <https://hsec.sdsu.edu/admission> or can be obtained from the homeland security program directors or graduate adviser. All students must satisfy the general requirements for admission to the university with classified graduate standing as described in Admission and Registration. In addition, students must demonstrate sufficient preparation for the program. This may include a bachelor's degree in sciences, engineering, law enforcement, international security, public policy, or a related discipline providing educational preparation for a career in homeland security. The degree must be from an accredited institution or

indicate completion of equivalent academic preparation as determined by the Graduate Dean. Evaluation of a student's transcript will be made on an individual basis by the admissions committee to determine whether evidence of sufficient preparation can be demonstrated. A student whose preparation is deemed insufficient by the admissions committee may be admitted as conditionally classified and will be required to complete specified courses in addition to the minimum of 30 units required for the degree.

The grade-point average required for admission to the master's program in homeland security is 2.85 in undergraduate coursework plus satisfactory scores on the verbal and quantitative sections of the GRE. An interview by the admissions committee may also be required.

Students applying for admission should electronically submit the university application available at <http://www.calstate.edu/apply> along with the application fee.

All applicants must submit admissions materials separately to SDSU Graduate Admissions and to the homeland security program. For information about specific admissions requirements, visit <http://hsec.sdsu.edu/admission>.

## Graduate Admissions

The following materials should be submitted as a complete package directly to:

**Graduate Admissions**  
Enrollment Services  
San Diego State University  
San Diego, CA 92182-7416

1. Official transcripts (in sealed envelopes) from all postsecondary institutions attended;

### NOTE:

- Students who attended SDSU need only submit transcripts for work completed since last attendance.
  - Students with international coursework must submit both the official transcript and proof of degree. If documents are in a language other than English, they must be accompanied by a certified English translation.
2. GRE scores (<http://www.ets.org> SDSU institution code 4682);
  3. English language score, if medium of instruction was in a language other than English (<http://www.ets.org> SDSU institution code 4682).

## Homeland Security Program

The following materials should be submitted electronically to the homeland security program admission committee. Submission instructions are available at <http://hsec.sdsu.edu/admission>.

1. Two letters of recommendation from persons in a position to judge academic ability (in sealed, signed envelopes);
2. One letter of recommendation from a person in a position to judge professional ability and potential (in sealed, signed envelope);
3. A two-page maximum personal statement giving reasons for choosing homeland security as a degree objective;
4. A two-page maximum personal statement summarizing applicant's qualifications, skill sets, and life experiences as they apply to the homeland security degree;
5. A current resume or curriculum vitae.

## Advancement to Candidacy

All students must satisfy the general requirements for advancement to candidacy as described in Requirements for Master's Degrees.

## Specific Requirements for the Master of Science Degree

(Major Code: 22102) (SIMS Code: 779001)

In addition to meeting the requirements for the Master of Science degree, as described in Requirements for Master's Degrees, students must complete 30 units of coursework in an officially approved course of study as outlined below. Students must earn a minimum grade point average of B (3.0) in the master's program and no less than a C in each course. Students may meet the culminating experience requirement through Plan A by completing H SEC 799A or through Plan B by completing H SEC 790 and successfully passing a comprehensive examination.

### Graduate Program (30 units)

#### I. Core Courses (15 units)

H SEC 601	Seminar in Homeland Security.....	3
H SEC 602	Seminar in Science, Technology, and Homeland Security .....	3
H SEC 603	Seminar in Emergency Preparedness and Response .....	3
H SEC 604	Seminar in Law, Society, and Homeland Security .....	3
H SEC 695	Practicum in Homeland Security .....	3

II. **Homeland Security electives:** Six units in consultation with program adviser.

III. **Non-Homeland Security electives:** Three units in consultation with program adviser.

IV. **Study Abroad (3 units).** All homeland security graduate students are required to complete a homeland security-related study abroad experience. To meet this requirement, students must complete one of the following with the pre-approved and written consent of the program adviser:

1. A CSU Study Abroad Program;
2. An SDSU Exchange Program;
3. An SDSU Semester Abroad Program;
4. An SDSU Travel Study Program;
5. A homeland security practicum, special topics, special study, or research conducted abroad.

See the homeland security study abroad guide located in the homeland security Blackboard homeroom and the program adviser to make arrangements to meet the study abroad requirement.

V. **Plan A or Plan B (3 units).** Students who complete Plan A, thesis or project option must include H SEC 799A in their program of study. Students who complete Plan B, non-thesis option must include H SEC 790 in their program of study and pass a comprehensive examination.

## Courses Acceptable for Master's Degree Program in Homeland Security (H SEC)

Refer to *Courses and Curricula and Regulations of the Division of Graduate Affairs* sections of this bulletin for explanation of the course numbering system, unit or credit hour, prerequisites, and related information.

### GRADUATE COURSES

#### H SEC 601. Seminar in Homeland Security (3)

Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.

Domestic, national security, and foreign policies as they relate to prevention, deterrence, preemption, defense against, and response to terrorist attacks and other man-made and natural critical incidents and emergencies on local, regional, national, and international levels.

#### H SEC 602. Seminar in Science, Technology, and Homeland Security (3)

Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.

Interrelationship of technology and science to homeland security policy. Use of technology and science for decision-making and collaboration. Ethical issues associated with application of technology and science to security.

#### H SEC 603. Seminar in Emergency Preparedness and Response (3)

Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.

Practices of emergency management and response in civilian and military settings. Historical development of management of and response to emergencies and critical incidents. Interrelationship of public, private, and non-profit sectors on local, regional, national, and international levels.

#### H SEC 604. Seminar in Law, Society, and Homeland Security (3)

Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.

Role and function of law related to homeland security on domestic and international levels. Historical development of ideas and rules of homeland security-related law and their relation to domestic and international legal, social, and political structures. Interrelationship of security, human, and civil rights.

#### H SEC 690. Seminar (3)

Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.

Intensive study in specific areas of homeland security on themes such as intelligence, domestic and international law and security, GIS and security, sensors and security, privacy and security. May be repeated with new content. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Maximum credit six units.

#### H SEC 695. Practicum in Homeland Security (3)

Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.

Practical exercises related to homeland security. Cooperative exercises with first responders, homeland security officials, and/or non-governmental organizations on local, regional, national, and/or international level. Maximum credit three units applicable to a master's degree.

#### H SEC 696. Special Topics in Homeland Security (1-3)

Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.

Study in specific areas of homeland security. May be repeated with new content with the approval of graduate adviser. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Credit for 596 and 696 applicable to a master's degree with approval of the graduate adviser.

#### H SEC 790. Directed Readings in Homeland Security (3) Cr/NC

Prerequisites: Advancement to candidacy and Plan B (non-thesis option).

Preparation for the comprehensive examination. For use in conjunction with Plan B (non-thesis option) only. Maximum credit three units of Homeland Security 790, 797, or 798 applicable to a master's degree.

#### H SEC 797. Research (1-3) Cr/NC

Prerequisites: Classified graduate standing and consent of instructor.

Supervised research in an area of homeland security. Maximum credit three units of Homeland Security 790, 797, or 798 applicable to a master's degree.

#### H SEC 798. Special Study (1-3) Cr/NC

Prerequisites: Classified graduate standing and consent of instructor.

Individual study, generally for thesis research. Maximum credit three units of Homeland Security 790, 797, or 798 applicable to a master's degree.

#### H SEC 799A. Thesis or Project (3) Cr/NC/RP

Prerequisites: An officially appointed thesis committee and advancement to candidacy.

Preparation of a thesis for the master's degree.

#### H SEC 799B. Thesis or Project Extension (0) Cr/NC

Prerequisite: Prior registration in Thesis or Project 799A with an assigned grade of RP.

Registration required in any semester or term following assignment of RP in Course 799A in which the student expects to use the facilities and resources of the university; also student must be registered in the course when the completed thesis is granted final approval.

#### H SEC 799C. Comprehensive Examination Extension (0) Cr/NC

Prerequisite: Completion of degree program courses.

Registration required of students whose only requirement is completion of the comprehensive examination for the master's degree. Registration in 799C limited to two semesters.