

VCU B.A. in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness

L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs

National need

Since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the United States more than ever is focused on preparedness in homeland security and emergencies. In response to the need for qualified individuals in this field, Virginia Commonwealth University has developed a Bachelor of Arts in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. The program opened in fall 2005.

The program, housed in VCU's L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, has been enthusiastically reviewed by officials from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Virginia Governor's Office of Public Safety, the Virginia House of Delegates and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

Benefits of VCU

The ability of the Wilder School to utilize VCU's programs in medicine, engineering and business provides excellent resources and opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration. The university's location in the state capital, and only 90 minutes from the nation's capital, plays a key role as well, with access to homeland security institutions and practitioners for guest lectures, adjunct faculty arrangements and internships.

Knowledge and skills

Students will gain both theoretical and practical knowledge in emergency planning and management principles, the nature and effects of natural disasters, counter-terrorism policies, and prevention of terrorist attacks through surveillance. Specialized courses such as "Institutions and the Intelligence Process" and "Political Terrorism" provide students with a firm grip on security and emergency issues.

Career options

Graduates can pursue a number of employment opportunities, such as working for local, state or federal government, the Justice Department, the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security, or for-profit, nonprofit and private organizations.

To learn more:

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