



School of Public Affairs
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **DENVER**

Program Manager in Emergency Services and Homeland Security or Disasters, Hazards, and Emergency Management

MCJ- related certificates/concentrations: Emergency Services and Homeland Security Certificate, Disasters, Hazards, and Emergency Management Certificate

MCJ- related courses:

- CRJU 5650/PUAD 5650 - Public Service in Emergency Management and Homeland Security (3 credit hours)
- CRJU/PUAD 5655 - Principles of Emergency Management (3 credit hours)
- CRJU/PUAD 5720 - Public Policies of Hazards and Disasters (3 credit hours)
- URPL 6645 - Disaster and Climate Change Planning (3 credit hours)

Recommended extracurricular activities and experiences: Independent research projects, law enforcement officer ride-along, Alpha Phi Sigma Criminal Justice Honor Society, study abroad, other community involvement and equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) experiences such as a student association or club, volunteering in the community, or other experiences that expose you to communities and cultivate a service-minded perspective. Criminal justice national conferences.

Internship: Many state and local entities have offices of public safety and emergency management units, and there are state and federal homeland security offices. Finding an internship within one of these units would be very beneficial to this career path.

Duties and Responsibilities: A program manager manages all aspects of a particular program and typically oversees employees, delegates responsibilities, and takes a big-picture view of processes. Homeland Security has several main purposes, all of which have programs within programs that need to be managed. All of U.S. Homeland Security's individual purposes revolve around protecting the U.S. from threats, and states also have their own homeland security divisions as well. Areas of focus may include: disaster management such as earthquakes or terrorist attacks, protecting the U.S. economy, protecting the U.S. borders, securing cyberspace and critical infrastructure, and stopping terrorism and security threats. A program manager in this field may work on projects within any of these areas.

Work Environment: Often this position will be in an office environment, with some field work possible, depending on the nature of the unit.

Work Schedule: Depending on the nature of the program management, the work schedule may primarily be typical office hours 8am-5pm with occasional calls-to-service at other hours of the day.

Career Path/Promotion: In many agencies a classification system is used. A program manager for homeland security and emergency management may be able to move up in their classification scale or advance into unit management, or eventually directorship.

Additional opportunities for an MCJ degree: With a Master's degree there are other opportunities that may be of interest. With an MCJ teaching as an adjunct with a university is a possibility. Also, if one becomes an expert in their chosen field or subject within the criminal justice system, there may be opportunities for media contact, publication, and/or testifying before the legislature.

Education, Training and Certification: Project management certification and experience is an ideal and complementary skill to gain. Bachelor's degree is typically required, and a master's degree provides better odds of employment as well as advancement.

Special Considerations: Project management in emergency management and homeland security may require you to work unconventional hours depending on the needs of the unit. You may be required to respond during security issues that arise that affect the program you are managing and may need to be available and prepared to respond at any hour and at any location. You will also need to be mindful that this position often requires various forms of background checks including, but not limited to: various forms of polygraph exams, extensive background checks and interviews, fingerprinting, or other background checks.

Skills and Competencies: Analysis skills, big-picture and detailed perspective, ability to manage many changing tasks and variables, emotional intelligence, a service-mindset.

Federal Salary Averages:

Bottom 10%: \$116,059

Top 10%: \$152,210

Median: \$ 133,964

Median Salary in U.S. as of 2021

\$133,964 per year for U.S. Homeland Security