Public Safety and Homeland Security Administration
architecture.siu.edu/graduate/master-of-public-safety

COLLEGE OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND ARTS

Graduate Faculty:
Keith, Craig, Director, Senior Lecturer, M.S., Oklahoma State University, 2010.
Legier, John, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Southern Illinois University, 2007.
Martin, Nancy, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Southern Illinois University, 2006.
Ritzel, Dale, Professor, Emeritus, Ph.D., Southern Illinois University, 1970.
Ruffner, Charles, Professor, Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University, 1999.

Graduate work leading to a Master of Science in Public Safety and Homeland Security Administration (PSHSA) is offered by the College of Applied Sciences and Arts. The program prepares its graduates with the analytic capabilities and problem-solving skills that will enable them to succeed and progress in their professional career. The 39-hour curriculum develops advanced administrative, managerial, and leadership skills critical to career advancement and promotion within these industries. The academic setting of this program will foster creative thinking and communication skills in our pursuit of excellence. The program culminates in an applied practicum as opposed to a thesis.

Criteria for Unconditional Admission
In order to be admitted to a degree program, an applicant must meet Graduate School and program admission requirements.

General requirements for domestic student admission to SIU Graduate School include: a 2.7 grade point average (on a 4.0 grading scale) on the last two years of Bachelor’s degree coursework or a 3.0 grade point average on all previous graduate work. Specific requirements or equivalences for foreign student admissions and early admission consideration may be found on the SIU Graduate School website at gradschool.siu.edu/admissions.

Applicants to master's degree level study may begin the admissions process when they need no more than 32 semester hours beyond the credit shown on their transcript at the time of application to complete all requirements for the bachelor's degree.

Any applicant who has completed 12 or more semester hours of graded graduate work at an accredited U.S. educational institution, and who has a GPA of 3.00 or better on all graduate work, may be exempted from the 2.7 undergraduate grade point average requirement. Any student with fewer than 12 hours of graduate work may be admitted to the Graduate School on the basis of undergraduate GPA only.

To meet program requirements, candidates must have a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution or have completed all undergraduate degree requirements prior to the beginning of the classes for the term for which admission is sought. Preferred consideration is given to applicants with a bachelor's degree in Fire Science, Fire Service, Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Homeland Security, or individuals with other baccalaureate degrees with direct experience in fire fighting, public safety, EMS or related experience. All applicants will submit an essay outlining the individual’s background in the field and future career goals as part of the application process.

Students will be classified as either In-Service or Pre-Service students. Students classified as In-Service will have completed the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer Program. Those students will be required to complete a 30 hour curriculum. Those students classified as Pre-Service will be required to complete a 39 hours curriculum. In-Service students plus nine additional credit hours of coursework. Those nine additional hours would bring the Pre-Service student up to the same knowledge level as the In-Service student.

In-Service Curriculum (30 SH)

- PSM 500 Terrorism, Weapons of Mass Destruction
- PSM 502 Emergency Management
- PSM 503 Public Policy/Ethics in Fire Service
- PSM 504 Fiscal/Financial Management in the Fire Service
- PSM 505 Executive Leadership in Fire, Homeland Security, and Emergency Management
- PSM 506 Disaster Preparedness and Crisis Management
- PSM 507 Public Management of the Fire Service
- PSM 508 Critical Issues in Homeland Security Management
- PSM 509 Strategic Planning in Fire, Homeland Security, and Emergency Management
- PSM 510 Dispute Resolution/Mediation/Negotiation in the Fire Service
- PSM 512 Practicum Exercise

Pre-Service Curriculum (39 SH)

- PSM 500 Terrorism, Weapons of Mass Destruction
- PSM 502 Emergency Management
- PSM 503 Public Policy/Ethics in Fire Service
- PSM 504 Fiscal/Financial Management in the Fire Service
- PSM 505 Executive Leadership in Fire, Homeland Security, and Emergency Management
- PSM 506 Disaster Preparedness and Crisis Management
- PSM 507 Public Management of the Fire Service
- PSM 508 Critical Issues in Homeland Security Management
- PSM 509 Strategic Planning in Fire, Homeland Security, and Emergency Management
- PSM 510 Dispute Resolution/Mediation/Negotiation in the Fire Service
- PSM 511 Critical Thinking and Decision in Fire, Homeland Security, and Emergency Management
- PSM 512 Practicum Exercise
Courses (PSM)
Courses in this program will require the purchase of textbooks and supplemental materials.

PSM 500-3 Terrorism, WMD, and Contemporary Issues. This course will begin by looking at the historical evolution of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. We will analyze theories and mitigation, preparedness, and response tactics.

PSM 501-3 Administrative Law. Administrative law is the law governing the powers, limits and operations of government administrative agencies, and the rights of individuals in dealing with those agencies. Much of this course is about two statutes and related court cases: The Administrative Procedure Act of 1946, governing federal agencies; and the Model State Administrative Procedures Act, governing Oklahoma and many other states.

PSM 502-3 Emergency Management. This course examines historical and contemporary theories, principles, and practices of Emergency Management, particularly the all-hazards approach and the related processes of mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. Using a case study approach, the course considers the evolution of Emergency Management and its practical application with government and private-sector institutions.

PSM 503-3 Public Policy/Ethics. The focus of this course is on how public action takes place; what courses of action are available; and the implications, costs, and consequences of those actions. The Fire Service Executive of the future will require a more disciplined understanding of public policy. This course will encourage a familiarity with public issues that will be useful for the Fire Service Executives in making administrative or policy decisions.

PSM 504-3 Fiscal Financial Management. This advanced introduction to fundamentals of financial management emphasizes analysis of financial statements, organizational-departmental-divisional cash flows, taxes, the financial environment, bonds and their valuation, stocks and their valuation, and cost of capital.

PSM 505-3 Executive Leadership. This course includes leadership, multiple roles, decision making skills, influencing leaders, teaching leaders, storytelling, persuasion, succession planning, and evaluating.

PSM 506-3 Disaster Preparedness and Crisis Management. Students will receive the preparation necessary to uniquely manage and make critical decisions regarding a major incident or disaster. The course focuses on specialized decision-making processes involving analytical methods and information management. Interaction with other agencies and effective coordination of roles and efforts within a structured command system enables the crisis manager to make decisions in an unstructured environment.

PSM 507-3 Public Management. The purpose of the course is to provide a survey of the theory and practice of management in public sector organizations. Emphasis will be given to a comparison of management in the public and private sector, management functions, and the context in which the public manager must perform the functions. Students must complete pre-class, in-class, and post-class assignments.

PSM 508-3 Critical Issues in Homeland Security. This course examines the evolving nature of the Homeland Security enterprise by examining a number of contemporary topical issues and their immediate and long-term impact on Homeland Security policies and practices. Particular attention is paid to the role of the media, law, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and political entities at the federal, state, and local levels in determining and shaping Homeland Security policy/practice.

PSM 509-3 Strategic Planning. This course examines and defines the steps, concepts, theory, and value of comprehensive strategic planning. Students will participate in the formulation, financial development, operational management, and evaluation of currently utilized strategic plans and take part in the outline and design of a mock strategic plan.

PSM 510-3 Dispute Resolution/Mediation/Negotiation. This course is about labor relations and employment disputes in the public sector and the various methods for resolving labor and personnel conflicts. Collective bargaining, arbitration, mediation, and other alternative dispute resolution methods will be applied to cases and simulation exercises relevant to government employees.

PSM 511-3 Critical Thinking and Decision Making. This course is an examination of knowledge and research as they pertain to public safety. Exploration of the relationship between creative and critical thinking, analysis of scientific methodology and logic, language and interpretation and their influence on public safety organizations.

PSM 512-3 Practicum. Under the supervision and direction of a member of the faculty, students will undertake a project involving substantive participation in managing a major simulation, exercise, or drill involving multiple agencies and institutions. Student involvement will include planning, designing, developing, conducting, and evaluating the simulation or drill. Requires the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies for PSM.

PSM 513-3 Organizational Leadership. This is the third course in the series of Leadership and Management. This course will provide the participant with a deeper understanding of knowledge, skills, and abilities for effective organizational leadership. Prerequisite: PSM 405.

PSM 514-3 Ethics and the Challenge of Leadership. This is the final course in the series of Leadership and Management. This course will provide the participant with a deeper understanding of personal and organizational ethics and the challenge of leadership. Prerequisite: PSM 513.

PSM 515-3 Special Topics in Public Safety Management. Specialized study for the investigation of management problems relating to the student’s career objective. Studies of the management techniques as practiced in the profession. Topics may be suggested by both faculty and student. Restricted to approval of the Director of Graduate Studies for PSM.

PSM 601-1 Continuing Enrollment. For graduate students who have not finished their degree program and who are in the process of working on their thesis, research paper, or capstone project course (PSM 512). Concurrent enrollment in any other course is not permitted. Graded S/U or DEF only.