The Master of Science in Security Studies program provides students an interdisciplinary approach to understanding and addressing the diverse domestic and international threats to U.S. security. These threats may be posed by natural disasters or by man, whether through governments or non-state actors such as terrorist groups. The program is designed to enable students to evaluate threats and develop responses to those threats at the international, national, state, and local levels. The program will also increase student understanding and skills of the response coordination required to meet the challenges posed by such threats.

**ECU Mission Statement**

To be a national model for student success, public service, and regional transformation, East Carolina University:

- Uses innovative learning strategies and delivery methods to maximize access;
- Prepares students with the knowledge, skills and values to succeed in a global, multicultural society;
- Develops tomorrow’s leaders to serve and inspire positive change;
- Discovers new knowledge and innovations to support a thriving future for eastern North Carolina and beyond;
- Transforms health care, promotes wellness, and reduces health disparities; and
- Improves quality of life through cultural enrichment, academics, the arts, and athletics.

**Basic Admissions Requirements**

- Complete Apply Online with the Graduate School
- A statement of purpose
- Three letters of recommendation
- Minimum undergrad GPA of 2.7 out of 4 on all undergraduate; or a GPA of 3.0 out of 4 in the Senior year
- Satisfactory score on the GRE
- No more than 7 credits of transfer work may count toward the degree

East Carolina University is committed to equality of educational opportunity and does not discriminate against applicants, students, or employees based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender age, sexual orientation, or disability. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, which accommodates the need of individuals with disabilities.
Options and Requirements

Core Requirements

SECS 6000 Security Studies Foundations
SECS 6155 Changing Nature of National Security Policy
SECS 6250 Policy and Practice of Security
SECS 6300 Research Methods for SECS
SECS 6350 Weapons of Mass Destruction
SECS 6450 Internship
**SECS 7000 Thesis** or non-Thesis option (6 credits)

**Students may choose to bypass the thesis option by taking two additional courses (6 credits) in their Area of Emphasis. Students selecting the thesis option must complete a minimum of 6 credits of SECS 7000 Thesis coursework. Students pursuing the Area of Emphasis in Science and Technology Security, Computer Science Specialization must combine SECS 7000 Thesis (3 credits) with CSCI 7000 Thesis (3 credits) for the total of 6 credits of thesis.**

Students must complete the above required course work plus one area of emphasis.

All students must also pass a comprehensive exam.

Requirements for each Area of Emphasis

Students must choose one Area of Emphasis and take 12 credits in that Area. All courses are 3 credits, unless otherwise noted.

Some courses may have prerequisites which students must first satisfy. If students have not completed such prerequisites as part of their previous studies, the actual number of credit hours needed for their Area of Emphasis may exceed 12, resulting in the student having to take more than the minimum 36 credits.

Students should be aware that not all Areas of Emphasis or courses in them are available via Distance Education.

Area of Emphasis in International Security

HIST 6210 War and Society
HIST 6260 The United States and the Middle East, 1783 to the Present
INTL 6005 Communication across Cultures
INTL 6105 Global Issues
INTL 6500 International Problem Solving and Decision Making
INTL 6510 Global and Multicultural Discourse
POL 6360 Causes of International War
POL 6382 Global Terrorism
POL 6425 War, Peace and Security in the Middle East
POL 6430 Seminar in International Politics
POL 6440 Seminar in International Organization
SECS 6260 Intelligence and National Security
SECS 6270 Intelligence Analysis
SECS 6320 Cyber Warfare and Security
SECS 6380 The Art of Statecraft and International Security
SECS 6390 Human Security
SECS 6420 Globalization and Security
SECS 6430 Special Topics Seminar

Area of Emphasis in Homeland Security Policy

BIOL 6110 Bioterrorism and Biosecurity
EHST 6010 Homeland Security
HIST 6260 The United States and the Middle East, 1783 to the Present
JUST 6502 Criminal Justice and Terrorism
PADM 6163 Environmental Policy Analysis
PADM 6170 Intergovernmental/Intergency Relations

PADM 6220 Leadership and Ethics in the Public Sector
PLAN 6015 Emergency/Disaster Planning [Seminar]
POL 6382 Global Terrorism
POL 6345 Comparative Public Policy
SECS 6260 Intelligence and National Security
SECS 6270 Intelligence Analysis
SECS 6320 Cyber Warfare and Security
SECS 6400 The Foundation of Homeland Security and Defense
SECS 6430 Special Topics Seminar
SOCI 5500 Seminar in Population

Area of Emphasis in Science and Technology Security

(Students must select one specialization and choose 4 courses from that specialization. Only students with a technical undergrad may apply for this. Not a Distance Education option.)

Computer Science Specialization

CSCI 5800 Artificial Intelligence
CSCI 6100 Cryptography and Information Security
CSCI 6130 Networking and Telecommunication
CSCI 6300 Cryptographic Protocols
CSCI 7000 Thesis

Information Technology Specialization

ICTN 6823 Information Security Management
ICTN 6853 Cryptography Algorithms and Applications
ICTN 6865 Fundamentals of Network Security
ICTN 6878 Legal and Ethical Issues in Information Technology
IDIS 6515 Logistical Security and Safety Management
ITEC 6050 Strategies for Technical Management and Communications
ITEC 6600 Quality Systems

Area of Emphasis in Environmental Health and Occupational Safety

(Choose 4 courses—more if necessary to reach 12 credits)

EHST 6010 Fundamentals of Environmental Health
EHST 6100 Elements in Environmental Engineering
SAFT 6290 Fire Protection, Prevention and Emergency Management
SAFT 6402 Applied Safety and Risk Management
SAFT 6410 Systems Safety and Risk Analysis

Basic Graduation Requirements

• Minimum of 36 hours including the Core Courses and Area of Emphasis
• Students should maintain a B average and shall not receive a final grade of C or less in courses totaling in excess of 6 hours
• Thesis or non-thesis option completion
• Successfully pass a comprehensive exam
• Coursework must be completed within six years. Extensions may be applied for with the Director of SECS and ECU Graduate School

Career Opportunities

A student who specializes in security studies acquires the skills in writing, communications, and analysis that are critical to working in a career field related to national security. Students may work for any one of the 22 federal agencies that comprise the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Defense, other federal departments or any of the national intelligence agencies that support the homeland security mission. At the state and local levels, students may work in law enforcement, health, environment, transportation, critical infrastructure protection or any number of jobs related to security.