

# Program Review

## Executive Summary

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### Emergency Management Technology

Majors Reviewed:

- *Emergency Management Technology, B.S.*



**Pennsylvania  
College of Technology**  
A Penn State Affiliate

April 2019

Pennsylvania College of Technology developed the Bachelor of Science in Emergency Management degree during the 2012-13 academic year in response to the growing demand for emergency management services and disaster planning. The hands on, face-to-face program was launched in Fall 2013 and a 100% online option became available in Fall 2016.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) continues to support the development of college programs as part of a national effort to improve the professional training of current practitioners as well as to provide a valid career track for entry-level professionals.

Staying true to its core value of applied instruction led by experienced faculty, Penn College hired the former Emergency Management Coordinator from Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center as the program's full-time faculty member to ensure students received a relevant and robust curriculum from an industry expert.

Penn College emergency management graduates are securing high quality, sustainable positions. Graduates are currently working for FEMA, disaster planning consulting firms, large manufacturing companies, universities, banks, county agencies, disaster recovery ventures, and police departments. Feedback from industry experts who have hired program graduates suggests that Penn College students are well prepared to enter this growing, sustainable career field.

Penn College graduates are securing meaningful, quality positions, and the Emergency Management degree is effectively preparing students for these sustainable careers; however, marketing this growing field presents complex and pervasive challenges. Evidence suggests that many students would thrive in this career field; however, sweeping confusion and misunderstanding of the career options associated with the emergency management field persists. Based on this knowledge and other program review findings, the program faculty offer the following recommendations:

1. Continue to provide relevant exercises and course work to effectively prepare graduates
2. Revise program marketing strategies.
3. Assess the feasibility of adding a second full-time faculty member to broaden the range of learning experiences for students and to assist with educating the larger community about the emergency management field.
4. Explore the feasibility of developing a Homeland Security associate's degree or minor to capitalize on this popular career pathway being offered through Career & Technical Centers.
5. Continue to evaluate the effectiveness of the 100% online course work to ensure that students are developing the necessary skills to secure gainful employment.
6. Continue to focus on building strong connections with Career & Technical Centers who are offering formalized Homeland Security and Criminal Justice & Police Science programs.
7. Evaluate opportunities to intersect more with Penn College's Human Services & Restorative Justice majors.