

Program Review

Executive Summary

Emergency Management & Homeland Security

Majors Reviewed:

- *Emergency Management & Homeland Security (EHM), B.S.*
- *Emergency Management & Homeland Security (EHD), B.S.*

July 2024



Penn College offers a four-year (B.S.) program in Emergency Management & Homeland Security that produces graduates with practical experience as well as robust content knowledge and critical thinking skills. Our faculty have strong educational and real-world experience, with diverse areas of expertise, ranging from health care to school and community settings, in addition to governmental operations.

Because our faculty are active in the field, they have unique contacts and knowledge to share with students. Field trips, in-class exercises, and immersive experiences are regularly integrated into coursework, thereby providing students with relevant and practical applications of course material.

The multidisciplinary approach in the field and expanding scope and impact of emergencies makes Penn College the ideal place for a degree in Emergency Management & Homeland Security. The unique and broad array of course offerings at Penn College provides our students with the opportunity to get hands-on experience in a variety of disciplines, related to the field, that will prove invaluable in their careers. Our students have participated in the planning and execution of several large-scale events including mass casualty exercises and an annual Rotorfest, which brings hundreds of high school students to campus, along with several community partners and governmental organizations. Additionally, current technologies are integrated into existing core courses, providing students with exposure to industry-standard software. Class projects often enable students to apply course material to real-life situations, such as developing a Special Needs Registry and Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) for a local organization. These opportunities collectively enhance students' experiences, fostering a deeper understanding of and better preparation for careers in the field.

The Emergency Management & Homeland Security field continues to expand, and the need for graduates with cross-disciplinary skills is increasing. To continually improve our program, the following recommendations have been proposed:

- Continued and expanded partnerships and outreach with Career & Technical Centers.
- Continue to develop industry partnerships in collaboration with College Relations.
- Review curriculum against industry trends annually and revise curriculum and evaluate delivery methods.
- Increase marketing efforts to garner interest in and promotion of the online program. This may involve a review of alternative formats such as compressed scheduling.
- Review online coursework to ensure students are receiving adequate support and referral to resources. Consider adding resources to highlight expectations to reinforce effective practices in online classes.