

DHS Academics Programs: Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS) Programs

The DHS Academic Programs prepare leaders to bridge gaps in intergovernmental, interagency and civil-military cooperation by bringing together a diverse range of participants to share perspectives and lay the foundation for long-term homeland security collaboration. Additionally, through graduate and executive-level coursework, seminars, and research, participants gain the analytic and critical thinking skills and substantive expertise they need to make innovative solutions that address threats facing the nation.

The DHS Academic Programs Spring Open Season includes three offerings that are conducted at the Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security—the Emergence Program, the Master's Degree and the Executive Leaders Program. Application Procedures for all solicitations are listed at the bottom.

1. CHDS Emergence Program

A unique opportunity for homeland security and public safety professionals who are in the first half of their careers. The program includes an innovation lab for participants to research and develop an idea for change within their organizations (e.g., new policy, approach, program, procedure, system, use of technology, etc.). Participants will work collaboratively during the lab. CHDS staff will be available to assist with the drafting of individual implementation plans. The six month program has two one-week sessions which are held in Monterey, CA at the Naval Postgraduate School. It is fully funded by a FEMA grant. Details at: <https://www.chds.us/c/academic-programs/emergence/>.

Eligibility:

- *Civilian: GS-9 through GS-12 (and equivalent) with 3 to 10 years of federal work experience in any area (does not need to be homeland security related).*
- *Military: Active duty officers in the first half of their career with at least 1 year of service and a command endorsement are eligible to apply.*
- *Enlisted: Active duty enlisted with a command endorsement*

2. CHDS Master's in Security Studies

Focuses on building collaboration among local, tribal, state, and federal leaders who develop strategies, plans, and programs to prepare and respond to national security threats and catastrophic events. Participants develop critical thinking skills and an appreciation of interagency collaboration. They are able to network with colleagues who represent law enforcement, fire, emergency management, transportation, utilities, DHS, and the National Guard as well as other agencies. During this rigorous program, participants will complete a thesis that solves a problem within the agency they represent. This is an 18-month program that requires two weeks of residency per quarter (total of 12 weeks) at the Naval

Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA. with the remainder of the work completed online. This degree is fully funded by a FEMA grant. Details at: <https://www.chds.us/c/academic-programs/masters>.

Eligibility:

- *Civilian: GS-12, 13, 14, 15, SES or equivalent, and exceptional GS-11s who have been Federal employees with DHS for at least one year are eligible to apply.*
- *Military: Active duty officers with a command endorsement are eligible to apply.*
- *Enlisted: Active duty enlisted E5 and above with a command endorsement*

3. CHDS Executive Leaders Program

A unique, educational opportunity for senior-level homeland security and public safety leaders at the forefront of the nation's homeland security mission. The curriculum includes strategy and policy discussions, collaboration, and networking with leaders from agencies at the local, state, and federal levels as well as the private sector. Participants gain an understanding and appreciation of multiple agencies' missions and how to think more inclusively and globally about homeland security. The program consists of four one-week, in-residence sessions conducted at the Naval Postgraduate School campus in Monterey, CA. This program is fully funded by a FEMA grant. Detail at: <https://www.chds.us/c/academic-programs/elp>.

Eligibility:

- *Civilian: GS-14, GS-15 and SES or equivalent Federal employees who have been with DHS for at least one year are eligible to apply.*
- *Military: Active duty officers O5 and above with a command endorsement are eligible to apply.*
- *Enlisted: Active duty enlisted E8-E9 and exceptions E7s with a command endorsement.*

Application Procedures: *Please pay close attention, as the process is different for civilian and military personnel.*

Civilian: Please note that **BOTH** a DHS nomination and CHDS application are required. Applicants are encouraged to complete both applications at the same time.

1. DHS nomination packages are located on the DHS Academic Programs website and are due to the CG POC (listed below) by the following dates:

- *Emergence Program: 07 APR 2023*
- *Master's Degree: 31 MAR 2023*
- *Executive Leaders Program: 12 MAY 2023*

DHS Applications: <https://dhsconnect.dhs.gov/org/comp/mgmt/dhshr/emp/Pages/Academic-CHDS.aspx>

2. CHDS applications are located on the CHDS website and are submitted via the website NLT:

- *Emergence Program*: 01 MAY 2023
- *Master's Degree*: 01 MAY 2023
- *Executive Leaders Program*: 15 JUN 2023

CHDS Website: <https://www.chds.us/c/academic-programs/>

Military: A single application to the CHDS programs is required. Applications are located on the CHDS website and are submitted via the website by the deadlines listed for each program:

- *Emergence Program*: 01 MAY 2023
- *Master's Degree*: 01 MAY 2023
- *Executive Leaders Program*: 15 JUN 2023

Once you submit your application, please send an email to the CG POC (below) for tracking purposes. Include only your name, program name, and dates for which you applied.

CHDS Website: <https://www.chds.us/c/academic-programs/>

Please send all questions, DHS applications and application confirmation emails to the CG Component POC: SMB-COMDT-CG128-DHSAcademicProgramsAdministration@uscg.mil.