

Education, Human & Protective Services

GUIDED PATHWAY: Homeland Security Studies (Certificate, AAS Degree)
Homeland Security Department

This is an example course sequence for students interested in pursuing a degree in Homeland Security Studies. It does not represent a contract, nor does it guarantee course availability. Following this pathway will help you earn an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree in Homeland Security Studies¹. The program also offers Homeland Security Studies Certificates I (C1) and II (C2).

The AAS degree in Homeland Security Studies will create a foundational understanding of DHS and its core mission of protecting the nation while simultaneously ensuring safe and efficient travel and commerce. This program will help prepare students for future employment while creating an understanding of the various occupational elements contained within DHS. Specifically, this course will help prepare students for a career as an employee with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), U.S. Border Patrol, Customs and Border Protection, Homeland Security Investigations, as an Intelligence Analyst, or any of the multiple administrative support positions needed to continue the homeland security mission.


COLLEGE READINESS REQUIREMENTS (only for the AAS)

Enrolling in one or more courses may be necessary if assessment activities and previous academic experiences indicate a need for additional knowledge and skills:

READING & WRITING PLACEMENT
TSI MET: YES NO
IF NO, ADVISOR INSERT COURSE(S) NEEDED

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- INRW _____
-
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- OTHER: _____

MATH PLACEMENT
TSI MET: YES NO
IF NO, ADVISOR INSERT COURSE(S) NEEDED

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- DEV MATH _____
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- OTHER: _____

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY
TSI MET: YES NO
IF NO, ADVISOR INSERT COURSE(S) NEEDED

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- ESOL _____
-
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- OTHER: _____

Exemptions/waivers may exist. Speak with an academic advisor regarding placement in college readiness courses and your ability to enroll in core academic coursework.

SEMESTER BY SEMESTER MAP FOR FULL-TIME STUDENTS

D	C2	C1	SEMESTER 1	ACTION ITEMS
◆	◆	◆	LEAD 1200- Workforce Development with Critical Thinking	<input type="checkbox"/> Meet with your advisor to confirm academic and career goals before the end of the semester. <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with a career advisor or instructor to research your career options.
◆	◆	◆	HMSY 1337- Introduction to Homeland Security	
◆	◆	◆	HMSY 1471- Border Protection and Transportation Security	
◆	◆	◆	HMSY 1491- Special Topics Fundamentals of Homeland Security Law	
◆	◆	◆	CJLE 1327 - Interviewing and Report Writing for Criminal Justice Professions	
TOTAL SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS: 16				
D	C2		SEMESTER 2	ACTION ITEMS
◆	◆		HMSY 1340 - Homeland Security Intelligence Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Meet with your advisor to file and official degree plan, confirm or update your academic/career path and program of study.
◆	◆		HMSY 2306 - Organized Crime and Terrorism	
◆	◆		ITSY 1300 - Fundamentals of Information Security	
◆	◆		GISC 1491 - Special Topics: Drone Fundamentals	
◆	◆		CJSA 1342- Criminal Investigations	
TOTAL SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS: 16				
D			SEMESTER 3	ACTION ITEMS
◆			EMAP - Principles of Basic Emergency Management	<input type="checkbox"/> Meet with a career advisor or instructor to research your career options.
◆			HMSY 1341 - Critical Infrastructure Protection	
◆			EMAP 2302 - Managing Mass Casualty and Fatality Incidents	
◆			HMSY 2337 - Managing a Unified Incident Command	
TOTAL SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS: 13				
D			SEMESTER 4	ACTION ITEMS
◆			MATH 1324 - Mathematics for Business & Social Sciences	After reviewing your degree plan and program of study apply for graduation. <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with your advisor to apply for the AAS in Homeland Security Studies.
◆			LPC X3XX - Any Language Philosophy, and Culture	
◆			PSYC X3XX - Any Social Behavioral Science	
◆			ENGL 1301 - Composition I	
◆			PHYS 1315 - Physical Science I	
TOTAL SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS: 15				
AAS DEGREE MINIMUM: 60 SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS/PATHWAY TOTAL: 60 SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS				

Career Information

Common Job Titles

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), U.S. Border Patrol, Customs and Border Protection, Homeland Security Investigations, Intelligence Analyst, or any of the multiple administrative support positions within DHS

Regional Labor Market Information

The two largest employers within DHS are the U.S. Border Patrol and Customs and Border Protection. Border Patrol jobs have a standard starting salary between \$49,508 to \$55,214 per year. Border Patrol Agent is a career ladder position with a grade level progression of GL-7, GL-9, GS-11, and GS-12. You will be eligible for a promotion to the next higher-grade level (without re-applying) once you successfully complete one year in each grade level, with supervisor approval. For example, if you started as a BPA in June 2021 you could:

- Start as a BPA in June 2021 as a GL-7 and make \$49,508 - \$78,269 per year
- Be promoted in June 2022 to GL-9 and make \$55,214 - \$89,054 per year
- Be promoted in June 2023 to GS-11 and make \$64,649 - \$105,061 per year
- Be promoted in June 2024 to GS-12 and make \$77,488 - \$125,924 per year

<https://www.cbp.gov/careers/usbp-pay-and-benefits#CompPay>

Customs and Border Protection Officers have a standard starting salary between \$35,265 to \$53,433 per year.

CBP Officer is a career ladder position with a grade level progression of GS-5, GS-7, GS-9, GS-11, and GS-12. You will be eligible for a promotion to the next higher grade level (without re-applying) once you successfully complete one year in each grade level, with supervisor approval. For example if you started as a CBP Officer in June 2021 you could:

- Start as a CBPO in June 2021 as a GS-5 and make \$35,265 - \$80,265 per year
- Be promoted in June 2022 to GS-7 and make \$43,683 - \$88,683 per year
- Be promoted in June 2023 to GS-9 and make \$53,433 - \$98,433 per year
- Be promoted in June 2024 to GS-11 and make \$64,649 - \$109,649 per year
- Be promoted in June 2025 to GS-12 and make \$77,488 - \$122,488 per year

<https://www.cbp.gov/careers/cbpo-pay-and-benefits#CompPay>

Career and Labor Market Research Tools

Bureau of Labor Statistics: <https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2006/summer/art01.pdf>

Career Resources: Laredo College career services website provides information on career exploration and employment at http://www.laredo.edu/cms/LCC/Student_Services/Student_Success_Center/Employment_Assistance_Service/Career_Preparation/. Students are encouraged to consult with their area of study advisor for additional career assistance. The above information is provided as a guide and reference tool for occupations related to this program. This is not a guarantee of job placement in any of these occupations after successful completion of an LC program. The common job titles listed are representative titles and are provided for career research. These are not the only occupations possible in this area of study.

Transfer Information

The Associate of Applied Science in Homeland Security Studies prepares students to directly enter the workforce; however, a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences (BAAS) or Bachelor of Science (BS) is an excellent alternative to complete (or exceed minimal standards of) the educational requirement for some positions within the Department of Homeland Security. You still must meet general education requirements and take upper level courses.

Transfer Guides: Transfer course evaluations and determination of which courses will count toward a Bachelor's degree are made by the receiving transfer institution. Due to the fact that the Homeland Security Studies Program is in the beginning stages of offering, no current colleges or universities have entered into agreements to accept completed coursework at a higher level. This will be a focus for the program as it continues to grow and develop.

Additional Transfer Resources: Laredo College transfer website provides information on additional colleges & universities: http://www.laredo.edu/cms/LCC/Student_Services/Student_Success_Center/Student_Success_Center_2018/Academic_Advising/WP2018_-_Transfer_Resources/. Students are encouraged to consult with a faculty advisor, area of study advisor, and/or their chosen transfer institution to ensure courses taken at LC will apply toward their bachelor's degree program.