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Center for Homeland Defense and Security

Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California

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# Undergraduate Model Curriculum Conference for Homeland Security Held at CHDS

 [chds.us/c/item/581](http://chds.us/c/item/581)

The Center for Homeland Defense and Security recently hosted the Undergraduate Model Curriculum Conference in Monterey, Calif. The conference gathered together scholars from across the country to debate the requirements for future undergraduate homeland security programs. The event was attended by 26 academics representing institutions from around the nation, as well as the DHS Chief Learning Officer and the Policy Director from the Emergency Management Institute. Attendees were carefully selected based upon their experience in homeland security education and their success in developing individual programs and curriculum.



The two-day conference featured a variety of presentations and group discussions aimed at identifying and developing the curriculum and core competencies of those offering homeland security degree programs. Once attendees were briefed, a series of recommended curricular focus areas were determined, and then further articulated by working groups. Also in attendance were the Executive Director of the Homeland Security/Defense Education Consortium Association (HSDECA), and Jim Ramsay, the organization's chief of accreditation. They informed the group of the standards HSDECA intends to use in its accreditation efforts.

Ramsay described the importance of the conference saying, "The model curriculum conference recently held at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey was a wild success. It brought homeland security academics together from around the nation in an attempt to elucidate a model curriculum for undergraduate degrees in homeland security. The participants offered up a plethora of opinions surrounding what should and should not be covered at the undergraduate level. The networking and professional interactions were amazing. Broadening and sharpening the view of what constitutes homeland security education is essential to our nation's security. The Center's UAPI program is the only venue in the country that is facilitating this essential service. Last, the effort concluded with several participants agreeing to work on research projects and I'm sure that several programs around the country will be dramatically improved by virtue of this conference".

Stan Supinski, the CHDS Director of Partnership Programs, hosted the conference. He stated that "our community has had curriculum recommendations to work with at the graduate level since a similar effort was conducted in 2005. The number of institutions now offering degrees and certificates at the undergraduate level has grown significantly, and this product should be very valuable for those just starting a program looking to better target the homeland

security workforce."

The outcome of the conference is concrete curricular recommendations that will serve as a guide and assist in the establishment and improvement of undergraduate homeland security academic programs. The recommendations will be posted to the CHDS website and distributed through the University and Agency Partnership Forums in the coming weeks.

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