Graduate Certificate in Terrorism Analysis
Virtual Information Packet

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Contents

About START................................................................................................................................. 1
About The Program ....................................................................................................................... 2
The Students................................................................................................................................. 3
Courses .......................................................................................................................................... 2
   Core Courses ............................................................................................................................ 2
   Research Methods Courses ...................................................................................................... 2
   Elective Courses ....................................................................................................................... 3
   Course Instructors .................................................................................................................... 3
Tuition and Fees ............................................................................................................................. 4
   Financial Aid .............................................................................................................................. 4
University of Maryland Library & Career Services ..................................................................... 5
   Library ......................................................................................................................................... 5
   Career Center ............................................................................................................................ 5
Attending & Accessing Classes ..................................................................................................... 6
Frequently Asked Questions ......................................................................................................... 7
   Can I transfer credit into the program? ........................................................................................ 7
   Can I transfer credits from this program to another program? .................................................... 7
   Will I ever need to come to campus? .......................................................................................... 7
   Can I take a term off once I’m admitted to the program? .......................................................... 7
   I’ve been admitted for a particular term, can I defer my entry to a later date? .......................... 7
   Will I need any special equipment to participate in the certificate? ........................................... 7
About START

The National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism—better known as START—is a university-based research and education center comprised of an international network of scholars committed to the scientific study of the causes and human consequences of terrorism in the United States and around the world.

In addition to the Graduate Certificate in Terrorism Analysis START seeks to transition our research findings to policy makers, researchers, practitioners and student around the world via a comprehensive suite of written materials, online tools, databases, education programs and training options.

Education & Training

START is an investment in the human capital of the homeland security enterprise. We bring cutting-edge research into undergraduate, graduate and professional classrooms, and we incorporate students of all levels into our real-world, policy-relevant research agenda.¹

Data & Analysis

One of START’s unique contributions to the national security enterprise is our creation and dissemination of objective data and tools. These factual baselines provide a scientific foundation for knowledge building and formulating sound counterterrorism policy and practice.²

Policy & Practice

Real-world problems rarely fit within any one academic discipline and cannot be addressed without insight from the field. START leverages multidisciplinary expertise and practitioner input to be of use in the real-world.³

For more information, contact START at info@start.umd.edu or visit www.start.umd.edu.

¹ Source: www.start.umd.edu
² Source: www.start.umd.edu
³ Source: www.start.umd.edu
About The Program

The University of Maryland’s Graduate Certificate in Terrorism Analysis is offered through the College of Behavioral and Social and Sciences (BSOS) and reflects the expertise and experience of faculty researchers throughout the nearly 50-institution network of the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START).

Drawing on the consortium’s robust research agenda and close links to national and homeland security policy makers, the program provides participants with advanced education on the causes, dynamics, and impacts of international and domestic terrorism. Participants also develop the methodological skills necessary to pursue advanced research on and analysis of terrorism.

In order to complete the program participants must complete four (4) graduate courses including two (2) core courses students, one research methods course and one elective. The four courses constitute a total of 12 graduate level credits. The program format is online and synchronous, with courses scheduled after 5:30pm EST or on weekends; each class is 2.5 hours long. These courses follow a standard Fall or Spring academic semester of 15 weeks. There is no residency requirement to complete the program, and the program can be completed in one calendar year.
The Students

In order to gain admission students must have earned a four-year baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited U.S. institution or an equivalent degree at a foreign university. A 3.0 GPA is preferred, although students may substitute professional experience for a lower GPA.

Because the program is aimed at both academicians and practitioners, classmates come from varied backgrounds and professions and bring a variety of perspectives to class discussions. Past students have held affiliations with the following institutions, among others:

![Affiliations of Past Students]
Courses

Program participants must complete four (4) graduate level courses in the program to receive their certificate. In addition to completing the two (2) core courses, students must also complete one (1) elective and one (1) research methods course. The core courses, elective and research methods options are listed below. All program courses are online and synchronous. Classes are scheduled to meet after 5:30pm EST or on weekends and will be 2.5 hours long. These courses follow a standard Fall or Spring academic semester of 15 weeks.

Core Courses

To successfully graduate from the program, all participants receive a grade B or better in both core courses.

**BSST630: Terrorist Motivations and Behaviors**
Offered during Fall semesters (August-December)

This course will provide an introduction to the study of terrorism, focusing on explaining the formation of terrorist groups and the motivations behind terrorist behavior. To do so, it will draw upon theories from social psychology, sociology, political science, criminology and history. The course will draw heavily from historical examples as well as current examples of international and domestic terrorist groups around the world.

**BSST631: Societal Impacts of and Responses to Terrorism**
Offered during Spring semesters (January-May)

This course will address how a variety of actors respond to both terrorist incidents and the threat of terrorism. The course will examine local responses to terrorist incidents (9/11 and other events) through emergency response organizations, community organizations and volunteerism. The course will also look at local impacts of terrorism including effects on individual and group attitudes and behaviors. The course will then move to policy decisions made in response to both terrorist attacks and the threat of terrorism, addressing such issues as homeland security planning, border security and surveillance. Finally, the course will address individual and community recovery from terrorist attacks, looking at such issues as psychological impacts of trauma, historical memory and effects of disaster on civil society. The goal of the course will be to develop a multifaceted perspective on individual and community resilience in the face of terrorist threats.

Research Methods Courses

Students must choose either BSST636 or BSST637.

**BSST636: Quantitative Research Methods in Terrorism Studies**
Offered during Spring semesters (January-May)

This course introduces students to probability, statistics and data analysis, particularly with respect to how they are used in the study of terrorism. The course provides a foundation in quantitative analysis that will enable students to critically evaluate extant quantitative research and manipulate their own data. It will also prepare interested students for more advanced statistics training.

**BSST637: Qualitative Research Methods in Terrorism Studies**
Offered during Spring semesters (January-May)
This course covers research design and qualitative methods using a hands-on approach. The course considers general themes such as the logic of inquiry, the appropriateness of qualitative approaches, as well as more specific topics such as process tracing and archival research. It also provides students with the opportunity to learn and apply different tools for social science research. The primary goals of the course are to: 1) formulate a proper research question in terrorism/counter-terrorism studies 2) present the appropriate qualitative research design to tackle the formulated question 3) introduce problems/ issues one faces in terrorism research such as bias and causal complexity, and 4) cultivate a set of qualitative skills in order to analyze terrorism. By the end of the semester, students will have a better understanding of the qualitative research methods needed to answer important questions related to terrorism and counterterrorism.

Elective Courses
Students may choose one (1) from the list here. (Other electives must be approved by the Director of the Graduate Certificate Program.)

**BSST634: Legal and Criminal Approaches to Counterterrorism**
Offered during Fall semesters (August-December)

The United States and many of her allies have challenged long-standing legal boundaries in their effort to combat terrorism. This course examines these responses, including: increased criminalization of terrorism-related activities; aggressive criminal prosecutions; detention of suspected terrorists indefinitely in far-off prisons; implementation of enhanced interrogation techniques; launch of drones to kill alleged terrorists, even U.S. citizens; and deployment of a vast system of mass surveillance.

**BSST635: Countering Violent Extremism: Policy and Practice**
Offered during Fall semesters (August-December)

In recent years, the understanding of how and why individuals engage in violent extremism and terrorism has evolved and become more nuanced, as have the tools to mitigate these threats. A field of policy and practice called Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) has emerged that focuses on countering the pull of terrorist recruitment and influence by building resilience among populations vulnerable to radicalization.

**Course Instructors**
Course instructors are often drawn from the cadre of researchers and subject matter experts in the START consortium and the wider network. Sometimes instructors change from one semester to the next, but it is always our top priority to ensure teaching staff are of the highest quality. All instructors will have a PhD in a field related to the topic area. While many instructors are researchers and academics, others may have experience in government or the military.
**Tuition and Fees**

Tuition and fees for the program are the same for in-state, out-of-state, and international students.

Tuition = $2100 per course, $2100 x four courses = $8400

Mandatory Fees (which cover a technology fee levied by UMD to all on-line students) vary from between $60 to $100 per semester.

The total approximate cost of tuition plus fees = $8600-8800.

Students should also be aware that they are responsible for purchasing their own books, software and hardware. START will not provide items such as headsets. START does not have a lending library for course books or articles, although these publications may be available in the University of Maryland library.

**Financial Aid**

In general, there is very little financial aid available to part-time graduate students, which is the default status for students in the Terrorism Analysis program. If a student will be enrolled in at least six credits simultaneously, either here at the University of Maryland or at another university, it may be possible to apply for financial aid. For more information, contact the UMD Financial Aid Office, by telephone: 301-314-8377; by e-mail: umfinaid@umd.edu; or online: [http://www.financialaid.umd.edu/](http://www.financialaid.umd.edu/).

Students requesting any sort of financial aid will need to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

Some former students have received employer-provided tuition assistance. This benefit is accessed through the employer, and any details are worked out directly with the employer.


START staff members are not financial aid officers and are therefore unable to provide students with financial advising.
University of Maryland Library & Career Services

Library
University of Maryland students have access to the University's library services. The University has eight libraries on campus and one off-campus at Shady Grove. In addition to these physical library facilities, students have access to the Research Portal and online library services. Students may access listings of the university's book holdings as well as gain access to the University's online resources, such as digital books and online journal articles, through the Research Portal and online library catalogue. The Research Portal may be accessed at the following link: http://researchport.umd.edu. Students are prompted to enter their Directory ID and password upon entering the portal.

Students may access assistance with the University of Maryland library services, including the Research Portal, in a variety of ways including walk-in queries or initiating an online chat. Please visit: http://www.lib.umd.edu/help.html or telephone 301-405-0800 for more information.

Career Center
Students have access to UMD's Career Services Center both while a student and as an alumni. Resources include vacancy databases and other tools that may help navigate career moves and provide options. In addition to many online resources, every year in September the Career Center hosts the annual career fair with over two hundred employers. All students are granted access to the career fair and may schedule on-campus interviews. These resources will remain available after completion of the program.
Attending & Accessing Classes

Classes are scheduled to take place after 5:30pm EST or on weekends and will be 2.5 hours long. These courses follow a standard Fall or Spring academic semester of 15 weeks.

The course format is synchronous and online, which means students will meet in an online classroom at the specified time each week and interact live with their classmates, teaching assistant and instructor.

Classes are conducted via a special version of WebEx that is especially configured for hosting online courses. Students access course information, communicate with instructors, submit assignments and engage in online discussions via the University of Maryland online ELMS system.

Because of the online nature of the program, students will need access to a computer, an internet connection, headset (with headphones and microphone).
Frequently Asked Questions

Can I transfer credit into the program?
No

Can I transfer credits from this program to another program?
Different programs and institutions have different regulations and policies governing the transfer of credit. In order to determine if you can transfer credits from this program to another you should contact that programs administrators.

Will I ever need to come to campus?
No, the program is designed to allow you to complete the courses entirely online. There is no residency requirement.

Can I take a term off once I’m admitted to the program?
If you wish to sit out a term rather than taking the courses one after another, you should notify your graduate advisor before the classes start via email. You will also need to complete and turn in an original copy of the “Petition for Waiver of Regulation” form to your advisor so that we can route it through the appropriate channels to ensure there are no problems when you decide to come back to the program. The form can be accessed through the UMD Graduate School website or via this direct link: http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/images/uploads/Petition_for_Waiver_of_Regulations_Form.pdf.

If you do take a term off, it then becomes your responsibility to notify your advisor when you wish to restart your coursework. Please note that the “Petition for Waiver of Regulation” form is only good for one semester, so should you need to take off for more than a full academic semester you will need to complete the form again. You will only be permitted to take two terms off once you start the program.

I’ve been admitted for a particular term, can I defer my entry to a later date?
You may defer your entry into the program for one semester. In order to defer your entry to the program you should email your advisor as soon as you receive confirmation of your acceptance into the program. Once we have received your request we will work with you and the Graduate School to have your admission to the program rolled forward to a new term. Please be aware that you can only roll your entry into the program forward once, after which your admission to the program becomes void and you will have to reapply.

Will I need any special equipment to participate in the certificate?
You will need a computer with reliable internet access and the specifications detailed here, https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10721, and a headset with headphones and a microphone.