



WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Emergency Management

Department of Health Sciences, College of Education & Human Services

Program of Study

The Department of Health Sciences at Western Illinois University offers a Bachelor of Science degree in Emergency Management on the Macomb campus. The Emergency Management degree program has a threefold design. First, the program educates students regarding disaster response or emergency management coordination activities. Second, students learn how to prepare emergency plans and procedures for natural and technological disasters and bioterrorism situations. Finally, it helps to develop effective networking/communicating skills for addressing different natural and technological disasters. This program provides students with the skills and knowledge to be able to work in the area of emergency management, including public and private settings; volunteer organizations; corporate settings; international agencies; and local, state, and federal government agencies.

Degree Requirements

The minimum requirement for the baccalaureate degree is 120 semester hours (SH). All students seeking the Bachelor of Science in Emergency Management must complete the following:

- I. University General Education Curriculum: 43 SH
- II. Core Courses: 30-33 SH
- III. Directed Electives: 12 SH
- IV. Approved Minor: 23-26 SH

Majors must complete their training with a 9 SH professional internship.

Scholarships

The department offers four scholarships for students majoring in a Health Sciences degree. The scholarships are named after distinguished former faculty members in the department: (1) the Willis and Rosemary Zorn Scholarship; (2) the W. I. Taylor Memorial Scholarship; (3) the V. F. Lowell Award; and (4) the John H. and Mary M. Leach Scholarship, which is awarded in even years to an incoming freshman. Detailed information on these scholarships can be found on the department website at wiu.edu/health/uscholar.html.

Career Opportunities

Career opportunities in the field of emergency management are diverse. They consist of the public sector (e.g., local, state, or federal government), volunteer organizations (e.g., the American Red Cross), international organizations (e.g., United Nations, World Health Organization, and Organization of American States), humanitarian or relief agencies, business and industry, and consulting.

Emergency Management graduates will respond in disasters and coordinate emergency management activities. They prepare emergency plans and procedures for natural disasters (e.g., tornadoes, floods, earthquakes, and hurricanes), technological disasters (e.g., hazardous materials spills and nuclear power plant emergencies), and bioterrorism situations. They will also communicate/network with different public and private sectors, voluntary agencies, and community-based organizations in responding or planning emergency management activities.

HIGHER VALUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

The employment outlook for Emergency Management graduates is strong. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the demand for emergency management specialists will significantly exceed the number of potential employees available over the next ten years. This is a faster than average growth in comparison to all other occupations.

Faculty Expertise

Twelve faculty members who hold advanced degrees from 25 universities across the United States provide course instruction and research mentoring. Efforts are made to provide a faculty mentor who matches each student's interests. Faculty have expertise in emergency preparedness; bioterrorism; health behavior theory; environmental health; program evaluation; risk assessment; needs assessment; community development; women's health; sexuality education; alcohol and drug prevention; health risk appraisal; diabetes education; geriatric health; eating disorders; and spiritual, emotional, multicultural, and occupational health.



Student Organizations

Eta Sigma Gamma is the National Professional Health Education Honorary for students seeking a major or minor in a health education discipline. Pi Chapter has been honored four times by the Eta Sigma Gamma national office as the outstanding national chapter. Five Pi Chapter students received national Gamman of the Year honors.

The Gamman Club exists for students who are not majoring or minoring in a health discipline but who have an interest in health. Members of the Gamman Club participate in a variety of Pi Chapter events.

For More Information

For more information, call the Department of Health Sciences chair at (309) 298-1076. To enroll in the Emergency Management program, contact Mrs. Stacy Dorsett by calling (309) 298-1438 or by e-mailing SE-Dorsett@wiu.edu.

The department also welcomes visitors. If you would like to talk to the chair or faculty members in person, feel free to give the department a call to set up an appointment!

Distinctive Features

Departmental faculty members have served in leadership positions in such organizations as the American Public Health Association, the American School Health Association, Society for Public Health Education, American Association for Health Education, National Safety Council, and the Illinois Sex Education Task Force. This focus on professional preparation and strong commitment to serving students enables the department to provide a rich breadth of courses and research opportunities leading to the comprehensive and thorough training of its graduates.

Students have also collaborated with faculty in research studies involving such areas as disaster planning for the homeless, drug knowledge and awareness among young adults, sleep patterns of undergraduate students, methamphetamine surveillance, binge drinking on college campuses, and the impact of bullying in primary and secondary schools. These research endeavors also provide students with opportunities to make paper presentations at state and national health education conferences as well as to coauthor peer-reviewed publications in leading journals.

Campus Visits

The Admissions Reception Center (Sherman Hall 115) is open most weekdays from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM when the University is in session. Group information sessions are available at 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM, and campus tours are conducted at 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM daily. Individual appointments with an admissions counselor, advisers/faculty, or a financial aid adviser may be arranged during the week. The Admissions Reception Center is open from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM most Saturdays when the University is in session. A group information session is available at 10:00 AM, and a campus tour is conducted at 11:00 AM. An individual appointment with an admissions counselor may be arranged. You may schedule your visit or tour online at admissions.wiu.edu by selecting "Visit Campus." You may also schedule a visit, tour, or individual appointment by calling toll free (877) PICKWIU [742-5948] or (309) 298-3157, or by e-mailing admissions@wiu.edu.

wiu.edu/health

Department of Health Sciences

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