

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/DISASTER RELIEF

What can I do with this major?

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/DISASTER RELIEF

Disaster mitigation planning
Procedure/Policy development
Emergency preparation
Preparedness training
Response
Mitigation and recovery
Crisis management
Evaluation/Assessment
Emergency field coordination
Inspection
Building and facility inspection
Fundraising/Grant writing
Volunteer coordination
Homeland Security
Consultation
Teaching

Local and state government:
Law enforcement
Federal government:
Department of Homeland Security
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Military
Peace Corps
Educational institutions:
Universities and colleges
Healthcare organizations:
Hospitals
Public health organizations
Port authorities and airports
Community relief organizations:
American Red Cross
International Red Cross
CARE
International organizations:
World Health Organization (WHO)
United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF)
United Nations Development Programme
World Bank
Private businesses

There is not one clear path for working in emergency management. A wide variety of programs exist, including undergraduate and graduate degree options. It is important to research programs fully to find the best fit.

Typically, a bachelors degree is required to secure an entry-level position. Consider majors in public administration, environmental science, political science, sociology, and business if not enrolled in an emergency management program.

Certificate programs are also available to students who seek a shorter program focused on career development or knowledge of a specific discipline. Many certificate programs are available online to specialize in bioterrorism preparedness, disaster preparedness, or homeland security.

The field of emergency management and disaster relief overlap with varied career areas such as law enforcement, nursing, and social work. Consider related occupations and explore all your options.

Emergency management is a competitive field and related work experience is essential. Consider obtaining EMT training and certification or work in a healthcare related field.

Volunteer with your local emergency management or disaster relief organization. Seek training with your local American Red Cross (ARC) chapter.

Gain experience through internships.

Develop strong communication, teamwork, and leadership skills. Learn to handle stress.

Keep up to date with current issues of concern for emergency management professionals.

AREAS

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/DISASTER RELIEF
CONTINUED

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

Join a professional association such as the National Emergency Management Association or the International Association of Emergency Managers.

Be proactive when job searching. Emergency management positions can be difficult to find and are not always called emergency management.

Many employers, especially in the public sector, require certification in the National Incident Management System. Courses to get certified can be taken online.

Learn about government application processes. Contact your campus career center for assistance.

Emergency management can be good preparation for graduate study in public administration, international affairs, management, and homeland security.