

Masters of Professional Studies in Security & Intelligence Studies
College of Professional Studies

October 20, 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The College of Professional Studies (CPS) proposes to develop a Master of Arts in Security & Intelligence Studies (MA SIS) to prepare professionals working in the security industry, and other related industries, for success as leaders in the field of security in an ever-changing, challenging global environment.

As a field, security studies understands that preparation and response to security threats requires an integrated interdisciplinary approach to be successful. The proposed MA SIS sets out to offer a world-class educational experience focused on a multi-disciplinary (security, diplomacy, law, politics, and Constitutional rights and policies) program designed to prepare CPS security students for leadership positions in security-related fields that involve analysis, investigation, planning, research, evaluation of intelligence and policy matters. A core set of required courses will be the central focus to ensure students appreciate the whole-of-government approach coupled with the important role the private sector plays in the security industry.

The program seeks to bring together and train students in those competencies and skills that are most critical for success in the security field. A unique component of the MA SIS is the intentional focus on national security law and policy, civil liberties and the importance of a robust civil society. Although other university programs touch upon some of the proposed MA SIS curriculum, none address it in the scope and manner envisioned in the MA SIS.

ALIGNMENT WITH UNIVERSITY MISSION

The University seeks to provide opportunities for applied learning for working professionals. This program is designed for students seeking careers in the security field, as well as professionals whose employers are charged with the acquisition and interpretation of information and intelligence.

The proposed change upholds the core values of the Northeastern 2025 Academic Plan as well as the strategic plan for the College of Professional Studies 2018-2025. Northeastern 2025 aims to empower students to be responsive, innovative learners able and ready to adapt to uncharted technological, social and economic developments. This program embraces those competencies and will strive to develop the next generation of security leaders.

PROGRAM DIFFERENTIATION AND ENROLLMENT FORECAST

In May 2021, Hanover Research produced a market analysis report (available upon request) focused on the security field on behalf of CPS. Several key findings were of note:

- A recommendation to consolidate the two existing graduate degree offerings (MA in Homeland Security (MS HLS), and MA in Strategic Intelligence & Analysis (MS SIA)) into a new, broader offering.
- Both student and labor demand indicators related to security studies suggest strong demand for such a program.
- Master's degree conferrals in the security field grew faster than average in the United States.
- The security sector is large and expected to grow with the on-going post COVID public and private sector re-openings.

What sets this proposal apart from others is the emphasis embedded throughout the proposed curriculum on national security law, national security policy, civil liberties and the role of civil society in a functioning democracy as well as a whole of government approach to assuring security.

A key component which sets the proposed MA SIS apart from competitors is the unique three-track option for students to concentrate their studies: Strategic Intelligence & Analysis, Homeland Security & Emergency Management, and Corporate Security Management. Each track will require five track-specific courses and completion of the Capstone course, for a total of 18 credit hours.

We anticipate that the MPS in Security and Intelligence Studies program will yield incremental enrollments over and above existing enrollments currently generated by the MS in Homeland Security and MS in Security Intelligence programs. The proposed program yields positive incremental contribution in year 1; total projected incremental contribution over four years is \$1.8M.

RESOURCES TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAM

No new/additional faculty are anticipated to initiate this proposal. Once the proposed Corporate Security Management track reaches target enrollment goals, the program may seek to hire one additional part-time faculty member to teach within the MA SIS focusing on corporate security.

This program will require support from marketing and enrollment management.