

USC SCHOOL	Bovard College
ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT	
GRADUATE PROGRAM	Master of Science in Emergency Management
POST CODE	1867
TERM EFFECTIVE DATE	Spring 2026

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A brief description of the graduate program.

The Master of Science in Emergency Management program prepares professionals to take emergency management leadership roles in organizations within the private and public sectors. Through courses in critical infrastructure, disaster planning, and operational coordination, students will develop strategic, tactical, and decision-making skills that address all phases of emergencies at the local, state, and federal levels.

Students will learn to navigate and collaborate across complex and interdependent governmental, non-profit, and business organizations and systems that are crucial to protecting communities from natural and human-made hazards and emergencies. Current topics such as climate change, public health emergencies, and complex cross-border disasters will be examined.

Throughout the program, students will have the opportunity to develop strategies that help communities build resilience and mitigate the disproportionate effects of disasters on socially and economically diverse populations.

COMMON BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAM PATHWAYS

A list of common bachelor's degrees that undergraduate students pursue in advance of pursuing a progressive degree option with this graduate program. Some programs are restricted to certain majors while others are open to all students.

Open to all majors.

PREPARATORY UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

A list of courses at the undergraduate level that prepare students for the graduate program. Required coursework is listed first, followed by recommended courses. If not applicable, this section will be blank.

Dept. Prefix - Course #	Course Title	Required or Recommended	Units
	NONE		

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES USED TO REDUCE GRADUATE LEVEL UNITS

A list of undergraduate level courses that may be used to reduce the number of graduate level units required for the graduate program. If there are none, that is specified instead.

Dept. Prefix - Course #	Course Title	Units
	NONE	

CORE GRADUATE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (# units required)

A list of all required graduate courses for the graduate program. None of these courses may be used toward satisfying undergraduate degree requirements.

If special exceptions for any of these courses are made by the academic department, the course # is marked with an asterisk () and the exception is explained in the "Department Notes" section at the end of this course plan template.*

Dept. Prefix - Course #	Course Title	Units
EM 500	Principles of Emergency Management	2
EM 505	Emergency Management Policies and Regulations	2
EM 510	Social and Cultural Competency in Emergency Management	2
EM 515	Emergency Management Administration	2
EM 520	Critical Decision-Making in Emergency Management	2
EM 525	Emergency Management and Disaster Planning	2
EM 530	Operational Coordination in Emergency Management	2
EM 535	Critical Infrastructure in Emergency Management	2
EM 540	Emergency Management Communication	2
EM 545	Driving Successful Outcomes in Emergency Management	2
EM 550	Equity and Resilience in Emergency Management	2
EM 555	Emergency Management Capstone	2

PRE-APPROVED ELECTIVE COURSEWORK

Elective coursework is approved at the discretion of the academic department. Note the following details about the total number and units required of elective coursework.

TOTAL ELECTIVE COURSES REQUIRED FOR THE TRADITIONAL GRADUATE DEGREE

TOTAL ELECTIVE UNITS REQUIRED FOR THE TRADITIONAL GRADUATE DEGREE
TOTAL UNIT COUNTS AND REQUIRED GRADUATE UNITS

TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED FOR THE TRADITIONAL GRADUATE DEGREE

TOTAL GRADUATE UNITS THAT MAY BE WAIVED (IF ANY)

MINIMUM NUMBER OF GRADUATE UNITS THAT MUST BE AT THE 500 LEVEL OR ABOVE

NOTES FROM THE DEPARTMENT

This section highlights any unique considerations, exceptions, or requirements for the graduate program. If a program has specific restrictions (courses, majors, etc.), they are detailed below.

- Students must complete all 24 units of the MSEM program. This is because our program is streamlined and does not have any electives.
- You may take between one course (2 units) per term and four courses (8 units) per term.
- Our program is year-round and therefore you may start in either Spring, Summer, or Fall semester. Please contact pdp@bovardcollege.usc.edu for application dates and deadlines.
- Note that our academic calendar dates differ slightly from the traditional USC calendar.
- All coursework is taught online. There is a 60-minute live Zoom class each week as well as asynchronous work through Canvas.
- Because this program is taught fully online, we are unfortunately unable to accept students who require an F-1 visa.

Name of Authorizing Master's Program Dean**Date Approved**

Anthony Bailey

3/12/2026

Authorizing Dean's Title

Dean, USC Bovard College & Vice President for Global and Online Initiatives