**Disaster Science and Management**

**PhD and MS programs**

**Permanent Status Program Review**

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**Objectives, Strengths, and Weaknesses**

*1.      Does the major/program meet its originally stated goals and objectives?*

The graduate course of study offering MS (thesis and non-thesis) and PhD degrees in Disaster Science and Management Program was approved with provisional status as an interdisciplinary course of study in 2009, linking Disaster Research Center faculty and students with colleagues and opportunities across campus.

The stated goals of this program are to provide a, “unique interdisciplinary graduate course of study covering the theories, research methodologies, and policies informing efforts focused on emergency preparedness, mitigation, management, and response”. The program meets these goals through a course of study including three core courses, research methods/analysis, public policy/ organizational decision-making, seminar, practicum, thesis, and electives for a total of 30 credits for the MS degree. For the PhD degree, 42 additional credits are specified in an individual plan of study including research, dissertation, and coursework in six thematic areas of interest.

Through the thematic areas of interest, PhD degree requirements meet the goal of an interdisciplinary course of study since the course listing includes a broad selection from various colleges across the university. The MS degree requirements are inherently more limited, including courses primarily from DISA and UAPP, but include elective course offerings available to PhD students.

*2.      Is the major/program compatible with the Academic Priorities of the University?*

The Disaster Science and Management MS and PhD Programs support the priorities of the University to become a premier research and graduate institution, to achieve excellence in professional education across disciplines, and to be engaged with partners in government and business at local, state and national levels.

*3.      What are the strengths and weaknesses of this major/program?*

Strengths:

This is an interdisciplinary program providing needed expertise and professionals for the field of disaster science and management.

Established track record of success (9 PhDs and 18 MS students graduated since 2010)

Weaknesses:

While the “academic home” for this program is UAPP, interested faculty affiliates span all Colleges but are not currently integrated as instructors or advisors. Particular needs to increase expertise and opportunities for students in technical areas such as engineering, agriculture, ecology, and public health to provide academic support and mentoring for science-based thematic areas.

**Impact and Demand**

1. *Describe any significant impact the proposed curricula might have on other instructional, research, or service programs of the University.*

This program includes courses and affiliates from across the University, and has the potential to enhance the research and educational opportunities available through a wider pool of grants and collaborative partners. Courses have been taken as electives by outside students.

1. *Are the admissions requirements for this major/program clearly stated and fairly implemented?*

Yes, the admissions requirements and processes are clear.

1. *Is there sufficient demand for this major/program to warrant granting it permanent status? Are enrollments strong?*

Yes, 9 PhDs and 18 MS students have graduated since 2010. Current enrollment is 27.

1. *Do the students in the major/program receive appropriate advising and mentoring?*

PhD students are accepted based on advisor interest match and funding. Students develop a plan of study with their advisor that is reviewed and approved by their Program Committee.

Students have also had opportunities for mentorship and networking beyond the University through participation in a student chapter of the International Association of Emergency Managers, presentations at national conferences, and field experience as researchers and volunteers.

1. *Does the major/program require additional student expenses beyond the traditional books and supplies, such that additional need for financial aid can be expected?*

No, however there is an unpaid (3 credit for non-thesis MS, 0 credit for thesis MS) summer internship requirement that could limit a student’s ability to work and/or pay for tuition.

1. *Does the program have the support of departmental and affiliated faculty?*

Yes, the proposal includes letters of support from within the department as well as across Colleges.

1. *Are resources available to support and maintain the program/major?*

Yes, the proposal includes letters of support from the library and identifies governmental and nonprofit grant and internship opportunities.

**Evaluation**

1. *Does the major/program address any of the ten goals of General Education at the University (question for undergraduate programs only)?*

Not applicable

1. *Has the major/program clearly delineated the knowledge, values, skills, and other learning outcomes that their graduates will be expected to have acquired?*

Yes, five overall goals are clearly described as well as knowledge specific goals for each thematic area.

1. *Has the major/program implemented a plan to evaluate and assess the learning outcomes of its students?*

Yes, direct and indirect measures of student outcomes for MS (thesis and non-thesis) and PhD graduate programs are embedded in each step of the courses of study, and are outlined in the assessment plan provided by the proposal.

1. *Please comment on completion and job placement of students who completed the program/major.*

Program completion has been high with only 4% withdrawing since 2010. Six out of nine PhD graduates have obtained positions in academia. One third of MS graduates have continued to graduate school, and a quarter are working in either nonprofit or governmental emergency management positions.

**Additional Comments**

Please add any observations or comments you may have about this major/program.