



AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

SHAPE GLOBAL POLICY

CAREERS IN COUNTER TERRORISM
AND HOMELAND SECURITY

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PROTECTING WHAT'S IMPORTANT

A Field That's Changing with the Times

As our systems for storing sensitive data continue to advance and new technologies like artificial intelligence evolve daily, it's important for homeland security experts to be trained on the most up-to-date information.

With a mission that covers a variety of departments such as the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Secret Service, Federal Law Enforcement, the Coast Guard, and more, homeland security is a versatile field with many career opportunities.

The right education is vital for pursuing a career in homeland security. American University's online [**Master of Science in Counter-Terrorism and Homeland Security**](#) will develop the skills and knowledge you need to be a competitive job candidate. In this guide, we'll explore some potential job opportunities and how American University can help you make a fulfilling new career a reality.

BUILD THE SKILLS TO FIGHT TERRORISM

Learn from Professionals

In the online [Master of Science in Counter-Terrorism and Homeland Security](#) program at American University, you'll be taught by experts who have valuable experience in the field of homeland security. You'll learn to:

Spot and analyze security issues:



Analyze and discuss national and homeland security problems through the application of acquired knowledge of criminology, social science, legal systems, policy, terrorism studies, and intelligence analysis.

Develop public policies and programs:



Formulate, evaluate, and communicate public policies and programs related to counter-terrorism while using acquired analytic frameworks and methodological skills, including statistics, economics, criminology, and law.

Provide solutions to threats:



Apply empirical and data-driven solutions to analyze domestic and international threats to U.S. homeland security.

Solve policy challenges:



Apply acquired skillsets, expertise, and values to real-world policy problems in a collaborative manner.

Career Outcomes

Upon graduation from American University's online MS in Counter-Terrorism and Homeland Security program, you'll be prepared to take on roles in [law enforcement and government intelligence](#) by developing and exercising key interdisciplinary skills.

Coursework includes topics like causes of terrorism and political violence, intelligence analysis, counter-terrorism law, national security policy, and more.

In addition to larger agency roles, homeland security includes a wide range of other important sectors. These include intelligence consulting contractor firms, national security non-governmental organizations, corporate intel

and risk assessment firms, D.C. think tanks, terrorism insurance agencies, and more. Each of these career paths come with their own rewards, challenges, and demands that American University can help prepare you for.

Graduates of the program step into career titles such as:

- Criminal intelligence analyst
- Data analyst
- Federal agent
- Federal law enforcement agent
- Homeland security analyst
- Intelligence analyst
- Intelligence officer
- Section chief



CHOOSING YOUR PATH

Understanding your career goals is an important part of starting your journey. With the **Master of Science in Counter-Terrorism and Homeland Security** program at American University, you'll develop the strong foundation of knowledge needed to pursue careers in a variety of industries, organizations, and sectors. Below, you'll find some common career paths and what types of students might be most interested in each.

Private Sector and Corporate Roles

Cybercrime doesn't only involve government agencies. Corporations and organizations all over the world must protect their data and need experts who are knowledgeable about the latest risks.

Interested in This Path?

Private sector and corporate cybersecurity experts work across a broad range of fields. Wherever there is sensitive data, there is risk for crime, and having a cybersecurity degree is often required to work in one of these careers. You may be interested in private sector and corporate roles if you:

- **Want to work in cybercrime but not in a government role**
- **Are interested in data security**
- **Have strong skills in critical thinking and risk management**
- **Are adept at working with computer systems**



Career Spotlights

Risk Analyst

Risk analysts who work in the private sector identify risks and analyze potential courses of action based on those risks. Their work often involves computer systems and cyber threat management.

Security Software Developer

Security software developers design and maintain software that helps protect important data. This software is specialized for each unique situation and maintained to combat the latest techniques of cyber criminals.

Senior Security Consultant

Security consultants minimize security risks by analyzing the latest data and making recommendations to their organizations. They also proactively seek out potential risks to correct before they become problematic.

Chief Security Officer

Chief security officers are responsible for leading security teams. They are often involved in security awareness programs as teachers and navigate issues like incidence response, compliance, and security policies and standards.

Intelligence and Security Analysis

The field of intelligence and security analysis primarily exists to identify risks, prevent them from happening, and develop plans for when they do happen. Professionals in this field are vital in keeping our sensitive information protected.

Interested in This Path?

Intelligence and security analysts work in a variety of environments, ranging from computer-forward jobs like cybersecurity analysis to fieldwork that requires travel. Being an effective communicator and knowing how to gather and present data are important skills for pursuing these roles. You may be interested in an intelligence and security analysis career if you:

- **Are skilled at preparing and presenting detailed reports**
- **Have strong skills in both written and verbal communication**
- **Have a desire to help protect sensitive information and computer systems**
- **Know how to apply critical thinking skills**



Career Spotlights

Intelligence Analyst

Intelligence analysts gather data regarding government security threats. Whether in the field or in an office setting, these workers are vital to preventing attacks and understanding how to respond when attacks happen.

Risk Management Specialist

Risk management specialists rely heavily on research to help assess and manage risks. They prepare detailed reports on risks involving security, financial assets, and more at both public agencies and private organizations.

Cyber Security Analyst

Cybersecurity analysts are responsible for analyzing and preventing attacks on organizations' computer systems. They work to protect important data by monitoring threats, planning potential reactions, and identifying system vulnerabilities.

Intelligence Officer

Intelligence officers typically work for defense or intelligence-gathering departments of the government to identify patterns in data that could lead to potential attacks or security risks. These experts often conduct long and intensive investigations into security threats to get ahead of them before they happen.

International and Diplomatic Roles

International and diplomatic roles in homeland security involve identifying and protecting against high-level risks. Experts in this field often work with other countries or organizations to handle and understand important data that's necessary for terrorism defense.

Interested in This Path?

International and diplomatic workers require a high level of education in cybersecurity or counter-terrorism to make key decisions in moments of pressure. You may be interested in international and diplomatic roles if you:

- **Are skilled at communication**
- **Want to learn more about working with other countries**
- **Can operate well under pressure**
- **Have experience deciphering patterns in data**



Career Spotlights

Diplomatic Security Special Agent

Diplomatic security special agents perform law enforcement duties such as providing security assistance to diplomats and other individuals. They can also help manage complex security programs.

National Security Liaison Officer

National security liaison officers are responsible for creating plans and strategies for homeland security by working with members of other countries. In the private sector, liaison officers can work to make plans between organizations.

Counterintelligence Professional

Counterintelligence professionals span a wide range of careers, some already mentioned in this guide. Intelligence analysts, special agents, operations managers, and more all use counterintelligence skills to defend against threats.

Counter-Terrorism Analyst

Counter-terrorism analysts analyze intelligence data to predict and defend against terrorist activity. These professionals provide crucial data in dangerous situations and are adept at deciphering patterns in data.

Government and Public Sector

Government and public sector workers cover a wide range of roles designed to keep our country safe. From border patrol agents to emergency responders, these workers help solve problems, prevent disasters, and gather vital information.

Interested in This Path?

Careers in the government and public sector require different qualifications depending on the area and scope, but having a master's degree can help prepare you and make you stand out as a candidate. You may be interested in a government and public sector career if you:

- **Want to help keep our country safe and secure**
- **Have a desire to work in high-intensity situations**
- **Are a strong problem solver**
- **Enjoy researching and gathering information**



Career Spotlights

Emergency Management Specialist

Emergency management specialists consist of experts like paramedics, firefighters, police officers, and engineers. These workers help prevent disasters and emergencies and are first in line to respond to them when they happen.

Defense Intelligence Agent

The Defense Intelligence Agency employs workers who gather vital information for the U.S. military to help prevent wars and win them when necessary. These agents will often work with foreign professionals to help gather information and advise our military leaders.

Federal Special Agent

Federal special agents enforce federal statutes by conducting investigations, questioning witnesses and suspects, gathering information, working undercover, and more. Their work is often dangerous and highly specialized.

Customs and Border Protection Agent

Customs and border protection workers ensure no harmful or illegal materials come across U.S. borders and help keep the borders secure. This includes enforcing legal immigration laws and preventing narcotics from entering the country.

WHAT OUR GRADUATES ARE SAYING

“

I chose this program because it was very convenient for my work schedule. If there's any piece of advice that I would give to somebody in my position, maybe contemplating continuing their education while working full time, I know it's not easy, but it is worth it, and it will open a lot more opportunities for you.



— Bisma H.

“

The research methodology gave me a new perspective on how research is conducted and how to think about data when presented to you. I've been applying that knowledge in my daily life.



— Austin S.

“

This program was important to me because I felt it would add a bit more of a counter-terrorism element to the work I've already done in homeland security. I would say Intelligence Analysis was one of my favorite courses.



— Alec W.

“

The MSCTHS program focuses on relating education to professions within the intelligence community and expanding our understanding of various aspects of life, including the private sector, banks, think tanks, counter-terrorism, countering violent extremism, and more. This program prepares us for a wide range of positions.



— Klaudio R.



YOUR FUTURE STARTS HERE

Whether you're interested in working in the public or private sector, there will always be opportunities to fight terrorism and cybercrime. With the knowledge and skills you earn in American University's online Master of Science in Counter-Terrorism and Homeland Security, you'll stand out as a competitive job candidate and be able to pursue a new career with confidence.

To get started on your path to a fulfilling new career in counter-terrorism and homeland security, [learn more](#) and [apply today](#).

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