

# Master of Science in Biodefense (BIOD)

For students admitted **Fall 2015 to Present:**

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_ G#: \_\_\_\_\_

## Core Coursework – 21 credits

Course # / Title	Semester	✓
BIOD 604 – Emerging Infectious Diseases I: Bacteria and Toxins <i>(formerly Introduction to Biodefense I: Bacterial &amp; Toxin Agents)</i>		
BIOD 605 – Emerging Infectious Diseases I: Viral Agents <i>(formerly Introduction to Biodefense II: Viral Agents)</i>		
BIOD 609 – Biodefense Strategy <i>(formerly Biodefense Strategy &amp; Policy)</i>		
GOVT 500 – The Scientific Method & Research Design <i>(should be taken in first two semesters)</i>		
GOVT 540 – International Relations		
PUAD 637 – Managing Homeland Security		
BIOD 790 – Global Health Security Capstone <i>(formerly Biodefense Capstone)</i>	Spring 20____	

## Specialization Field Seminars – 6 Credits

*Choose Specialization One, Two, or Three (each consists of two courses):*

### 1. International Security

- GOVT 744 – Foundations of Security Studies
- GOVT 745 – International Security


### 2. Terrorism & Homeland Security

- BIOD 722 – Examining Terrorist Groups
- BIOD 725 – Terrorism & Weapons of Mass Destruction


### 3. Technology & Weapons of Mass Destruction

- BIOD 706 – Nuclear/Bio./Chem. Weapons Policy & Security
- BIOD 760 – National Security Technology & Policy


## Specialization and General Elective courses – 9 credits

Course # / Title <i>(these may include Study Abroad programs, internships, etc.)</i>	Semester	✓

**BIOD PROGRAM CREDIT TOTAL: 36**

## BIOD Advising Notes

**For registration assistance and PatriotWeb step-by-step instructions, consult the *SCHAR Students Guide*: <https://schar.gmu.edu/sites/default/files/current-students/Courses/Students-Guide-to-PatriotWeb.pdf>**

### Full-time vs. Part-time:

- Full-time students must be enrolled in a minimum of 9 credits (3 courses) per semester. Full-time Biodefense students typically complete the program in two academic years.
- Part-time students typically enroll in two courses per semester and complete the Biodefense program in three academic years.

### Suggested Course Sequence:

- The Biodefense curriculum is arranged in a sequential manner. 500- and 600-level courses are foundation courses while 700-level courses are advanced courses. Students should complete the foundation courses before moving onto advanced coursework.
- All students should plan to take GOVT 500 in their first two semesters in the program.
- All students should plan to take BIOD 790 in their final spring semester in the program.

### Study Abroad Opportunities:

- An SPGIA-sponsored study abroad course may count as an elective.
- Unless prior written permission is obtained, students may apply only one study abroad course (3 credits) toward graduation.

### Professional Internship:

- International students should not wait until their last term to complete an internship for academic credit. Obtaining an internship is not guaranteed.

### Capstone Course

Students must demonstrate the ability to conduct original, independent research by completing a research project in BIOD 790, Biodefense Capstone. The course requires the student to produce a substantial and original contribution to the fields of biodefense or biosecurity on the model of a paper suitable for presentation at a scholarly conference or an article in a peer-reviewed scholarly journal. The objective of the research project is to serve as a capstone for the student's graduate education and to demonstrate the student's research, analytical and writing skills.

### Academic Requirements:

- Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average to graduate.
- Students may apply up to six credits of "C" toward graduation.
- A student is terminated from SPGIA if he/she receives a grade of "F" in a single course and/or a grade of "C" in nine or more credits.
- Students must complete all Biodefense MS requirements within *six years* of the date of initial enrollment as a degree-seeking student.

### Specialization Areas/Elective Courses:

Students may take their elective courses within one of the specializations listed below. Students may declare only *one* specialization. Courses listed below will automatically apply to the specialization under which they fall. Students may apply courses from outside these lists to the specialization elective with written approval from their advisor.

- International Security
- Terrorism and Homeland Security
- Technology and Weapons of Mass Destruction

All *non-SPGIA* courses have to be pre-approved by your academic advisor before registering. PhD level courses and/or foreign language courses are *not* permissible elective options.

### Specialization in International Security

- BIOD 621 - Ethics and International Security
- BIOD 622 - Negotiating in the International Arena
- BIOD 705 - Intelligence: Theory and Practice
- BIOD 706 - Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Weapons Policy and Security
- BIOD 709 - Nonproliferation and Arms Control
- BIOD 722 - Examining Terrorist Groups
- BIOD 725 - Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction
- BIOD 760 - National Security Technology and Policy
- GOVT 640 - Strategic Responses to Terrorism: Coordinated Decision Making
- GOVT 641 - Global Governance
- GOVT 741 - Advanced Seminar in International Politics
- GOVT 843 - Diplomacy
- PUBP 766 - Modern Counterinsurgency: Theory and Practice

**Specialization in Terrorism and Homeland Security**

- BIOD 621 - Ethics and International Security
- BIOD 622 - Negotiating in the International Arena
- BIOD 705 - Intelligence: Theory and Practice
- BIOD 706 - Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Weapons Policy and Security
- BIOD 709 - Nonproliferation and Arms Control
- BIOD 760 - National Security Technology and Policy
- GOVT 744 - Foundations of Security Studies
- GOVT 640 - Strategic Responses to Terrorism: Coordinated Decision Making
- GOVT 641 - Global Governance
- GOVT 741 - Advanced Seminar in International Politics
- GOVT 745 - International Security
- GOVT 843 - Diplomacy
- PUBP 766 - Modern Counterinsurgency: Theory and Practice

**Specialization in Technology and Weapons of Mass Destruction**

- BIOD 621 - Ethics and International Security
- BIOD 622 - Negotiating in the International Arena
- BIOD 705 - Intelligence: Theory and Practice
- BIOD 709 - Nonproliferation and Arms Control
- BIOD 722 - Examining Terrorist Groups
- BIOD 725 - Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction
- GOVT 640 - Strategic Responses to Terrorism: Coordinated Decision Making
- GOVT 641 - Global Governance
- GOVT 741 - Advanced Seminar in International Politics
- GOVT 744 - Foundations of Security Studies
- GOVT 745 - International Security
- GOVT 843 - Diplomacy