Bachelor of Science in
FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Come Back Stronger, Ready to Move Your Career Forward

Protecting society is more than a career — it’s a calling. And this is your time to answer the call. Environmental disasters, terrorism, espionage — threats like these make headlines every day, and they demand dedicated professionals skilled enough to manage them. Our program equips you to do just that. Prepare for leadership roles managing modern fire, EMS, and emergency preparedness agencies, or to take on new and emerging opportunities in areas such as human resources, technology, and fiscal responsibility.

The degree program is closely based on the Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE) curriculum model and is accredited by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC).
Why Study Fire and Emergency Management at Purdue Global?

Built for Working Adults
Complete courses online, without compromising your work or family schedule.

Backed by the Power of Purdue
Earn a degree you can be proud of — and one that employers will respect. Achieve more in the fire and emergency management field with a name that opens doors in your career.

Your Experience and Certifications Count as Credit
It’s time to get the recognition you deserve. Receive credit for up to 75% of your degree for prior coursework, professional learning, and certifications. We work closely with fire academies and fire service associations to make earning your degree more affordable and efficient.

IAFF Partnership and Tuition Reduction
Purdue Global partners with the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) to provide members, staff, and immediate family members a significant tuition reduction.

Faculty Are Experts in the Field
Learn from experienced professionals with a variety of backgrounds in public safety, emergency management, and fire services. Many currently work in the field — they understand your career requirements, the challenges you face, and what it takes to get ahead.

Personal Support
Work directly with faculty through online discussion boards and seminars, and enjoy no-cost individual tutoring. In addition, academic and career advisors are dedicated to helping you balance school with your career and life responsibilities.

Introductory Trial Period
Make sure online learning at Purdue Global is right for you. Enroll in the University and try our classes for 3 weeks — before you owe any tuition. That’s the Purdue Global Commitment.

Nationally Ranked and Respected
Purdue Global is part of the respected Purdue University system. One of the most prestigious research universities in the world, Purdue University is ranked in the top 10 best public universities in the U.S. by The Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education.

Take The Next Step in Your Career and Your Education

Prepare for Leadership Opportunities
The general public and government appointees are demanding higher levels of training and education for those who lead our nation’s first response teams during catastrophic disasters, terrorist incidents, and typical emergencies. Prepare to meet this demand.

ACCELERATED MASTER’S DEGREE OPTION
Complete both your bachelor’s and master’s degrees in less time and at a lower cost than completing both programs separately. While you earn your bachelor’s degree, you can work toward a Purdue Global master’s degree in one of the following areas:
- Applied Behavior Analysis
- Criminal Justice
- Education
- Educational Psychology
- Higher Education
- Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- Human Services
- Instructional Design and Technology
- Legal Studies
- Psychology
- Public Administration
Curriculum

The career-focused curriculum is designed for emergency services personnel who want to increase their administrative and management knowledge. The courses are reviewed and revised continually by industry experts to ensure they reflect the most recent developments in the field.

Course Topics Include:

- Preparedness and planning
- Crisis management in terrorist attacks and disasters
- Community risk reduction
- Recovery practices
- Fire prevention, organization, and management
- Political, ethical, and legal foundations of emergency services
- Leadership and management
- Personnel and human resources management
- Mitigation and risk assessment
- Disaster policy

Business Foundations Concentration

- Gain competencies in the fundamental concepts of business administration. Develop an understanding of the four functions of management, the components of a marketing strategy, and the financial performance of an organization.

Capstone Project

A final, hands-on capstone allows you to build your resume, gain real-world skills, and put your knowledge into action.

Program Detail

Credit Hours: 180

Completion Time: 2–4 years (With transfer credit and other prior experience, the average completion time for Purdue Global bachelor’s degree graduates in 2021–2022 was 2.1 years).  

Course Load: 1–2 courses per term

Terms: 10 weeks long

Start Dates: Throughout the year

Gain the Skills and Knowledge That Employers Demand

- Understand the ethical, social, civic, cultural, behavioral, economic, and political issues of global emergency and disaster planning.
- Develop a comprehensive program for operational and strategic emergency management decisions and materials management.
- Oversee the design and management of disaster and fire defense planning.
- Appraise the psychological effects of emergency services, safety, and survival.
- Evaluate fire and emergency situations and scenarios.
- Use technology to inform and enhance operational and strategic emergency management decisions.
- Analyze fire-related human behavior and the psychological effects of fire dynamics.

Additional Programs

- Bachelor of Science in Fire Science
- Bachelor of Science in Emergency Management
- Master of Science in Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- Master of Public Administration

Additional academy training and education not provided by Purdue Global may be required for firefighting or emergency management jobs.
Industry Outlook

• Employment of emergency management directors is expected to grow from 2021 to 2031. The importance of preparing for and minimizing the risks from emergencies will help sustain demand, and vital positions in the industry are expected to be highly sought-after.

• Employment in the disaster relief industry more than doubled between 1990 and 2017, with continued growth projected through 2026.

• Employment in the protective service field as a whole is also projected to grow through 2031.

• Many fire departments require a bachelor’s degree for positions higher than battalion chief.

Career Pathways and Outcomes

Roles

• Emergency management program manager/director
• Emergency management planner
• Risk management professional
• Fire department chief or manager
• Municipal firefighting and prevention supervisor
• Fire inspector
• Fire investigator

Settings

• Emergency services organizations
• Emergency medical service
• Emergency preparedness agencies
• Fire departments

Center for Career Advancement

Our Career Specialists offer the following services:

• Job search and networking support
• Career assessment/exploration
• Resume and cover letter review
• Interview preparation/mock interviews
• Portfolio development to showcase your skills
• Assistance in building an online presence
• Virtual career fairs
• 24/7 online access to job openings and career development tools

Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission

Purdue Global is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The HLC (HLCommission.org) is an institutional accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

Military Friendly

We offer reduced tuition rates for servicemembers, veterans, and spouses.

Contact an Admissions Advisor at 844-PURDUE-G or visit purduglobal.edu.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: PLEASE READ
For comprehensive consumer information, visit info.purduglobal.edu.

1 Purdue Global does not guarantee transferability of credit. See the University Catalog for Prior Learning policy.
2 May not be combined with other Purdue Global tuition reductions or ExcelTrack™ pricing. Tuition rates are subject to change at Purdue Global’s discretion at any time and, as a result, the tuition price may change.
3 Classes count toward a degree if satisfactorily completed. No credits are earned if the student withdraws during the introductory period (3 weeks for new qualifying undergraduate students), which begins day one of the first term. Students who choose to continue their studies at Purdue Global will need to meet specific requirements. Graduate programs not included. Additional terms may apply to international and non-U.S. citizen students. For further information, see the University Catalog.
4 Source: www.timeshighereducation.com/student/best-universities/best-public-universities-united-states. Rankings apply to Purdue University West Lafayette and not to Purdue Global.
5 The University cannot guarantee that students will be granted admission to any future programs. Speak to an Advisor about transfer credit opportunities and see the University Catalog for the Prior Learning policy.
6 The average completion time for Purdue Global online bachelor’s degree students who graduated in the 2021–2022 academic year was 2.1 years. Source: Purdue Global Office of Reporting and Analysis, July 2022.
9 Purdue Global cannot guarantee employment or career advancement. Prior experience may be necessary for leadership positions. May require additional certification or training. In addition, job titles and responsibilities may vary from organization to organization. This program prepares students to acquire the breadth of knowledge required to pursue positions in a variety of fields, depending on the concentration chosen.