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# The FEMA Emergency Management Institute's

## College List: A Review

Disaster Risk Reduction Program

Extreme Events Institute

Florida International University

2015

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# The FEMA Emergency Management Institute's College List: A Review

## INTRODUCTION

In response to frequent inquiries from the Latin American and Caribbean Region about academic opportunities in the field of Emergency Management in the United States, the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Program at Florida International University undertook a review and analysis of “The College List” produced by the FEMA Emergency Management Institute (EMI) Emergency Management Higher Education Program. The College List (<http://training.fema.gov/hiedu/collegelist/>) is a database of colleges, universities and institutions offering emergency management courses across the United States. The compilation supports FEMA’s goal of promoting higher education programs for future managers and personnel in the field of emergency management. The Emergency Management Higher Education Program, while collaborating with colleges and universities to prepare the College List, neither recommends nor ranks any particular program.

The 2014–2015 College List includes 533 higher education programs in five subject areas: (1) Emergency Management, (2) Homeland Security/Defense and Terrorism, (3) International Disaster Relief/Humanitarian Assistance, (4) Public Health, Medical and Related Programs, and (5) Related Programs. FEMA’s EMI website provides information on the level and type of degree, method of delivery, and geographic distribution (by state) of academic programs for each subject area (<http://training.fema.gov/hiedu/collegelist/>).

The FIU-DRR Program reorganized the College List into a single searchable data spreadsheet (<http://drr.fiu.edu/links-and-publications/>) that includes the following information on each of the abovementioned subject areas by:

1. Geographic location (city, state, and U.S. region)
2. Degree level (Certificate, Associate, Bachelor's, Master's or Doctorate)
3. Delivery method (on campus, online, or both)
4. Program duration
5. Research area
6. Contact information/webpage  
months or 2 years to complete.

The database was revised by:

1. Listing the academic programs for each of the five subjects in separate Excel sheets within one Excel workbook.
2. Listing the geographic location (city, state, and region) for each program in FEMA's list by conducting a web search. The four U.S. regions used (Northeast, Midwest, South and West) are the four statistical regions defined by the United States Census Bureau. ([https://www.census.gov/geo/reference/gtc/gtc\\_census\\_divreg.html](https://www.census.gov/geo/reference/gtc/gtc_census_divreg.html)).
3. Noting the degree level for each academic program, whether certificate (undergraduate or graduate), associate, bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree.
4. Listing the academic program's delivery method (on campus, online, or both) by performing the appropriate web search. On-campus learning was assumed in cases where the institution's website did not clearly state a course delivery method.
5. Noting the duration of the academic program. Unless clearly specified on the website, the duration of each program was based on the degree level. An associate degree usually takes 24 months, a bachelor's degree takes 48 months, and a master's degree takes 24 months to complete.
6. Listing the "research area" based on the department or school housing the

Program. For example, homeland security degrees were often found in the schools of criminal justice within universities.

7. Locating the contact webpage for each course and adding it to the database to facilitate easy access to the academic program.

The database was then analyzed across all subject areas by examining the:

1. Distribution of academic programs by region (Northeast, Midwest, South, and West).
2. Distribution of academic programs by level of degree (certificate, associate, bachelor's, master's or doctoral).
3. Distribution of academic programs by subject (Emergency Management; Homeland Security/Defense and Terrorism; International Disaster Relief/ Humanitarian Assistance; Public Health, Medical and Related Programs; Related Programs).
4. Distribution of academic programs by method of delivery (on campus, online or both).

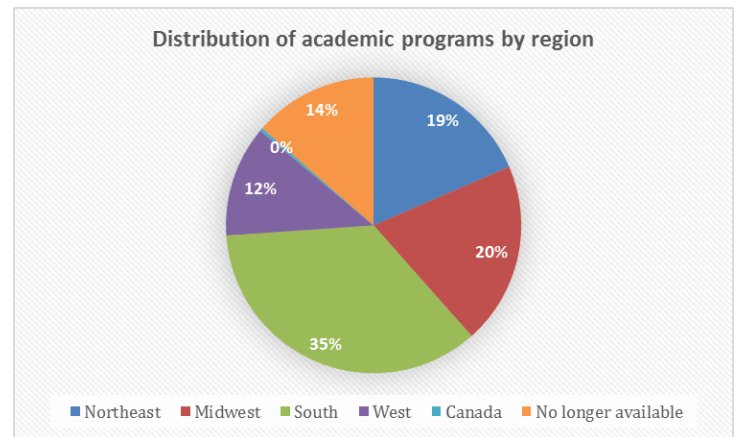
For each subject area, our analysis examined the:

1. The number of academic programs offered by region.
2. The number of academic programs by level of degree across all regions.
3. The number of degrees at each academic level by region.
4. The number of degrees by method of delivery.

## ANALYSIS

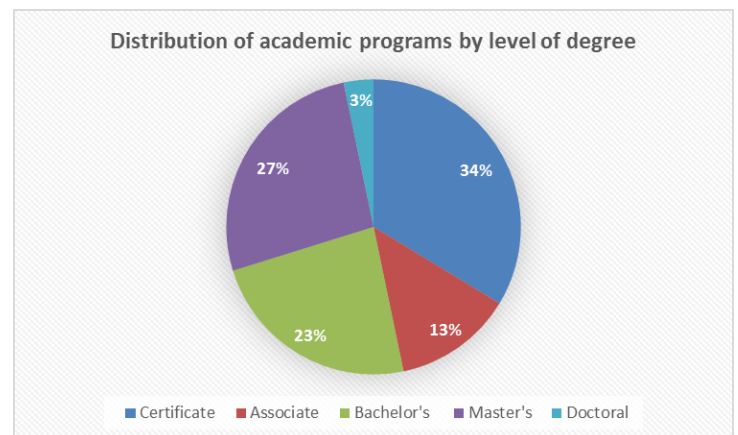
### 1. Distribution of academic programs by region:

The College List totals 533 academic programs. Of these 77 are no longer available. The remaining 456 programs offer over 490 academic degrees (some college programs offer more than one course)—105 in the Northeast, 113 in the Midwest, 201 in the South, 69 in the West regions of the U.S., and 2 in Canada.



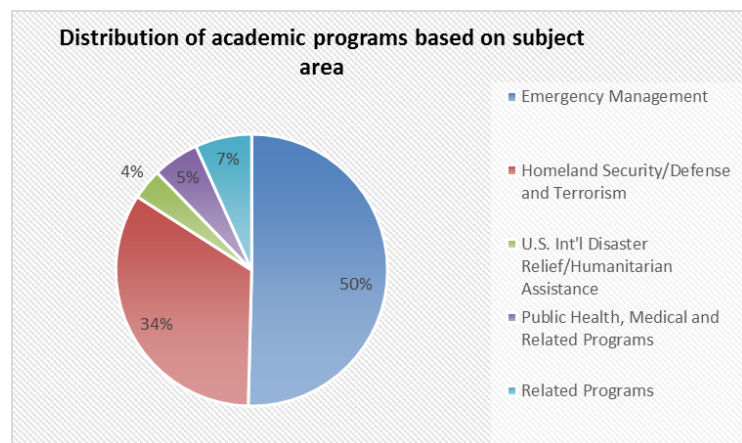
### 2. Distribution of academic programs by level of degree:

165 certificates, 64 associate degrees, 115 bachelor's, 130 master's and 16 doctoral degrees.



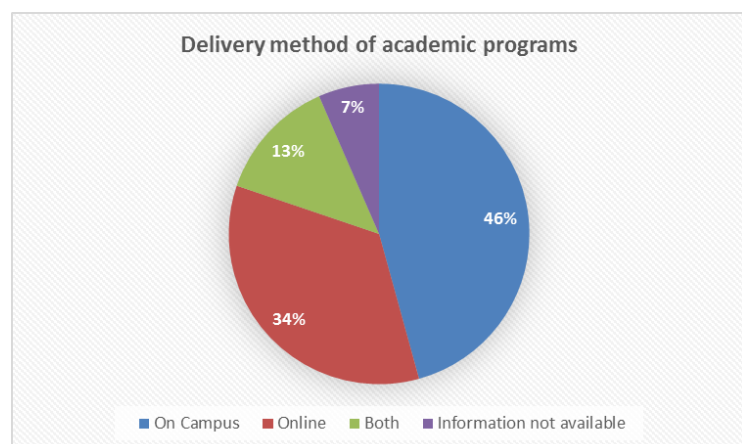
### 3. Distribution of academic programs by subject:

Of the currently available 490 academic programs, 247 degrees are offered in Emergency Management, 165 in Homeland Security/Defense and Terrorism, 18 in U.S. International Disaster Relief/Humanitarian Assistance, 27 in Public Health, Medical and Related Programs, and 33 in related programs.



### 4. Distribution of academic programs by method of delivery:

224 offered on campus, 169 offered online, and 65 are delivered both on campus and online (or as hybrid). Delivery method information was not available on 32 of the program websites.



## ANALYSIS OF EACH SUBJECT

### I. Emergency Management Higher Education Programs (296 original listings)

Among the 296 university programs listed, 52 (17.6%) programs are not currently (or no longer) available. The re-

remaining 244 programs

listed offer more than 247 academic courses in Emer-

gency Management (some

college programs offer

more than one course). Of

these 244, 42 (17%) are

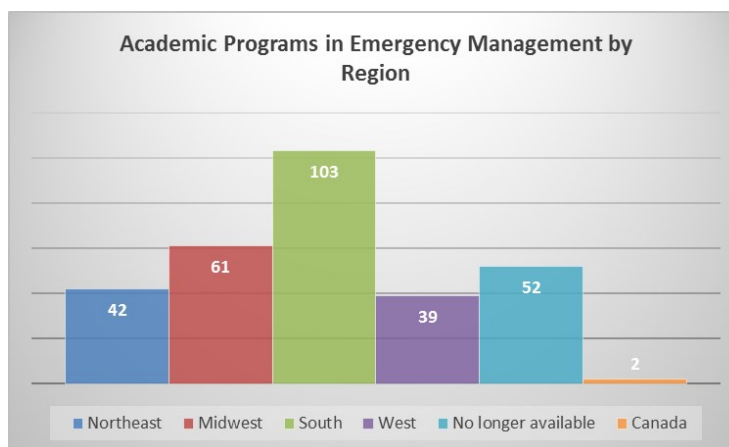
based in the Northeast, 61

(24.7%) in the Midwest,

103 (41.7%) in the South,

and 39 (15.8 %) in the

West regions of the United States, and 2 (0.8%) in Canada.



#### *Regional analysis:*

The 42 programs available in the Northeast include 12 undergraduate or graduate certificates, seven associate, eight bachelor's, 15 master's, and no doctoral degrees.

The 61 programs available in the Midwest include 24 undergraduate or graduate certificate programs, five associate, 17 bachelor's, 12 master's, and three doctoral degrees.

The 103 programs available in the South include 32 undergraduate or graduate certificate programs, 16 associate, 21 bachelor's, 28 master's, and six doctoral degrees.

The 39 programs available in the West include 13 undergraduate or graduate certificate programs, 12 associate, nine bachelor's, five master's, and no doctoral degrees.

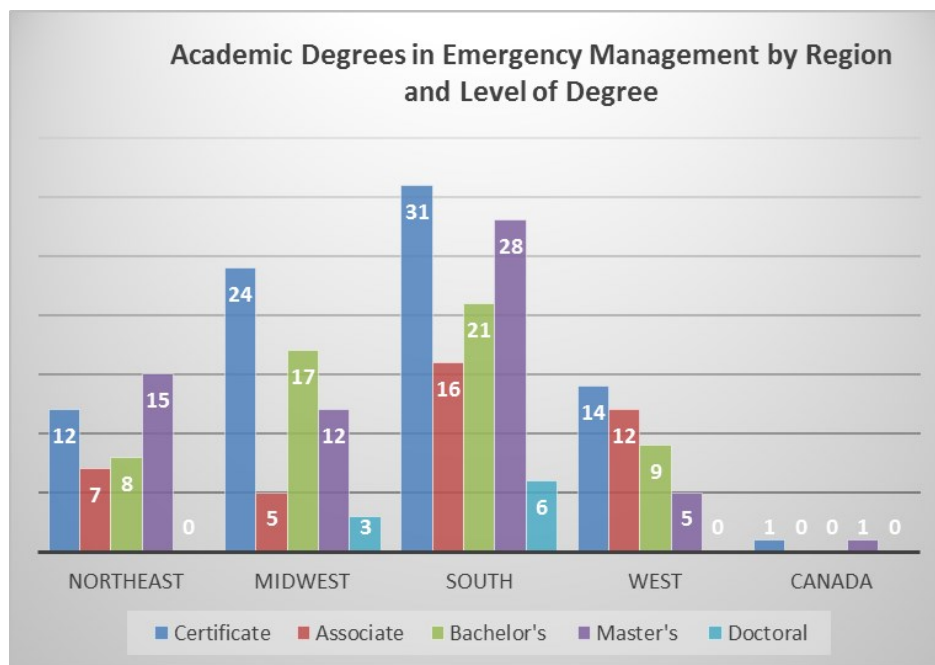
The two programs available in Canada include one undergraduate or graduate certificate program and one doctoral degree.



*Analysis by degree level:*

Of the 40 total certificate programs in Emergency Management, 12 are offered in the Northeast, 24 in the Midwest, 31 in the in South, and 14 in the West. One certificate program is available in Canada.

Of the 82 total associate degree programs in Emergency Management, seven are offered in the Northeast, five in the Midwest, 16 in the South, and 12 in the West.



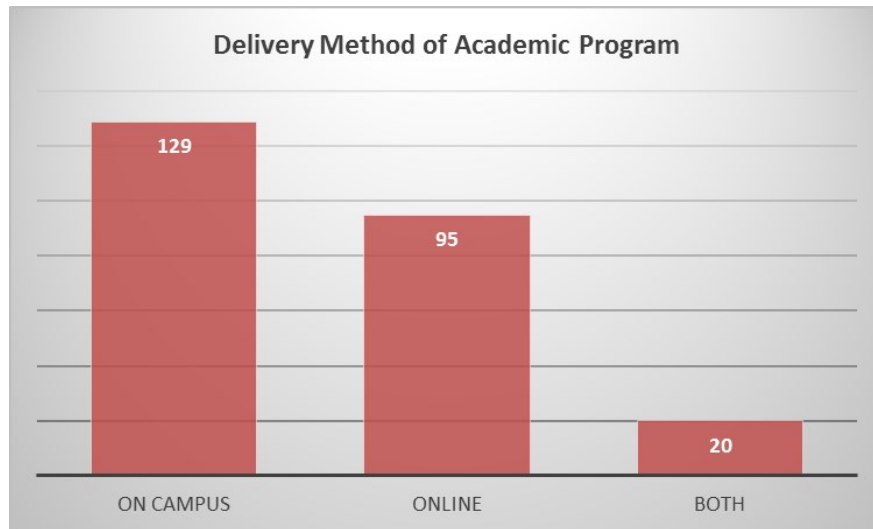
Of the 55 total bachelor's degree programs in Emergency Management, eight are offered in the Northeast, 17 in the Midwest, 21 in the in South, and nine in the West.

Of the 61 total master's degree programs in Emergency Management, 15 are offered in the Northeast, 12 in the Midwest, 28 in the South, and five in the West. One program is available in Canada.

Of the nine doctoral degree programs in Emergency Management, three are available in the Midwest, and six in the South.

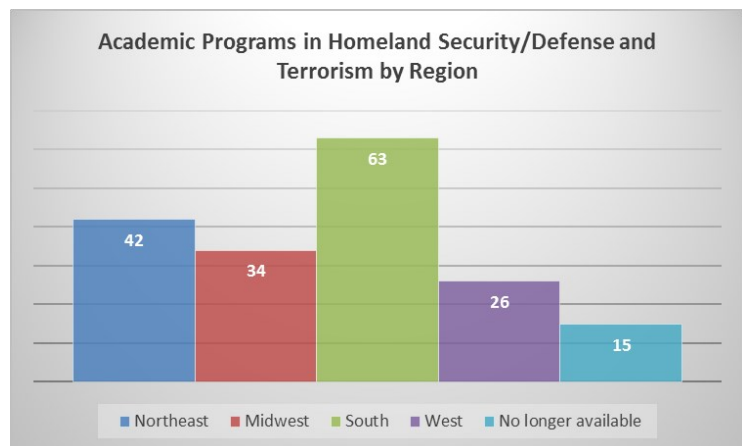
*Delivery Method of Academic Programs in Emergency Management:*

129 programs are delivered on campus, 95 are delivered online, and 20 programs are delivered as hybrid or both on campus and online.



## II. U.S. Homeland Security/Defense and Terrorism Higher Education Programs (154 original listings)

Of the 154 university programs listed, 15 (9.7%) are not currently (or no longer) available. The remaining 139 programs offer more than 165 academic courses in Homeland Security, Emergency Management, and Defense and Terrorism (some college programs offer more than one course). Of the 165 courses, 42 (25.5%) are based in the Northeast, 34 (20.6%) in the Midwest, 63 (38.2%) in the South, and 26 (15.8 %) in the West region of the United States.



### *Region-wise analysis:*

The 42 programs available in the Northeast include 19 undergraduate or graduate certificate programs, five associate, six bachelor's, 11 master's, and one doctoral degree.

The 34 programs available in the Midwest include 12 undergraduate or graduate certificate programs, three associate, 12 bachelor's, six master's, and one doctoral degree.

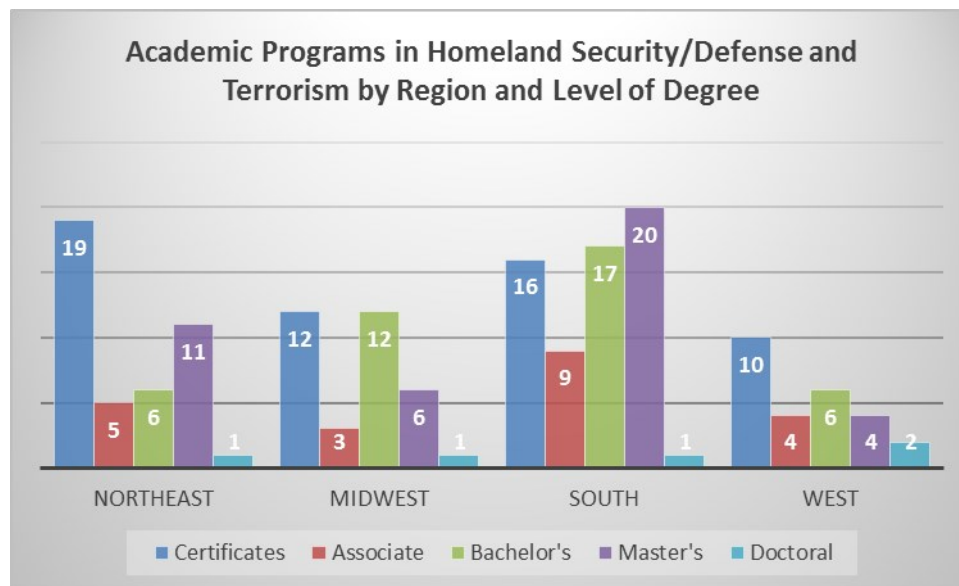
The 63 programs available in the South include 16 undergraduate or graduate certificate programs, nine associate, 17 bachelor's, 20 master's, and one doctoral degree.

The 26 programs available in the West include 10 undergraduate or graduate certificate programs, four associate, six bachelor's, four master's, and two doctoral degrees.

*Analysis by degree level:*

Of the 57 total certificate programs in Homeland Security/Defense and Terrorism, 19 are offered in the Northeast, 12 in the Midwest, 16 in the in South, and 10 in the West.

Of the 21 total associate degree programs in Homeland Security/Defense and Terrorism,



five are offered in the Northeast, three in the Midwest, nine in the in South, and four in the West.

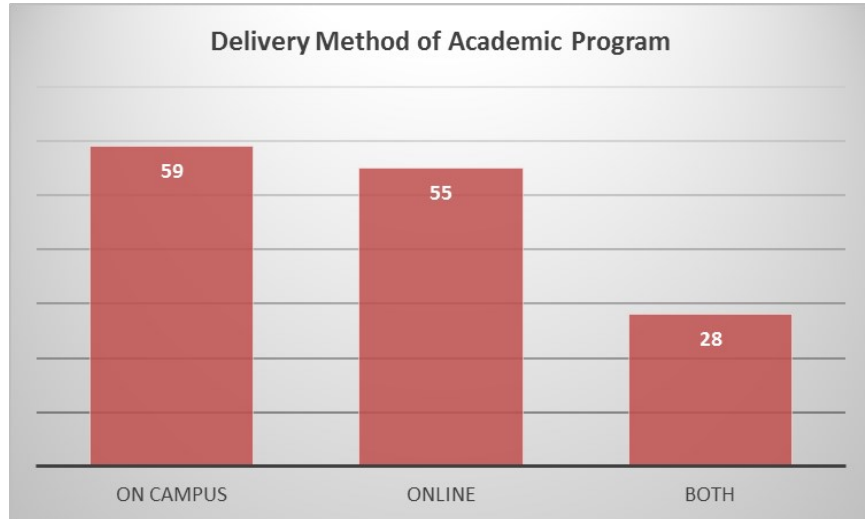
Of the 41 total bachelor's degree programs in Homeland Security/Defense and Terrorism, six are offered in the Northeast, 12 in the Midwest, 17 in the in South, and six in the West.

Of the 41 total master's degree programs in Homeland Security/Defense and Terrorism, 11 are offered in the Northeast, six in the Midwest, 20 in the in South, and four in the West.

Of the five doctoral programs in Homeland Security/Defense and Terrorism, one each is offered in the Northeast, Midwest and South with two offered in the West.

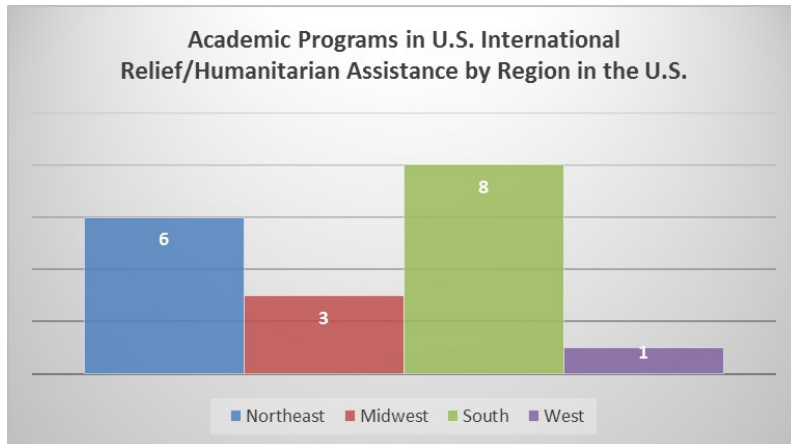
*Delivery Method of Academic Programs in Homeland Security/Defense and Terrorism:*

59 programs are delivered on campus, 55 online, and 28 programs are delivered as hybrid or both on campus and online.



### III. U.S. International Disaster Relief/Humanitarian Assistance Programs (16 original listings)

Among the 16 university programs listed, 18 academic courses in International Disaster Relief/Humanitarian Assistance were found (some college programs offer more than one course). Of these, six (33.3%) are based in the Northeast, three (16.7%) in the Midwest, eight (44.4%) in the South, and one (5.6%) in the West.



#### *Regional analysis:*

The six programs available in the Northeast include three undergraduate or graduate certificate programs and three master's degrees.

The three programs available in the Midwest include two undergraduate or graduate certificate programs and one 17 bachelor's degree.

The eight programs available in the South include five undergraduate or graduate certificate programs, two master's, and one doctoral degree.

In the West, one certificate program in International Disaster Relief/Humanitarian Assistance is available.

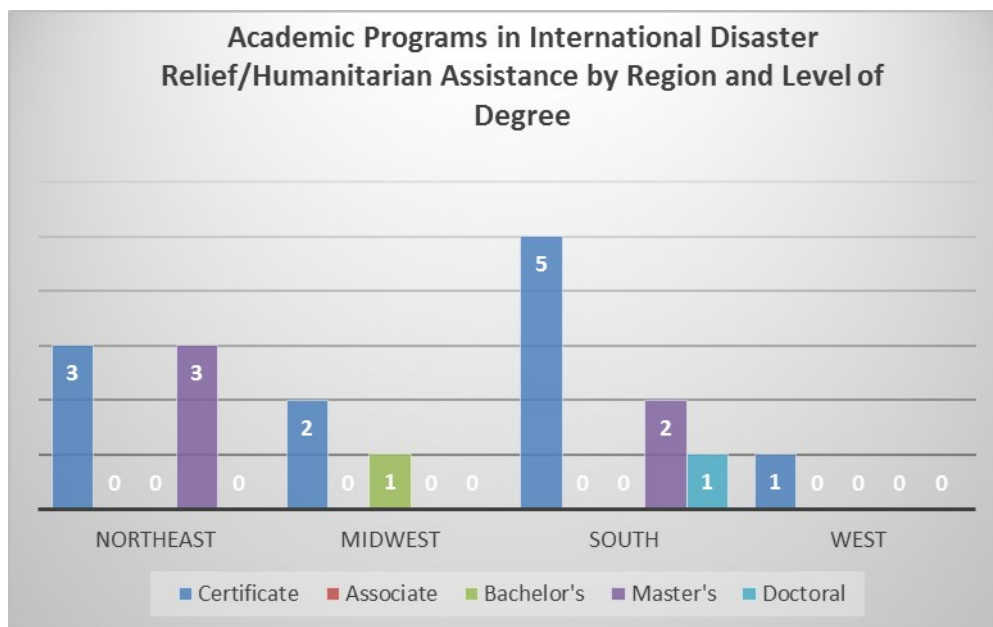
*Analysis by degree level:*

Of the 11 certificate programs in International Disaster Relief/Humanitarian Assistance, three are offered in the Northeast, two in the Midwest, five in the in South, and one in the West.

One bachelor's degree program in International Disaster Relief/Humanitarian Assistance is offered in the Midwest.

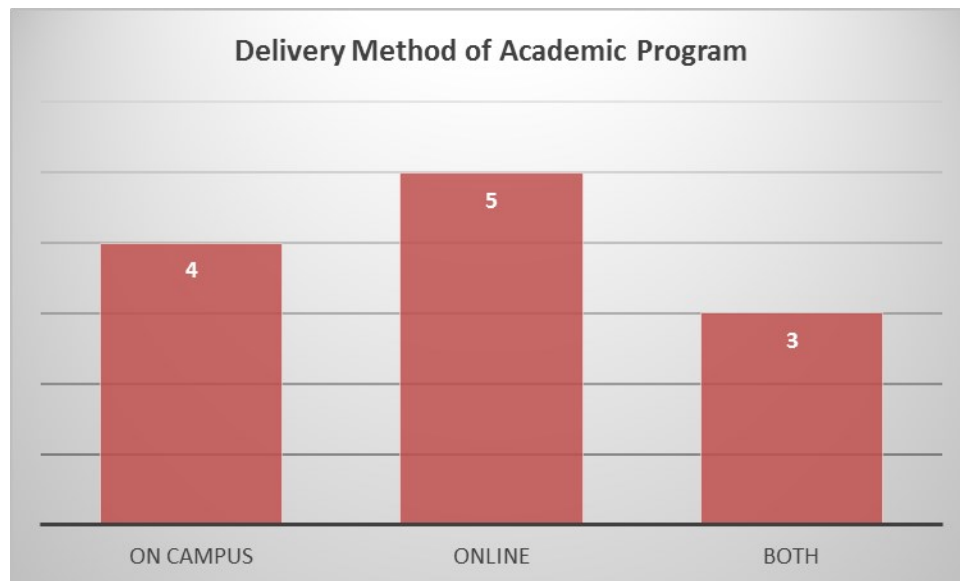
Of the five master's degree programs in International Disaster Relief/Humanitarian Assistance, three are offered in the Northeast and two in the South.

One doctoral program in International Disaster Relief/Humanitarian Assistance is offered in the West.



*Delivery Method of Academic Programs in U.S. International Disaster Relief/Humanitarian Assistance:*

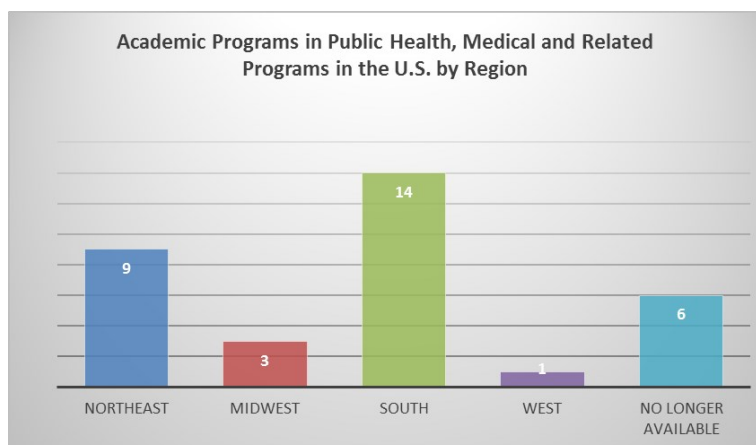
Four programs are delivered on campus, five online, and three are delivered as hybrid or both on campus and online.





#### IV. Public Health, Medical and Related Programs (31 original listings)

Among the 31 university programs listed, six (19.4%) programs are not currently (or no longer) available. Of the remaining 27 programs, 9 (33.3%) are based in the Northeast, three (11.1%) in the Midwest, 14 (51.9%) in the South, and one (3.7 %) in the West.



#### Regional analysis:

The nine programs available in the Northeast include five undergraduate or graduate certificates, one bachelor's, and three master's degree.

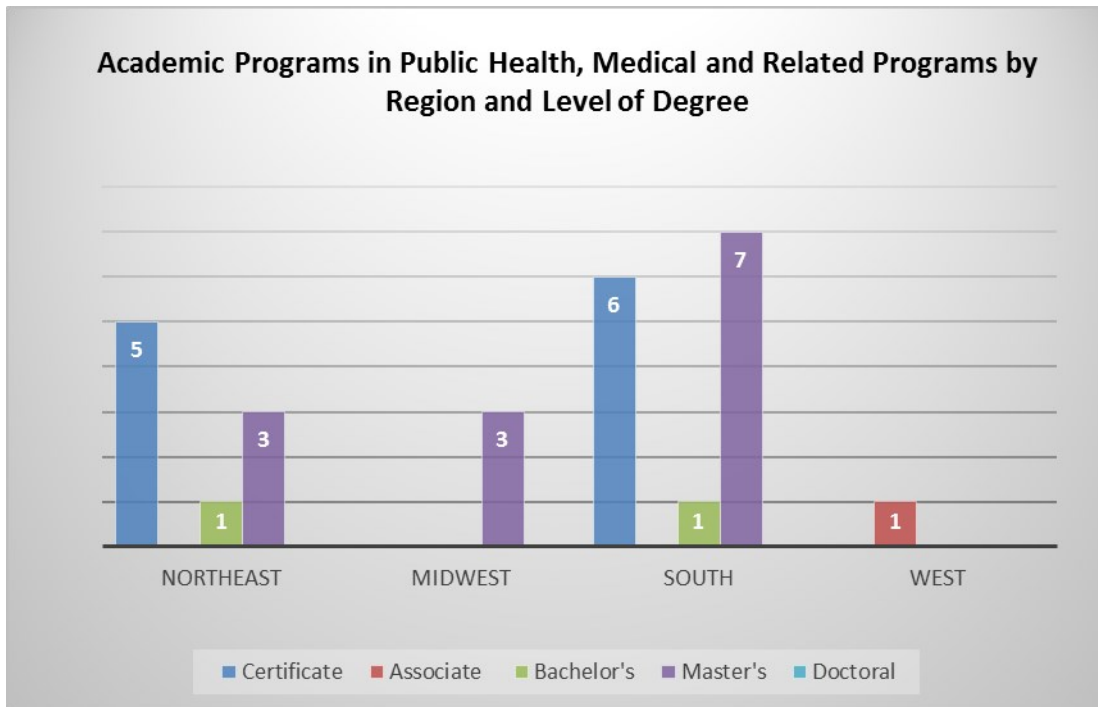
The three programs available in the Midwest are master's degrees.

The 14 programs available in the South include six undergraduate or graduate certificate programs, one bachelor's, and seven master's degrees.

There is one associate degree available in the West regions.

*Analysis based on level of degree:*

Of the 11 certificate programs in Public Health, Medical and Related Programs, five are offered in the Northeast and six in the South.



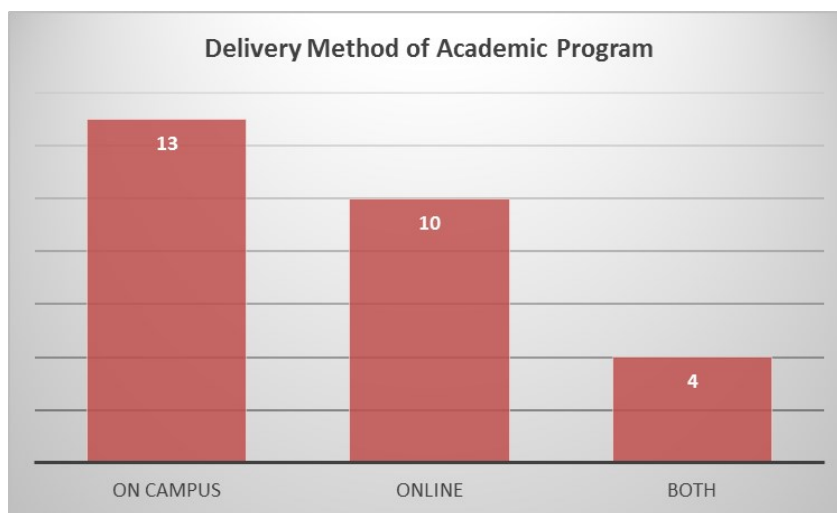
One associate degree program in Public Health, Medical and Related Programs is offered in the West.

Of the two bachelor's degree programs in Public Health, Medical and Related Programs, one is offered in the Northeast and one in the West. Of the thirteen master's degree programs in Public Health, Medical and Related Programs, three are offered in the Northeast, three in the Midwest, and seven in the South.

No doctoral degrees are available in Public Health, Medical and Related Programs.

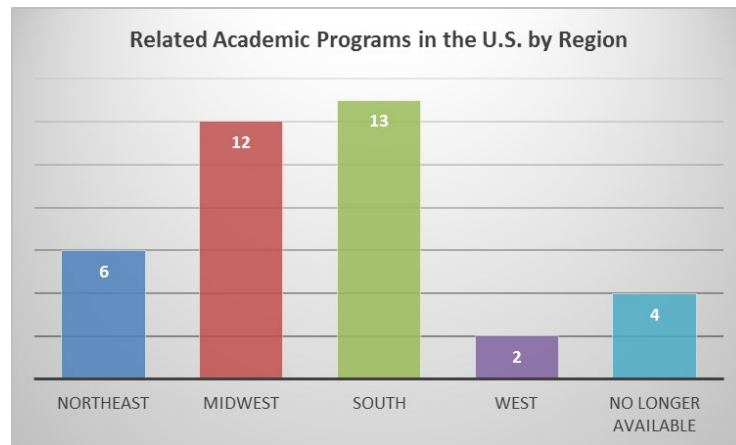
*Delivery Method of Academic Programs in Public Health, Medical and Related Programs:*

Thirteen programs are delivered on campus, 10 online, and four programs are delivered as hybrid or both on campus and online.



## V. Related Programs (36 original listings)

Of the 36 university programs listed, four (10.8%) programs are not currently (or no longer) available. Of the remaining 33 programs, six (18.2%) are based in the Northeast, 12 (36.4%) in the Midwest, 13 (39.4%) in the South, and two (6.1 %) in the West.



### *Regional analysis:*

The six programs available in the Northeast include one undergraduate or graduate certificate program, two bachelor's and three master's degrees.

The 12 programs available in the Midwest include one associate, seven bachelor's and three master's degrees.

The 13 programs available in the South include three undergraduate or graduate certificate programs, six bachelor's, three master's and one doctoral degree.

The two programs available in the West include an associate and a bachelor's degree each.

*Analysis by degree:*

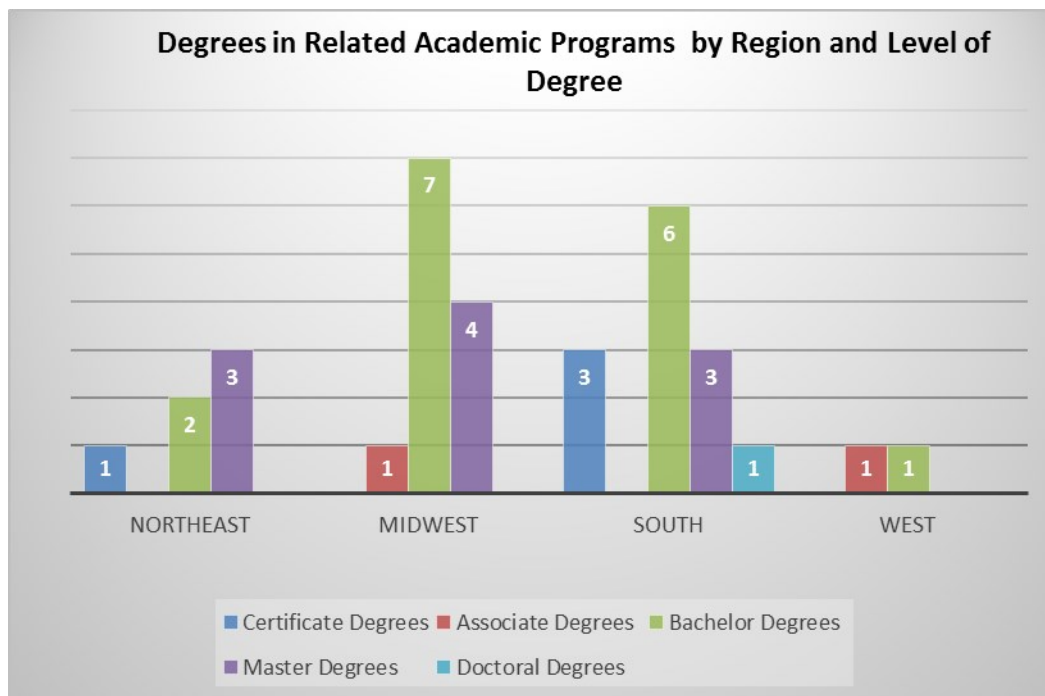
Of the four certificates available in related programs, one is offered in the Northeast and three in the South.

Of the two associate degrees in related programs, one is offered in the Midwest and one in the West.

Of the 16 bachelor's degrees in related programs, two are offered in the Northeast, seven in the Midwest, six in the South, and one in the West.

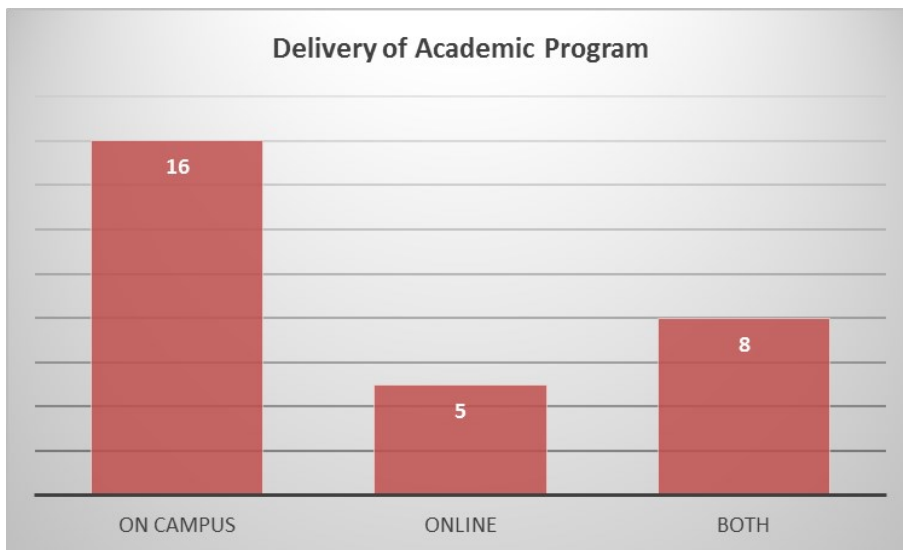
Of the 10 master's degrees in related programs, three are offered in the Northeast, four in the Midwest, and three in the South.

One doctoral degree is available in related programs in the South.



*Delivery Method of Academic Programs in Related Programs:*

Sixteen programs are delivered on campus, five online, and eight programs are delivered as hybrid or both on campus and online.



**CONCLUSION**

FEMA’s Emergency Management Institute provides a comprehensive listing of institutions across the United States that offer degrees in Emergency Management and related higher education courses in its College List.

The academic programs, offered in English, are dominated by Emergency Management courses followed by Homeland Security/Defense and Terrorism, Related programs, Public Health, Medical and Related programs, and U.S. International Disaster Relief/Humanitarian Assistance. Maximum number of programs are available in the South. Certificate programs dominate the list with very few doctoral degrees. Most programs are delivered on campus with a growing trend of online courses.

Our review of the College List indicates the programs that are no longer available, readily viewed in the searchable spreadsheet produced (<http://drr.fiu.edu/links-and-publications/>). Although course descriptions were not examined, a review of the degree titles indicates that key topics such as urban disaster risk, resilience, risk reduction, risk drivers and underlying risks are not addressed by these academic programs.