LEPS 500: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY

This course examines cutting-edge issues facing law enforcement and public safety including evolving technology, legal standards regarding use of force, officer health and wellness, UAVs, facial recognition, correctional realignment, drug policy changes, bail reform, records disclosure, and more. These issues are changing the landscape of law enforcement faster than ever before; this course will help law enforcement leaders proactively prepare for their agencies to thrive in this dynamic landscape.

LEPS 510: COMMUNICATION SKILLS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS

From interpersonal communication with colleagues and citizens to formal written reports to working with the media, this course studies all of the different ways law enforcement leaders need to communicate to be successful. The course introduces and develops a series of communication skills essential for someone leading a modern law enforcement department.

LEPS 520: BEST PRACTICES IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This course looks at best practices regarding how individuals in law enforcement engage both broadly with the community and with key stakeholders. This course specifically zeros in on these aspects of communication in the modern climate of increased transparency and collaboration. Building from real case studies, students will complete this course with an understanding of how to appropriately position their agencies in the national dialogue about policing in the contemporary climate, being leaders in a progressing industry, and what it means to be a changemaker in the field of policing.

PROGRAM DETAILS

- 31 units completed over 20 months
- 10 courses + a capstone project
- Classes run year round in three terms: Spring (January), Summer (May) and Fall (September)
- All students complete an 8-hour orientation course before starting the program

LEPS 530: PUBLIC SAFETY IN A DYNAMIC WORLD

In an era where evolving technology is outpacing the law, this cutting-edge course helps provide direction and answer questions around the legal complexities of using law enforcement technologies, and other contemporary legal issues. The course looks at right-to-privacy and 4th amendment cases that are guiding legal precedents regarding smartphones, UAVs, BWCs, Brady issues, DNA evidence, cyber crime, terrorism, peace officer records release and transparency legislation. The course features hypothetical scenarios in which students make leadership and mission decisions broaching legal questions where there is no clear correct legal answer.

LEPS 540: ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

How do law enforcement and public safety professionals lead under stress, in environments of change, and in the modern social and political climate? Strong leadership is crucial in law enforcement organizations; from officer safety, to thriving teams, to organizational success or failure, the stakes are high day in and day out. Leadership is a broad and diverse toolkit that can, and should, be understood and applied differently by individuals and organizations. Throughout this course, students will be exposed to practical and application-based examinations of organizational models and leadership theories. Designed to create immediate payoff with real-time and actionable lessons, the course uses a variety of case studies from law enforcement, corporate America and the military to present a holistic look at leadership, ethics, and best practices in modern law enforcement and public safety organizations.

LEPS 550: DATA FLUENCY AND ANALYSIS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS

In today's law enforcement and public safety field, leaders need to be able to justify resource allocation decisions, present data-driven initiatives, and demonstrate success and failure with sound data and evidence. This course nurtures a contemporary and critical understanding of the importance of crime data and related evidence to maximizing both ethics and efficacy within agencies. Honing in on intelligence-led, evidence-based, data-driven policing, students will learn how to effectively present accurate, detailed crime data and related evidence for key stakeholders.

LEPS 560: EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP IN MODERN PUBLIC SAFETY

As individuals rise in an organization, they get a wider view of responsibilities, whether that be for their specific unit or the organization as a whole. This course looks at six models for how organizations function, allowing students to identify the model that best describes their agencies and make observations about processes that can be maximized. In a pro-seminar format, this course features a unique guest lecturer with specific expertise in each unit of the course. Collectively these perspectives from law enforcement, the military, the corporate sector, academia and elected officials will present a rich and nuanced look at how our students can maximize their impact on their organizations, constituents, and communities.

LEPS 570: PUBLIC POLICY INNOVATION

How do agencies carry out reliable public policy research? Which resources do they invest in and why? Are the programs in place working? How can any given law enforcement leader be an effective, critical consumer of research, evidence, and best practices? This course looks at how to make good policy decisions, how to involve key stakeholders, and how to create and communicate policy. Nurturing practical research skills for law enforcement leaders, students will complete a project in which they are placed in groups to collectively write an MOU for a gang or human trafficking multiagency task force. Working each week to contribute to the document, they produce a real MOU by the end of the course; something typically high-ranking individuals and/or those in specialized assignments have the opportunity to do.

LEPS 580: LAW ENFORCEMENT MANAGEMENT AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

A deep and applicable understanding of emotional intelligence, human resources, and essential skills for managing workplace conflict is key to leading successfully. In this course, students will develop skills that are essential to effective dispute resolution. These skills will be introduced, developed, and applied to conflicts between individuals, within small groups, and throughout organizations. At its core, this is an ethics-centric leadership and management course that addresses the unique dynamics of criminal justice agencies. Navigating contentious issues and developing and executing effective, positive resolutions requires an approach that emphasizes human dignity and both personal and professional integrity throughout the process.

LEPS 590: BUDGET & FINANCE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS

Would you know how to create and present a budget if asked to do so? Budget and finance is an area in which many new to a command staff position feel they need additional training. And with the increased emphasis on evidence-driven rationales for budgetary decisions, all law enforcement leaders need to have a robust understanding of budgeting, contract negotiation, finance, and staffing/resource allocation. This course will expose students to different types of budget models and how they function in a public safety environment. Key learning concepts include performance-based, line-item and zero-based budget models, along with best practices for finding, writing and securing grants that are often key to organizational goals.

LEPS 599: INTEGRATIVE CAPSTONE

In the final course of the program sequence, students create an online portfolio to showcase what they've learned throughout the program. In what could be described as a 'resume on steroids', this portfolio contains a compilation of exemplary projects, term papers, presentations, and skill-based exercises that were completed throughout the program. The creation of the capstone project requires students to identify and critically reflect on the major program themes and what they've learned in the program. The reflection and the portfolio itself are both invaluable assets for career advancement.

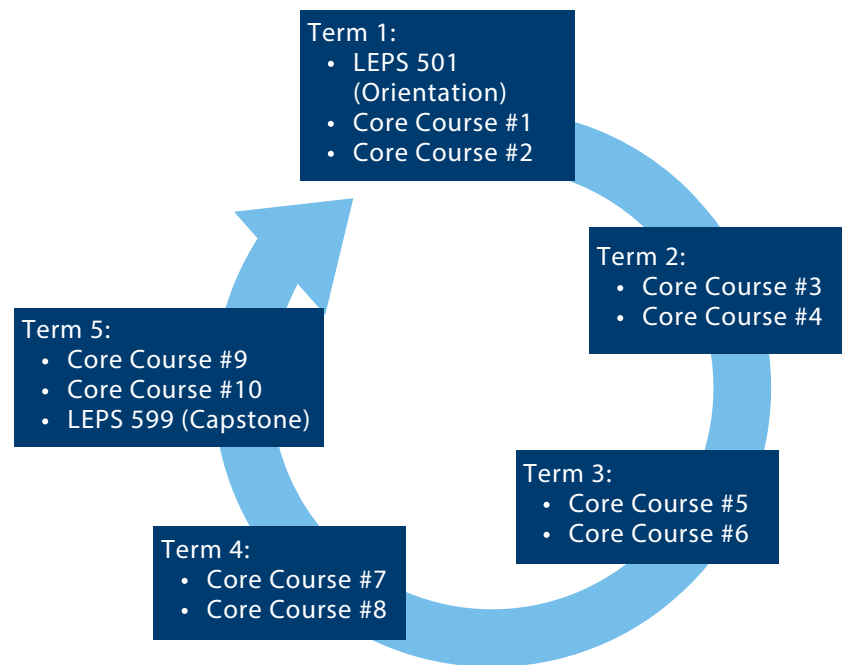*Note: all electronic portfolios have password protection and other security options to keep information secure.

UNDERSTANDING THE COURSE CAROUSEL

Courses in the LEPSL program are scheduled on a carousel, which allows new students to start at any time. Thus all students in the program are taking the same course at the same time, regardless of whether they are in their first term or their last.

The academic year is comprised of three 14-week terms, with breaks from one to three weeks between each term:

- Fall - courses start in September
- Spring - courses start in January
- Summer - courses start in May

Students will take two 7-week courses each term. Courses are offered sequentially.

Term 1:
- LEPS 501 (Orientation)
- Core Course #1
- Core Course #2

Term 2:
- Core Course #3
- Core Course #4

Term 3:
- Core Course #5
- Core Course #6

Term 4:
- Core Course #7
- Core Course #8

Term 5:
- Core Course #9
- Core Course #10
- LEPS 599 (Capstone)

For a schedule of which courses will be offered in the upcoming term, please check the curriculum page of the website.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How long will it take me to complete my degree program?

The MS-LEPSL is a 31-unit program designed to be completed in 5 semesters (20 months). If you need to take a break from your coursework for any reason your path to graduation will be delayed.

What if I have transfer credit?

Students who have transfer credit will take a 7-week leave of absence when a course is offered for which they have transfer credit.

Is there any requirement to come to campus?
The MS-LEPSL program is 100% online. There is no on-campus requirement. However, we do hope you and your family can join us on campus for commencement. If you are ever in the San Diego area we hope you'll stop by for a tour of our beautiful campus.

How much time should I expect to spend each week?
Most students set aside about 15 to 20 hours per week to complete their assignments and participate in the discussion board.

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