

BIODEFENSE 2007 APPLICATION INFORMATION

In the fall 2007 semester the Biodefense program will be administered by the Department of Public and International Affairs (PIA). This will produce little to no change for students currently enrolled in the program. Current students will be allowed to follow the program outlined in the university catalog that was in effect at the time of their admission to the program, so long as that catalog is not more than six years old.

The transfer of the Biodefense program administration to PIA will have more of an effect on students newly admitted into the program in the fall 2007 semester. The primary effect is that **the program will have more of a public affairs and policy influence.**

As a consequence, applicants to the Biodefense program who are interested in a biodefense-related degree with a scientific focus are strongly encouraged to apply to a “sister” program in the Molecular and Microbiology Department instead. MS students are asked to apply to the MS Biology program with the Microbiology and Infectious Diseases concentration. PhD students are asked to apply to the PhD Biosciences program with the Microbiology and Infectious Diseases concentration.

To help you decide if these other programs are suitable for you, we have listed a sample of the course titles in the Microbiology and Infectious Diseases concentrations:

- Virology
- Pathogenic Microbiology
- Microbial Physiology
- Microbial Metabolism
- Techniques in Microbial Pathogenesis

If you have already applied to the Biodefense program for fall 07 and with this information now believe your interests are more suited to the Biology or Biosciences program, ask the COS Graduate Admissions office to change your program of application.

If these courses don't reflect your biodefense interest, then you are probably better suited to the original Biodefense program that will eventually have its home in the PIA department. Monitor the PIA department website over the next 6-8 months for more information. <http://pia.gmu.edu/index.html>