



# Office of Academic Engagement

## Overview

The Office of Academic Engagement (OAE) was established in June 2011 to support the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) mission by building, improving, and leveraging relationships with the academic community.

Based at DHS Headquarters, OAE works to coordinate DHS academic policy; facilitate inter- and intra-agency coordination on academic affairs; market and promote DHS resources; and collaborate with students, faculty, and academic institutions.

OAE focuses on five key areas:



**1 Student and Recent Graduate Recruitment**  
Focuses on the unique career opportunities that DHS offers in a variety of fields to build the next generation of homeland security leaders.

**2 International Students**  
Advances opportunities for international students to study in the United States while maintaining the integrity of the immigration process.

**3 Academic Research and Faculty Exchange**  
Taps the expertise of the nation’s colleges and universities to address pressing homeland security needs.

**4 Campus Resilience**  
Strengthens the ability of colleges and universities to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk.

**5 Homeland Security Academic Programs**  
Supports academic programs that help DHS create an educated and informed workforce now and in the future.

## Key Accomplishments

### *Study in the States*

The *Study in the States* website serves as an innovative information hub for the international student community by bringing together the various federal agencies that play a role in implementing our student visa and exchange visitor programs.

### *Homeland Security Academic Advisory Council (HSAAC)*

The HSAAC is a Federal advisory committee comprised of university presidents and academic leaders that provides advice and recommendations to the Secretary and senior leadership at DHS on matters related to homeland security and the academic community.

### *Secretary’s Speaker Series*

The Secretary’s Speaker Series provides an opportunity for current DHS employees to gain valuable insight from senior leaders through monthly speaking events at various DHS offices.

### *Campus Resilience Pilot Program*

The Campus Resilience Pilot Program engages colleges and universities to help their efforts to develop and pilot an emergency preparedness and resilience planning process.

### *Secretary’s Honors Program (SHP)*

The SHP is a highly competitive, premier program that offers professional development and training opportunities for exceptional recent graduates focused on DHS careers.

### *SHP Cyber Student Volunteer Initiative*

The SHP Cyber Student Volunteer Initiative provides college students with assignments at local DHS field offices to gain hands-on experience and exposure to the work done by DHS cybersecurity professionals.