

Independent Study Program Fact Sheet

February 2025

General Information

The National Disaster & Emergency Management University (NDEMU) Curriculum Standards and Instructional Technology Branch provides the Independent Study Program (ISP). This is a distance learning program which offers training, online and free of charge, to the nation's emergency management network and the general public. It serves as both an alternative means to deliver valuable training to the professional and volunteer emergency management community as well as an opportunity to improve public awareness and promote disaster preparedness nationally.

The [Independent Study Program](#) offers nearly 200 training courses. There has been substantial growth in the program since 2004 due to the National Incident Management System training requirements.

The [NDEMU Student Portal](#) was launched in July 2022 and allows students to access their training records and completion documents online.

Students obtain continuing education units for most ISP courses. Students can also request an Official Transcript to be sent to a college or university for the purposes of accreditation.

The program also provides a customer support center to assist students with portal accessibility, credential verification, and website support. The customer support center can be reached by telephone at 301-447-1200 or email at independent.study@fema.dhs.gov. The hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm EST.

Program Statistics

In Fiscal Year 2024:

- ISP processed over 3 million test submissions.
- There were 2,429,689 successful course completions.
- The average cost per student completion was \$1.28.
- The ISP customer support center assisted with over 74,000 student inquiries.