

Intelligence Today and Tomorrow

Major or Minor or . . . ?

Educators' Consider Alternative Approaches to US College Intelligence Programs

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Undergraduate academic programs in national security or intelligence began sprouting up at US colleges and universities in the 1990s. They multiplied dramatically following the 9/11 terrorist attacks in response to the heightened need for professionals conversant with terrorism, international crime, cyberthreats, and other geopolitical issues.

The demand for people skilled in these areas has moved beyond the Federal government to state and local law enforcement, public infrastructure management, and corporate security departments. In 1985, private sector institutions of higher education offered only 54 intelligence-related individual classes; that number has ballooned to nearly 1,000 today. The rise in intelligence studies programs has engendered a spirited debate in academia about the best way to educate future intelligence officers. In this article two educators debate the merits of differing approaches.

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