Earn the credentials you need to be competitive in the fast-growing field of cybersecurity — fully-online

The University of South Florida offers Graduate Certificates, which allows you to acquire valuable knowledge in your area of interest in a short time frame. Choose from three different cybersecurity certificates: Cyber Intelligence, Digital Forensics or Information Assurance. By choosing the graduate certificate program, your credit hours can be transferred toward the Master’s degree program.

Professionals with experience in cybersecurity are among the most sought after employees in the world. In the last five years, the number of job postings for all jobs grew by six percent, while postings for cybersecurity-related jobs grew by more than 70 percent.*

Who Should Apply

You are most likely to be successful if you have academic or work experience in the areas of C/C++ programming, computer networks, operating-system design, algorithms, data structures and computer organization. An undergraduate degree in computer science, computer engineering, MIS or IT is recommended for admission.

Course Structure

- All courses are fully online
- Most courses are delivered in a convenient eight-week format that fits into the busy lives of working adults
- Programs are 12- to 18-credit hours

*Computerworld
Program Details

Cyber Intelligence
This certificate provides you the skills to acquire and assess the intentions, capabilities and activities of potential adversaries and insiders who pose a threat, including attack methods that target people to penetrate systems, sometimes referred to as social engineering. Learn to generate and evaluate courses of action to manage risks, counter vulnerabilities and enhance organizational decision-making as you develop an understanding of how intelligence drives a cybersecurity mission.

Required courses (18 credit hours):
- Professional and Technical Communication for Analysts
- Information Strategy and Decision Making
- Advanced Intelligence Analytic Methods
- Core Concepts in Intelligence
- Cyber Intelligence
- Advanced Cyber Intelligence

Digital Forensics
This certificate focuses on digital forensics tradecraft, techniques and procedures, standards of practice, and legal and ethical principles, all assuring that digital evidence is accurate, complete and reliable. Learn how to investigate computer, cyber and electronic crimes; analyze networks that have been attacked or used for illicit purposes; and properly identify, collect, secure and present digital evidence.

Required courses (15 credit hours):
- Cybercrime and Criminal Justice
- Digital Evidence Recognition
- Introduction to Digital Evidence
- Network Forensic Criminal
- Digital Forensic Criminal Investigations

Information Assurance
This certificate provides you with a core foundation of knowledge and applied expertise in information security controls, the regulatory environment and information risk management and incident response. Learn how to balance defenses and risks to secure the integrity of information in storage; ensure its accessibility to authorized personnel and inaccessibility to unauthorized personnel; and maintain the confidentiality of an organization or agency’s sensitive identifying and personal data.

Required courses include two core courses and two concentration courses, for a total of 12 credit hours. Required courses:
- Basics of Information Security and Risk Management
- Decision Processes for Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery

Choose two of the following pre-approved electives:
- Seminar on Software Testing
- Advanced Database Administration
- Advanced Systems Analysis and Design
- Risk Management & Legal Compliance
- Accounting Systems Audit, Control & Security

Learn more at: cyber.usf.edu/info
Admission Requirements

In order to qualify for admission into the fully-online Graduate Certificate program, you must have one of the following:

- A bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution and 3.00 GPA or better in all work attempted while registered as an undergraduate student working towards a degree.
- A bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution and a previous graduate degree with a 3.00 GPA or better from a regionally accredited institution.
- The equivalent bachelors and/or graduate degrees from a foreign institution.
- English proficiency

Application Process

Your completed application is due to the Graduate Certificate office at least two weeks before the start of the semester for which you are applying. If you are applying to multiple Graduate Certificate programs, please apply for each one separately.

New USF Students Applying to a Certificate Program

To apply for admission to USF, you must:

- Complete the online application for admission at cyber.usf.edu/apply-now
- Pay the non-refundable $30 application fee
- Upload the following documents:
  - Letter of interest
  - Resume
  - Unofficial transcripts from each college or university you attended, to include military credits and CLEP scores.
- Mail official transcripts to:
  University of South Florida
  Graduate Certificates
  USF Innovative Education
  4202 E. Fowler Ave., SVC 1072
  Tampa, FL 33620

Existing USF Graduate Students Applying to a Certificate Program

To apply for admission to your Graduate Certificate program, you must:

- Complete the online application for admission at cyber.usf.edu/apply-now
- Upload the following documents:
  - Letter of interest
  - Resume

Existing USF Graduate Students are not required to pay the non-refundable $30 application fee or submit transcripts.

Submit Other Required Documents to USF

If you wish to take classes on campus, you must:

- Submit the Immunization Health History Form to the Immunization office prior to registration. If this is not done, a hold will be placed on your account.
- For additional information, call 813-974-5407 or e-mail insurance@shs.usf.edu.

NOTE: Admission to a graduate certificate program does not imply automatic acceptance into a graduate degree program.

Learn more at: cyber.usf.edu/info
Tuition and Fees

Total costs will vary based on the number of credit hours required by the certificate selected. Costs listed below do not include cost of textbooks or other educational resources.

- In-State: $347.91 per credit hour tuition + $133.52 per credit hour student services fees
- Out-of-State: $772.43 per credit hour tuition + $154.74 per credit hour student services fees

Out-of-State Students

Out-of-state students from one of the 16 Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) states may be eligible for in-state tuition through the Academic Common Market, which allows students to study in a specialized field at an out-of-state college while paying in-state tuition rates. We will work closely with you if you would like to pursue this option, or if you need to confirm or change your residency status. To learn more, visit the SREB website at: www.sreb.org/page/1304/academic_common_market.html

Veteran’s Assistance

Military Tuition Assistance, Veteran’s GI Bill and State Tuition Waivers may be used to pay for this graduate certificate.

Questions

To discuss your options and determine whether our program is right for you, please contact an Academic Program Specialist at cybereducation@usf.edu or 813-974-9943.