2022-23 DoD Cyber Scholarship Program (CySP)

As an NSA/DHS Center of Academic Excellence, National University students are eligible to apply for the DoD CySP. Students outside of cybersecurity in technical fields and students transferring from community colleges into our BS CYB program are also eligible to apply. Community College students or new MS CYB would need to be accepted at NU by Feb 1st and start classes in Fall 2022. The DoD estimates awarding scholarships beginning with the Fall 2022 semester.

Students selected as Cyber Scholars will receive:

- **FULL COST** of tuition
- **FULL COST** of required books and tech fees
- **Up to $1500 for a laptop**
- A Stipend:
  - $27,000 for undergraduate students
  - $32,000 for graduate students
- **EMPLOYMENT** with the DoD: students selected will be required to work for the DoD for one calendar year for each year of scholarship assistance. (NOTE: Students will be required to accept or decline the scholarship within 15 days of notification; relocation may be necessary.)

**HOW TO CHECK IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY:**

The application will consist of two parts. **Part One** determines your eligibility for the DoD CySP program.

Use the link below to create a Cyber Scholarship Account and start applying by completing PART ONE. Once Part One is completed and you are eligible, NU faculty will assist you with Part Two.


For questions or more information contact NU faculty: Chris Simpson (c simpson@nu.edu) or Debra Bowen (dbowen@nu.edu).
DoD Cyber Scholarship Program (DoD CySP)

Information To Get Started With Part One
The purpose of the DoD CySP is to support the recruitment of new cyber talent and the retention of current highly skilled professionals within the DoD cyber workforce.
The information provided in this presentation is a summary of the solicitation. Applicants are responsible for understanding all the program requirements.

DoD CySP Main Page at: https://www.dodemergingtech.com/cyber-scholarship-program-cysp

The actual solicitation is the primary document for all information. Doc Library at: (https://public.cyber.mil/dcysp/documents-library/)
Scholarship

- Full Tuition
- $1250 for books/tech fees
- Laptop (Up to $1500)
- Stipend
  - Undergraduate: $27,000
  - Graduate: $32,000
- Full-Time Position: DoD Agencies select students
Student’s Obligation

Accept or decline the scholarship within 15 days of notification

Maintain GPA:
- Undergraduate: 3.2
- Graduate: 3.5

Serve in internship positions (if timing permits)

Work for DoD upon graduation
- May need to relocate
- Work one calendar year for each year of scholarship support

Reimburse the government if fail to maintain academic progress or do not meet service commitment
Eligibility: Part One of Application

Note: Students cannot be DoD or government employees and need to be enrolled in or applying to a university designated as an NCAE-C (undergrad students need to be in their junior or senior year).

- Federal Employees are not eligible
- Active-Duty military are not eligible
- DoD civilian employees are not eligible

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Eligibility = Part One
Role of NU Faculty Supporting DoD CySP

Promote the program

Assist students with Part One and Part Two: Once a student begins the application process the faculty supporting the DoD CySP will reach out to students.

Provide an endorsement for each applicant

- Highly Recommend
- Recommend
- Not Recommend

Submit all eligible applications by 28 February 2022
• Students may need to move.
• Even if marijuana is legal in your state, it is **not** for DoD employees.
• Students will be required to complete a background check that leads to a decision on your security clearance as a condition of future employment with the DoD. Drug tests or other suitability processing will occur as appropriate.
• Salary may be lower compared to private sector.
• Students should not compare compensation to other scholarship recipients. Each student is reviewed by the selecting Agency and several factors are taken into consideration, including education level, certifications, experience, etc.
Transcripts may be official or unofficial – if selected an official transcript will be required.
Resumes

Traditional resumes will not be submitted. The new DoD CySP application tool will prompt students to fill in the required resume information. Students will be asked to provide the following:

a) Education: include degrees, institutions, location, date of graduation (or expected date of graduation); major/minor fields; GPA

b) Experience: jobs, internships, and/or volunteer work. Include name of company, position, and dates employed. List at least three important tasks, accomplishments, or skills gained at each job. Also identify any clearance level held. It is important that you identify the number of hours per week you worked.

c) Skills: include computer systems; programs which you are proficient. Include foreign languages. List any other skills, certifications, clearance levels you may hold.
TWO (2) Letters of Reference/Recommendation from persons knowledgeable of your potential for successful learning, as well as your knowledge and ability.

At least one of these letters must be from a current faculty member [or a most current faculty member], and the second letter may be from either a current or former faculty member, or a current or former employer.

Letters should be a PDF copy of the original version uploaded through the new application tool. Letters should be on official company/institution letterhead, include the contact information to confirm the letter is valid (full name, mailing address, phone number, email address) and must be signed by the author.

Emailed letters will not be accepted.

ON THE NEXT PAGE: Important information regarding the LOR content that many applicants miss!
Letters of Reference Content...Each LOR Must Address the following:

1. The relationship of the referee to you. (The referee should state whether the information is based on an academic or employment relationship.)

2. The length of the relationship. (The referee states how long they have known you.)

3. An assessment of your potential for academic success and fulfillment of degree requirements. (Advise your referees that your college or university will base a determination of your academic sufficiency, in part, on the letters of reference that you submit.)

4. An assessment of your knowledge and ability following the six (6) competency areas:
   
   a) Knowledge of the techniques of the cybersecurity discipline, including encryption, access control, physical security, training, threat analysis, and authentication.
   
   b) Knowledge of the human factors in cybersecurity, including human computer interaction, design, training, sabotage, human error prevention and identification, personal use policies, and monitoring.
   
   c) Ability to identify and analyze problems, distinguish between relevant and irrelevant information to make logical decisions, and provide solutions to individual and organizational problems.
   
   d) Ability to consider and respond appropriately to the needs, feelings, and capabilities of different people in different situations; is tactful, compassionate and sensitive, and treats others with respect.
   
   e) Ability to make clear and convincing oral presentations to individuals or groups; listens effectively and clarifies information as needed; facilitates an open exchange of ideas and fosters an atmosphere of open communication.
   
   f) Ability to express facts and ideas in writing in clear, convincing and organized manners appropriate to the audience and occasion.
Clearances

Items to Consider For Clearance Processing:

- Illegal Substance Usage (this includes marijuana even if legal in state you live) / Underage Drinking
- Foreign Contacts / Work / Study Abroad / Dual Citizenship
- Financial Debt
- Membership Organizations
Key Dates

1 Feb 2022: Students must submit their application in the new tool by 11:59 p.m. EST.

28 Feb 2022: NCAE-C’s (NU faculty) submit applications to the DoD CySP Program Office.

~Apr 2022: Scholarship notifications for students will be announced in the April 2022 timeframe.

~Apr/May 2022: Date to Accept Scholarship Offer; 15 days after receiving notification.

01 Aug 2022: All Grants Awarded (Start in Fall 2022, which is Aug-Nov for NU).
Questions

• For general questions about the program and application process, email NU faculty:
  ➢ Chris Simpson at: csimpson@nu.edu
  ➢ Debra Bowen at: dbowen@nu.edu

• For other questions about the program, email: AskCySP@nsa.gov