UTCS Scholarships for Service
Preparing for a Career in Security

Dr. Bill Young
Department of Computer Sciences
University of Texas at Austin

Fall, 2018
The Cybersecurity Talent Gap Is An Industry Crisis, Forbes, 8/9/18

“If you’re finding the job market a bit tight these days, you must not be in cybersecurity. According to recent estimates, there will be as many as 3.5 million unfilled positions in the industry by 2021.”


“Cyber security jobs commanded a $6,500 premium over other IT jobs in a 2015 study by analytics firm Burning Glass. Compensation for the most senior roles in cyber security, like chief information security officer, can reach $400,000.”

“The best estimate we have of the global workforce shortage comes from (ISC)2, which predicts the gap to hit 1.8 million in 2022. Some 68% of cyber security experts in North America say they don’t have the professionals they need on their security teams.”


“We predict there will be 3.5 million unfilled cybersecurity positions by 2021. The cybersecurity jobs forecasts have been unable to keep pace with the dramatic rise in cybercrime, which is predicted to cost the world $6 trillion annually by 2021, up from $3 trillion in 2015.”
As part of the U.S. push to enhance cyber defenses, UT and other major universities are ramping up programs to train cyber professionals.

- UTCS Austin is rated as one of the top 10 CS departments nationally.
- UTCS houses the Center for Information Assurance and Security, with around 12 affiliated faculty members.
- UT Austin is designated by NSA and DHS as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Research.
- UTCS offers a certificate in Information Security.
- UTCS offers NSF Scholarships for Service, designed to equip students as security professionals and promote public service.
Our NSF SfS grant supports students seeking a career in information assurance and security.

- Participants are undergraduates or five-year masters students.
- Receive several semesters of generous financial support.
- Complete InfoSec Certificate in Information Security.
- Receive mentoring from the UTCS security faculty.
- Participate in security-related summer internships.
- Become part of a “cohort” of student security scholars.

In return the student must commit to professional employment with a government agency in security-related service, of duration equal to the period of support.
Annually, while in the program, each student receives:

- Tuition and fees for up to 12 credit hours for Fall and Spring semesters.
- $24,500 stipend.
- $3000 health insurance reimbursement allowance.
- $2000 for textbooks.
- $4000 professional development allowance (primarily to participate in federal agency career fairs).
Each participant in the program must:

- be a UT CS major (students may apply when CS Entry Level, but must be official CS majors to begin the program);
- have a minimum UT GPA of 3.2
- be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident;
- meet the criteria for employment with the U.S. Federal Government;
- be able to receive a U.S. Federal Government security clearance.
Apply to Michaela Cicero by **November 15**.

Applications are on the website: https://www.cs.utexas.edu/undergraduate/academics/scholarship-service.