Why a Cybersecurity Degree is Key to a Flourishing Career

Stop Chasing Success. Start Living It.

As the ways in which we use technology have evolved, the techniques criminals employ have never been more sophisticated. That is why University of Arizona Master's in Cybersecurity students develop the innovative skills necessary to institute the best possible security measures to protect organization systems, networks and devices from ever-increasing cybersecurity threats.

"You're only as strong as your weakest link," says **Professor Hsinchun Chen**, "which is why we focus on creating an intelligent, systematic approach that emphasizes the importance of knowing the enemy and focusing on potential threats." At the University of Arizona, we instruct students to bolster every link in the chain to craft robust cybersecurity plans.

This prestigious master's program was built for IT professionals and students who meet at least one of three requirements:
- Three years of technical work experience (excluding internships)
- A relevant industry certificate, like a CISSP, a CRISC or CISM
- A recent (within one year of the master's program application) undergraduate degree in management information systems, electrical engineering, computer engineering, computer science, systems engineering, industrial engineering or a related field

If you fit one of the above descriptions, you've already completed the first step to joining one the most esteemed cybersecurity programs in the country.

An Award-Winning Tradition Through Cross-Disciplinary Training

The University of Arizona's Master's in Cybersecurity is a unique collaboration between three of the University's strongest departments:
- the Eller College of Management's Department of Management Information Systems (MIS), which is ranked number 5 in the nation
- the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
- the Department of Systems and Industrial Engineering at the College of Engineering

Together, these departments and their professors have established the number 7 master's in Cybersecurity program in the nation, as ranked by Cyber Degrees. The success doesn't stop there. The program has been ranked:

- second out of all online cybersecurity programs, by Master's Program Guide
- third out of public university cybersecurity programs, by Cyber Degrees in 2018
- twelfth national and fourth public cyber crime program, by TheBestSchools.org in 2018
- eight in online enterprise security certificates by Cyber Degrees in 2018.

By blending the coursework and expertise from industry-leading professors, our Cybersecurity program provides a holistic, forward-focused understanding of today's malicious cyber threats and the systems used to both build and prevent them.

"The University of Arizona is a research-focused institution," says Chen. "We want to have a significant global impact, so we graduate well-rounded, data-driven professionals who make evidence-based decisions to thwart dangerous threats at companies and institutions all over the world."

A Unique Blend of Courses

After successfully completing the rounded core curriculum (which includes classes like Data Mining for Business Intelligence and Information Security in Public and Private Sectors), students pick between two tracks: Information Systems and Physical Systems.

The Information Systems track focuses on securing software, cloud-based data and people from cyber crimes and social engineering, while the Physical Systems track focuses on securing hardware and physical systems like computers and laptops, as well as items within the Internet of Things.

If you're unsure which track is best for you, our advisors are always available to assist in picking the track that best aligns with your career goals.

A Focus on Students

The Master's in Cybersecurity is entirely online, providing the flexibility you need to advance your career inside your busy schedule. Weekly deadlines push you forward and ensure you don't fall behind, and our D2L (Desire to Learn) platform hosts all of your courses and classroom collaboration in one convenient hub.

To make the content easier to absorb for each student, voice-over materials are supplemented by online labs, assignments, projects, reading materials, quizzes and exams.

Scheduling that Works Around Your Professional Life

At the University of Arizona, a new student in the master's program can receive a diploma in as little as two years—after completing 11 courses.

Each of the four common core courses are eight weeks long. Afterward, you'll complete seven courses in either the Information Systems track, where each course is eight weeks long, or the Physical Systems track, where each course is 16 weeks long.

How much time you should plan on devoting to your classes each week depends entirely on how much technical experience and knowledge you bring with you, as well as which track you choose. In general, an eight-week course demands more effort than a 16-week course.

Consequently, we typically recommend students plan their studying schedule like a part-time job—10-20 hours of work per week to complete the program.

Scholarship Opportunities, Thanks to a Prestigious Designation

All students entering the Master's in Cybersecurity program are immediately eligible for scholarships and grants through the Department of Defense Information Assurance Program and the Federal Cyber Service Scholarship for Service Program.

These are accessible because the University of Arizona has been recognized as a Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Research by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security—a testament to its dedication to being an industry leader.

The University of Arizona also offers veteran benefits and qualified tuition reductions for employees of the University of Arizona, Arizona State University and Northern Arizona University—all to make our affordable master's even more accessible.

Optional Certificates Help You Stand Out From the Crowd

Make your Master's in Cybersecurity shine even brighter by securing the Department of MIS's Enterprise Security Certificate.

You'll earn your certificate after successfully completing three courses:
- Information Security in the Public and Private Sectors
- Information Security Risk Management
- Systems Security Management

In addition to improving your proficiency in security management, this certification counts as one year of work experience toward the Certified Information Security Manager designation—which can push you even further in your career.

Incredible Professor Accolades

While the University of Arizona is packed with prolific research-driven professors, the instructors in the Cybersecurity program have higher ambitions than publishing papers. Much of the world-class research conducted by these instructors is sparked by a desire to have a real-world impact. For example:
- **Hsinchun Chen** developed COPLINK, a data-mining system used by police departments to link suspects and catch criminals all over the country.

- **Joe Valacich** is the co-founder of a University of Arizona spinout called Neuro-ID, which provides a real-time analytics tool to help hiring managers pick between high-value applicants.
- **Jay Nunamaker** has received more than $55 million in research funding from organizations like IBM, Intel, U.S. Army Research Lab, the Defense Advanced Research Projects agency and others.

Build Your Future Today

Applying to the program is easy. Submit your application today. Need more information first? Visit our Frequently Asked Questions page or request more information.