Department of Defense (DoD) Cyber Scholarship Program (CySP)

Proposal Review and Key Components

https://www.augusta.edu/ccs/dod-cyber-scholarship.php

Achieved Designation as a Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense (CAE-CD)

AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF COMPUTER AND CYBER SCIENCES

Designated in 2016

Review of Cybersecurity Scholarship Program

- **Overarching Goal/Objective:** To increase the number of qualified students entering the fields of information assurance, information technology, and cybersecurity to meet the DoD's increasing dependence on cybersecurity for war fighting and the security of its information infrastructure.

CySP Timeline

- Scholarship notifications for students should be announced to the CAEs by **May 2023**. Grants for Scholarships (Basic) and ANNEX II should be awarded by **August 2023**.
- Recommended Timeline:
  - Launch webpage with info and application — 11/7/2022
  - Host student information sessions (RV2301) — 12/2/2022 (4 pm) and 12/16/2022 (10am)
  - Student online application due date — **2/1/2023, 11:59pm**
  - AU DoD CySP application submission — 2/28/2023
  - Announcement of DoD CySP recipients — May 2023

Online student application link:
https://www.dodemergingtech.com/cyber-scholarship-program-cysp/

DoD CySP Benefits

Students selected as CySP Scholars will receive:

- Full cost of tuition and required fees
- Book and computer allowance (only covers required class textbooks, not books which are listed as optional for class)
- Stipend for room and board: $27,000 for undergraduate students and $32,000 for graduate students (Master's/PhD).
- Disabled students may receive additional allowances.
- There are NO allowances for dependents.

Eligibility Requirements

- Individuals supported by the DoD CySP must be U.S. Citizens, or permanent residents admitted to the U.S. for permanent residence prior to award.
- Students must attend a CAE-designated school full-time.
- Must be pursuing a course of study and/or have a declared major in one of the scientific, technical, or managerial disciplines related to cybersecurity or with a concentration in cyber security.
- Undergraduate scholarship recipients will be required to maintain a 3.2 out of 4.0 grade point average or the equivalent.
- Graduate students will be required to maintain an overall 3.5 out of a 4.0 grade point average, or equivalent.

Ineligibility Criterion:

- Current DoD/Federal Employees, and Active Duty Military must apply through a separate, different application process that goes through their current Component.

- Students with an existing service obligation are not eligible to apply.

- Except for small achievement awards, students may not accept simultaneous remuneration from another scholarship or fellowship **exceeding $6,000** in any academic year. If you are currently receiving financial aid, we will need to consult with you individually in determining the applicability of this requirement.

Requirements

- Failure to maintain satisfactory academic progress will constitute grounds for termination of financial assistance and termination of internship and/or employment appointment.
- Students who fail to complete the degree program satisfactorily or to fulfill the service commitment upon graduation shall be required to reimburse the United States, in whole or in part, the cost of the financial (scholarship) assistance provided to them.

Student Obligation

- Students selected to participate in the DoD CySP will be required to sign a written agreement obligating them to work for the DoD as a civilian employee for **one calendar year for each year of scholarship assistance**.
- If a student applies for only one semester (or six months) of scholarship, the student must still agree to work for the DoD for one year. This agreement is provided to the selecting agency for their records to ensure compliance with the service commitment.
- Note: New applicants must have at least one year of school left in order to apply. Students applying in January 2023 cannot be scheduled to graduate earlier than May 2024.

Student Obligation continued…

- Students may also payback the scholarship through military service. Individuals choosing to enlist or accept a commission to serve on active duty in one of the Military Services shall incur a service obligation of a minimum of 4 years on active duty in that Service upon graduation.
- The Military Services may establish a service obligation longer than 4 years, depending on the occupational specialty and type of enlistment or commissioning program selected.

Student Obligation continued…

- Students will also be required to serve in internship positions, if timing permits, with a designated DoD organization during the time they are receiving scholarship support until they complete the course of study provided for by the scholarship.
- These internships will be arranged by the DoD to occur during the summer or other breaks between school terms, as appropriate to the individual's circumstances and the institution's calendar.
- **The internship does not count toward satisfying the period of obligated service incurred by accepting the Cybersecurity scholarship**.

Student Obligation continued…

- Students will be required to complete a security investigation questionnaire to initiate the process for a background investigation in preparation for their internships, if applicable, and as a condition of future employment with the DoD.
- Drug tests or other suitability processing will occur as appropriate.
- Students will also be required to sign an agreement stating that they will accept assignments requiring travel or change of duty stations as interns or employees.

Student Obligation continued…

- Individuals who voluntarily terminate employment during intern appointments or before the end of the period of obligated service required by the terms of Chapter 112, title 10, United States Code, **will be required to refund the United States, in whole or in part, the cost of the educational assistance** provided to them.

Student Obligation continued…

- Students will be required to formally accept or decline the scholarship within 15 days of notification.
- **Non-acceptance by this date will mean the scholarship will be offered to the next available student.**

Students should consider the following when applying: (These items will not disqualify them from applying)

- Am I willing to move away from family/home town? (Summer Internship and/or Final Placement)
- Am I willing to move my family to a new city/state? (Summer Internship and/or Final Placement)
- Am I willing to quit a current non-Federal job to accept the scholarship?
- Is there a life event happening in the next few months that will prevent me from performing my service obligation (Marriage, birth, etc)?
- Salary levels may not be the same as what I am currently making or what I could potentially make working for a contractor. I should factor in salary, benefits, and the fact that I don't have to pay large student loan when making my decision.

Candidates who are applying for DoD CySP should understand up front that they could probably make more on the outside. Before a candidate signs the application form they should be informed that they could potentially receive a lesser salary than their peers headed to commercial jobs. What a DoD CySP hire will get from the U.S. Government service is the knowledge they are joining a team with an important mission: defending our nation. Along the way the U.S. Government is going to give them a scholarship that allows them to leave school relatively debt free. They will get a clearance, a top-notch advanced training (with certification), and the satisfaction of having served their country. Our previous Cyber Operators are on missions worldwide now and they are making a difference everyday against Advanced Persistent Threats.

CAE Responsibilities

- Assign a Principal Investigator/Program Manager
  - Michael Nowatkowski, Professor, PI
  - Jeff Morris, Assistant Professor, Co-PI
  - Markus Bacha, Academic Program Coordinator
- Hold an information session for 3rd and 4th year undergraduate and graduate students in cybersecurity who meet minimum GPA on application requirements with an established application timeline.
- Verify documentation of the eligibility of each applicant for scholarship appointment to meet minimum requirements (refer to Attachment C).

Key Components of the Student Application

- All online application process
- https://www.dodemergingtech.com/cyber-scholarship-program-cysp/
- Your application will consist of two parts.
  - Part One determines your eligibility for the DoD CySP program.
  - Part Two will collect additional information.
- Applicants who are determined not eligible will not advance to Part Two.
- The deadline is Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern time. You must have your application and all materials submitted by that date and time.
- **Late applications will not be accepted.**

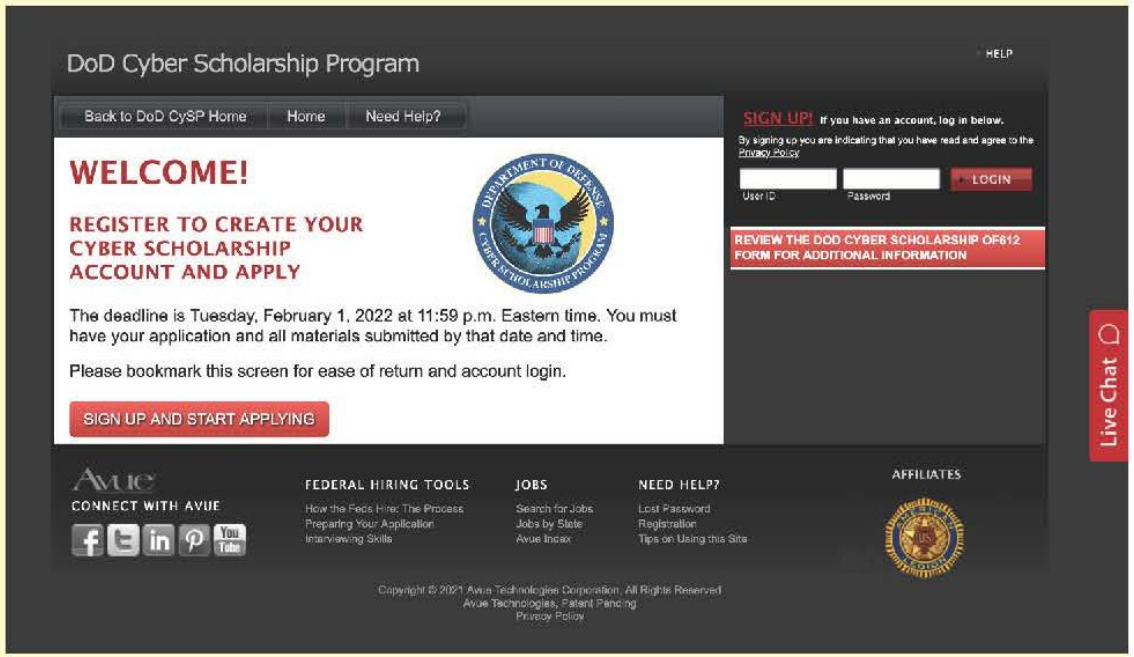
Where You'll Find Us (Bookmark These Links)

DoD CySP MAIN PAGE

https://www.dodemergingtech.com/cyber-scholarship-program-cysp

YOUR APPLICATION REGISTRATION & LOGIN SCREEN

https://www.avuedigitalservices.com/casting/aiportal/control/main-menu?agency=DDW&portal=CYSP



How to Apply: Sign up for an account, and click "Start Application" from your logged in home screen.

Important: Only students at designated National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity (Cyber Defense Education, Research, and Operations), referred to as NCAE-Cs, may apply.

5 Things to Know About the DoD CySP Online Application

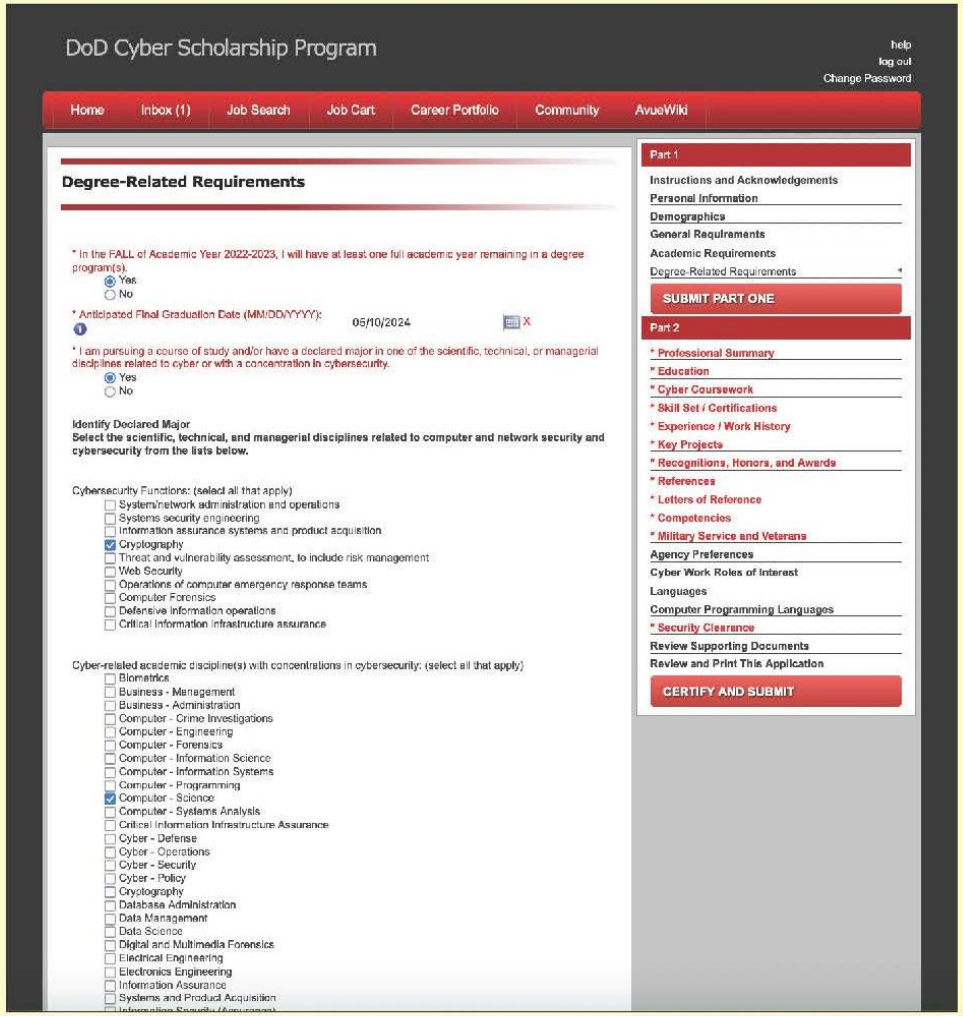
1. Your application will consist of two parts. **Part One** determines your eligibility for the DoD CySP program. **Part Two** will collect additional information. Applicants who are determined not eligible will not advance to Part Two.

2. The application uses a basic question and answer process, and successfully completing one screen will advance you to the next.

3. Review all application instructions and materials included with this announcement. Pay close attention to the mandatory conditions of financial assistance and employment.

4. The application and the DoD CySP site provides applicants with multiple opportunities to review and acknowledge the OF612 form. Please ensure that you have read and acknowledged the information in the form.

5. Check with the identified Point of Contact for your college or university to find out what you must do to apply and to obtain an augmented application package if your school requires one. Your online application will be submitted directly to your college or university Point of Contact.



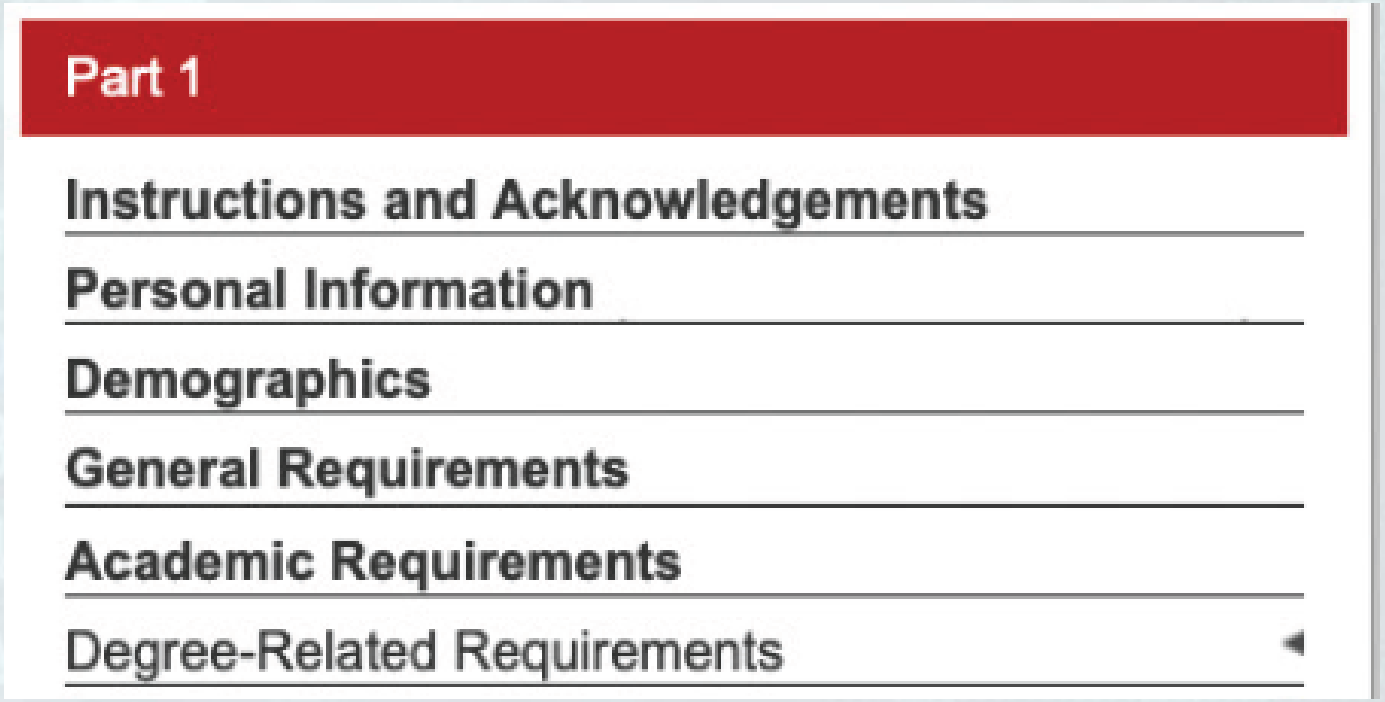
LEARN MORE

Additional information about the DoD CySP program, its requirements, submission information, and background investigation information, can be found at the DoD CySP site:

https://www.dodemergingtech.com/cyber-scholarship-program-cysp

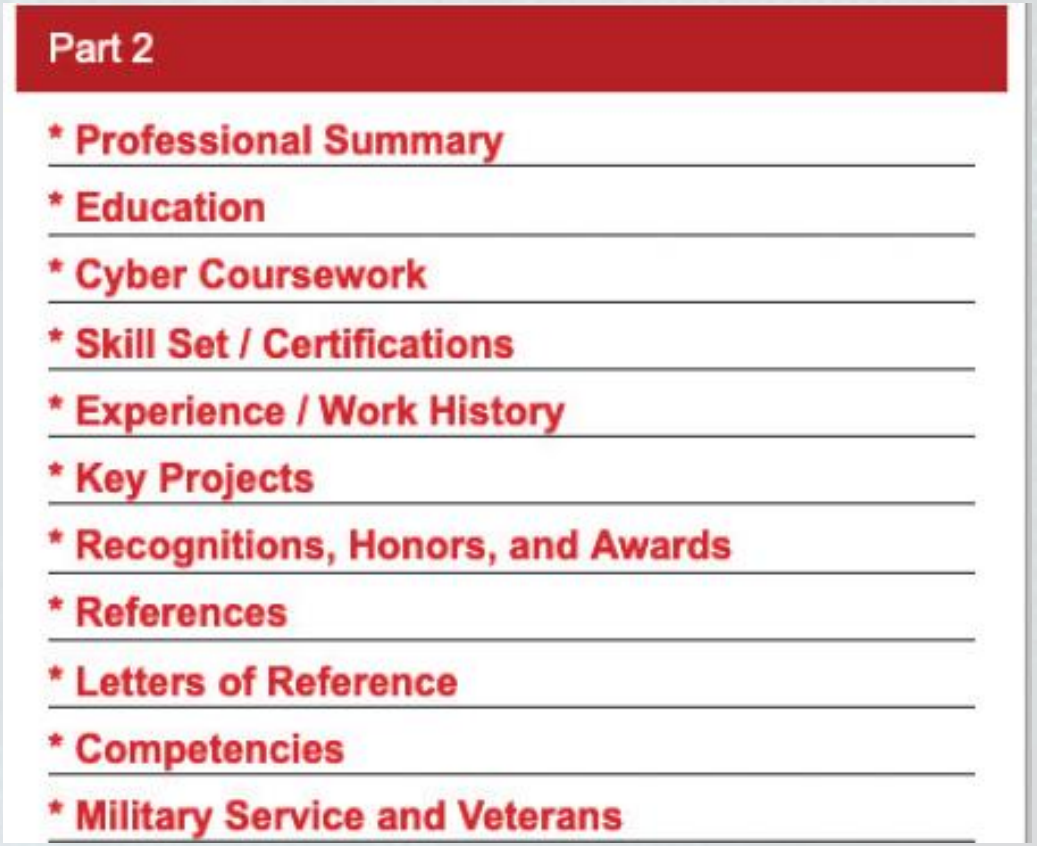
Part 1 of the Student Application

- Once you register, there are many pages of reading and filling out information



Part 2 of the Student Application

- Read page 7-8 of ATTACHMENT C for more details on the application process
- Veterans can claim a preference – see page 6 of ATTACHMENT C for details
- Requirements:
  - Recognitions, Awards, and Honors
  - Resume Form Online
  - 1 letter of reference from a current faculty member
  - 1 letter of reference from a current/former faculty member or supervisor
  - Official electronic transcripts (POUNCE)
  - OF612 Supplemental Competency Statement



Part 2 has more parts than those listed here.

OF612 Supplemental Competency Statement

- Evaluate each applicant on the following competencies (KSA's)
  - Knowledge of the techniques of the cybersecurity discipline, including encryption, access control, physical security, training, threat analysis, and authentication.
  - Knowledge of the human factors in cybersecurity, including human computer interaction, design, training, sabotage, human error prevention and identification, personal use policies, and monitoring.
  - Ability to identify and analyze problems, distinguish between relevant and irrelevant information to make logical decisions, and provide solutions to individual and organizational problems.
  - 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.
  - 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.
  - Ability to express facts and ideas in writing in clear, convincing and organized manners appropriate to the audience and occasion.

Letters of Recommendation

- 1 letter of reference from a current faculty member who is fully knowledgeable of your potential for successful learning, your knowledge, and your ability. **Letters must be on University letterhead and contain the full name and contact information of the faculty member (phone, email, and address).**
- 1 letter of reference from a current/former faculty member or supervisor who is fully knowledgeable of your potential for successful learning, your knowledge, and your ability. **Letters must be on official letterhead and contain the full name and contact information of the faculty member or current/former supervisor (phone, email, and address).**
- LOR should address each of the KSAs from slide 21.

CAE Responsibilities

- CAE Endorsement. CAEs shall assess each of the competencies using a 5-point scale for each applicant:
    1. No knowledge or Ability
    2. Basic Knowledge or Ability
    3. Intermediate Knowledge or Ability
    4. Advanced Knowledge or Ability
    5. Superior Knowledge or Ability
- CAE Endorsement. CAEs shall indicate only one of the following three levels of endorsement for each applicant:
    a. Not Recommended
    b. Recommended
    c. Highly Recommended
- CAE's must submit all applications, including those not recommended in the submission.
- CAEs will be responsible for monitoring student progress and will notify the DoD CySP Program Manager should any student scholar fail to attain minimum academic standards required for continuing scholarship support.

Student Scholarship(s)

Eligibility Criterion:

a. Must be 18 years of age or older.

b. Must be a citizen of the United States. Note, if family members are not U.S. Citizens, some DoD Agencies may be unable to process the applicant (student) to the security clearance level required. Every effort will be made to assign eligible students at an Agency without such restrictions.

c. Must be enrolled (or accepted for enrollment) in one of the identified CAE colleges or universities listed in the announcement, or enrolled (or accepted for enrollment) at an institution selected by a CAE as a collaborative partner for these purposes.

d. Must have completed (or by August 2023 will have completed) at a minimum the first two years of an undergraduate degree program and be eligible to (a) begin either the third or fourth year of an undergraduate degree program; (b) begin the first or second year of a Master's degree program; or (c) pursue doctoral studies

e. Must be pursuing a course of study and/or have a declared major in one of the scientific, technical, or managerial disciplines related to cybersecurity or with a concentration in cyber security.

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