



AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY

**SCHOOL OF COMPUTER
AND CYBER SCIENCES**

AUGER CyberAI: Augusta University Government-ready Experts in Resilient CyberAI

PI: Michael Nowatkowski

*Co-PIs: Ahmed Aleroud, Piotr Krysta,
Jeffrey Morris, Gursimran Walia*

<https://www.augusta.edu/ccs/cyber-ai-corps-scholarship-for-service.php>



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Michael Nowatkowski, PhD

- Professor, Head of the Cyber Programs of Study, Cyber Institute Director
- Started at AU in 2016
- Teaching: Networking, Cybersecurity, Hardware-related courses
- Research: Security assessments, medical device security
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Ahmed Aleroud, PhD

- Associate Professor, Department of Information Systems & Security
- Started at AU in 2021
- Teaching: Data analytics in Cyber Security, Penetration Testing
- Research: Cyber Security Analytics, Adversarial Machine Learning, Social-cyber attacks
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Piotr Krysta, PhD

- Professor, Director of the Center for AI in Research & Education, Department of Computer Science
- Started at AU in 2023
- Teaching: Data Science, Optimization, Theory of Computation, Python Programming
- Research: Algorithms, Optimization, Algorithmic Game Theory, Machine Learning
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Jeff Morris, PhD

- Assistant Professor, Program Director of the Biomedical Systems Engineering degree
- Started at AU in 2018 as part-time faculty, full-time faculty in 2021
- Teaching: Cybersecurity
- Research: Security assessments, medical device security
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Gursimran Walia, PhD

- Professor, Associate Dean and Director of Graduate Studies
- Started at AU in 2022
- Teaching: Software Engineering, Internship, Research
- Research: Software Engineering
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Alex Cooper, MSIT, MBA

- SCCS Program Coordinator
- Started at AU in 2026
- Instructed at Baker College, Phoenix University, and various K-12 STEM programs for Columbia County.
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National Science Foundation (NSF) CyberAICorps® Scholarship For Service (SFS)

Information Briefing



Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense (CAE-CD) and Cyber Operations (CAE-CO)

Institutions that receive a **Center of Academic Excellence** (CAE) in Cybersecurity designation have met the **rigorous requirements** set forth by the joint sponsors of the program, the **National Security Agency** (NSA) and the **Department of Homeland Security** (DHS). These institutions are committed to producing **cybersecurity professionals** that will **reduce vulnerabilities** in our national infrastructure.



Augusta University designated
as a CAE-CD since 2016
and as CAE-CO since 2024.



Review of Scholarship For Service Program

- **Overarching Goal/Objective:**

- Government agencies need AI-based defenses, but they face a serious shortage of experts trained in both AI and cybersecurity. These experts are needed to secure AI systems like data pipelines, AI models, and deployments. They must also apply AI to improve cyber operations and translate research into practice.
- This program provides scholarships for up to 3 years of support for cybersecurity and AI undergraduate and graduate education.
- In return for their scholarships, recipients must agree to work after graduation for the U.S. Government, in a position related to cybersecurity and AI, for a period equal to the length of the scholarship.

<https://www.sfs.opm.gov/>

SFS Eligibility Criterion

- Must be a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States.
- Must be prepared to attain high-level security clearances required for potential jobs and internships.
- Must be enrolled (or accepted for enrollment) as a full-time student at AU and be within three years of graduation of a bachelors, masters, or doctoral degree with a cybersecurity and artificial intelligence focus.
 - Students requesting only one year of support are not eligible.
- All SFS scholars must complete at least 4 cyber and 2 AI courses.
- Must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative undergraduate GPA and 3.2 cumulative graduate GPA.
- Must be willing to work for a period equal to the duration of the scholarship in the cybersecurity mission of an executive agency or other Office of Personnel Management (OPM)-approved position.
- Complete summer internships with qualifying agencies.

Eligible Programs of Study



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Undergraduate Degrees

- Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity
- Bachelor of Science in Cyber Operations
- Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
- Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Systems Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Data Science

Graduate Degrees

- Master of Science in Computer Science
- PhD in Computer and Cyber Sciences

Must take at least four cybersecurity and at least two AI courses!



Available Undergrad Courses – Current List

Cybersecurity

CYBR 2600

CYBR 3100

CYBER 3200

CYBR 4400

CSCI 4531

DASC 3230

BMSE 1901

BMSE 3501

Artificial Intelligence

CSCI 4540

CSCI 3430

DASC 4740

DASC 4850

BMSE 3202

BMSE 3602



Available Grad Courses – Current List

Cybersecurity

AIST 7100
CSCI 7110
CSCI 7440
CSCI 7520

Artificial Intelligence

AIST 7100
CSCI 7150
CSCI 7210
CSCI 7230
CSCI 7340
CSCI 7620



Proposed SFS Timeline

- Scholarship notifications should be by **15 SEP 2026** with support starting in the Fall 2026 (August 2026) semester.

- Recommended Timeline:

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| • Launch webpage with info and application | 7 August |
| • Host student information sessions | 12 and 21 August |
| • Student internal application due date | 31 August |
| • Faculty review and finalize list of applicants | 4 September |
| • Selected students invited to interviews | 4 September |
| • In-person interviews | 8-11 September |
| • Finalize selection for review process | 11 September |
| • Projected announcement of SFS recipients | 15 September |

SFS Benefits

Students selected as SFS Scholars will receive:

- Up to 3 years of support for undergraduate and graduate education
- Academic-year stipends of \$27,000 per year for undergraduate students and \$37,000 per year for graduate students
- Tuition and education related fees (does not include items such as meal plans, housing, or parking)
- Professional allowance of \$6,000 for SFS Job Fair and other travel, professional certification, etc.
- Participation in virtual and in-person job fairs in Washington, D.C.
- Post-graduation government service requirement for a period equivalent to the length of scholarship

AUGER CyberAI Benefits

Students selected as Augusta University SFS Scholars will:

- Work on research topics mentored by a faculty member and an industry/government subject matter expert
- Participate in outreach events with other universities, K-12, and the community
- Meet with other SFS scholars and local cybersecurity and AI professionals to discuss current events, new trends, and work experiences
- Prepare and take professional certification exams

Student Obligation

- Selected students agreeing to participate in the SFS program will be required to sign a written agreement obligating them to work for a government agency as a civilian employee for one calendar year for each year of scholarship assistance.
- Students will also be required to serve in internship positions, if timing permits, with a designated government organization during the time they are receiving scholarship support until they complete the course of study provided for by the scholarship.

Student Obligation continued...

- Undergraduate scholarship recipients will be required to maintain a 3.0 out of 4.0 grade point average or the equivalent.
- Graduate students will be required to maintain an overall 3.2 out of a 4.0 grade point average, or equivalent.
- 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.
- Students must attend full-time.

Student Obligation continued...

- Students may 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 government.
- Drug tests or other suitability processing will occur as appropriate.

Key Components of the Student Application

- Questionnaire and Service Agreement (includes detailed list of student responsibilities – read carefully!)
- Resume Form – use template on web page
 - Awards, Honors & Extracurricular List
- 1 letter of reference from a current faculty member
- 1 letter of reference from a current/former faculty member or supervisor
- Essays – see web page for questions
- Transcripts (committee will access Pounce for AU students)



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