

Application Process for

National Science Foundation CyberCorps: Scholarship for Service and Department of Defense Information Assurance Scholarship Program at The University of Alabama in Huntsville

The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) seeks applications for the National Science Foundation (NSF) CyberCorps: *Scholarship for Service* (SFS) and Department of Defense Information Assurance Scholarship Program (IASP). UAH is a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education and Cyber Defense Research.

• Application Due Date: *November 1, 2018*

CyberCorps®: Scholarship for Service (SFS) benefits:

- Full tuition and fees
- Annual stipend
 - o \$22,500 for undergraduates
 - \$34,000 for graduate students (master's and PhD)
- Reimbursement for books up to \$2,000 per year
- Reimbursement for professional development and travel expenses up to \$4,000 per year
- Reimbursement for health insurance up to \$3,000 per year
- Scholarship Duration
 - Two academic years (four semesters) for students in **bachelor** and **master** level degree programs
 - Three academic years (six semesters) for students in **PhD** programs

Department of Defense Information Assurance Scholarship Program benefits:

- Full tuition and fees
- Annual stipend
 - o \$22,500 for undergraduates;
 - o \$30,000 for graduate students (master's and PhD)
- Reimbursement for books up to \$1,250 per year
- UAH-provided laptop computer (\$1,500 value)
- Reimbursement for travel expenses up to \$1,750 per year
- Scholarship Duration
 - Two academic years (four semesters) for students in **bachelor** and **master** level degree programs
 - o Three academic years (six semesters) for students in PhD programs







All scholarship recipients have a commitment to work after graduation for an approved government position related to cybersecurity for a period equal to the length of the scholarship. In addition, students on scholarship are expected to serve in a government cybersecurity-related paid internship during the summer semester.

CyberCorps: *Scholarship for Service* recipients are required to participate in a SFS-exclusive job fair in early January in Washington, DC. SFS students may be employed by Federal, State, Local, or Tribal government.

Department of Defense Information Assurance Scholarship Program recipients are paired with a Department of Defense employer at the time of scholarship award and must agree to intern and work for that employer after graduation.

<u>Eligibility for Scholarship.</u> To be eligible to apply for the SFS and IASP scholarships, the applicant must be a full-time student with a minimum of 3.0 GPA for undergraduate students or 3.2 GPA for graduate students. Eligible majors are listed below.

- BS in Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Cybersecurity, Electrical Engineering, Mathematical Sciences
- BS in Business Administration Information Systems (Cybersecurity and Information Assurance Concentration)
- MS in Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Cybersecurity, Electrical Engineering, Software Engineering with Cybersecurity Concentration
- PhD in Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, Mathematical Sciences,
- Other degrees with a cybersecurity focus may be applicable.

The applicant must be a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States and meet all requirements for employment in Federal Service. Scholarship offers are contingent upon the student obtaining admission into a qualifying UAH program of study. Students selected for the SFS and IASP programs will be required to sign a service agreement that outlines the obligation to serve in an eligible government position after graduation. Undergraduate students must be entering their junior year of studies. For applicants not already admitted to UAH, any offer of scholarship will be contingent on admission acceptance to UAH in one of the disciplines listed above. Students awarded a scholarship must be enrolled full-time at UAH at the Huntsville campus to receive scholarship support.







<u>Application Process</u>. To apply for both scholarships, applicants must submit the following to Dr. Tommy Morris, Director, Center for Cybersecurity Research and Education, c/o Room 324, Student Services Building, The University of Alabama in Huntsville, 301 Sparkman Drive, Huntsville, AL 35899 by the due date. Applications may be mailed or delivered in person. Each application must contain the following:

- A cover letter that provides the applicant's full name and a statement that the applicant is a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States. In addition, the cover letter should describe the applicant's current academic progress (BS, MS, or PhD student), date of anticipated graduation, motivation for applying, and interest in cybersecurity. Please include any current or past military service.
- Official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended by the applicant (unofficial UAH transcripts are acceptable for UAH students)¹.
- Official ACT or SAT score for undergraduate applicants (unofficial scores are acceptable for UAH students)².
- Official GRE scores for graduate applicants, if applicable (unofficial scores are acceptable for UAH students)³.
- Two letters of reference (professional contacts preferred, must not be family members).
- An updated resume.
- Completed Applicant Information Sheet (Attachment A).
- Completed Competency Statement (Attachment B).

<u>Selection Process</u>. All applications received by the due date in this document will be reviewed by a scholarship committee. Committee recommendations will be based upon prospective students' likelihood for success in their chosen degree program and predicted success in search for cybersecurity employment at a Federal, State, Local, or Tribal government organization.

<u>Additional Information</u>. Failure to satisfy the academic requirements of the program or to complete the service requirement will result in forfeiture of the scholarship award, which will revert to a student loan with repayments pro-rated accordingly to reflect partial service completed. The institution is responsible for collecting the repayment amounts, including interest, consistent with the provisions of part B or D of Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965. All forfeited scholarship funds, less grantee costs associated with collection of the repayment not to exceed 5% of the forfeited amount, will be returned to the United States Treasury and may not be re-used by the awardee institution. Scholarship recipients in coordination with the institution and the PI may

³ Official scores will be required from students selected for an SFS scholarship before official award.





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petition the NSF Program Office to waive or suspend repayment of scholarships in cases of extreme hardship or other circumstances that would preclude the fulfillment of the service obligation.

Questions: A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) list can be found at the following link. https://www.sfs.opm.gov/StudFAQ.aspx

Contacts at UAH are:

College of Science:

Dr. Sara Graves, sara.graves@uah.edu, (256) 824-6064

College of Business Administration:

Dr. Jatinder (Jeet) N. D. Gupta, jeet.gupta@uah.edu, (256) 824-6593 College of Engineering:

Dr. Seong-Moo (Sam) Yoo, seong-moo.yoo@uah.edu, (256) 824-6858

Director, Center for Cybersecurity Research and Engineering:

Dr. Tommy Morris, ccre@uah.edu, (256) 824-6576

*Direct all DoD Information Assurance Scholarship Program questions to Tommy Morris.







Attachment A: Scholarship for Service (SFS) Applicant Information Sheet

Applicant full name	
Cell phone number	
Home phone number (if different)	
Email address	
Permanent mailing address	
Student/school address (if different)	
Are you a U.S. citizen?	
If not a citizen, are you a lawful permanent	
resident of the U.S.?	
(https://www.uscis.gov/tools/glossary/permanent-	
resident-alien)	
Do you currently have or have you ever had U.S.	
Security Clearance? Please specify.	

Complete if you are currently pursuing or have completed an associate's degree.

	Institution name	
Associate's Degrees (complete or in progress)	Degree name (Associate's of	
	Science, Associate's of	
	Applied Science, etc.)	
	Major (General Studies,	
	Computer Science, etc.)	
	In progress or completed?	
	When will you (did you)	
	graduate? (Month/Year)	
	Grade Point Average	







Defending America's Cyberspace

Complete if you are currently pursuing or have completed a **bachelor's** degree.

	Institution name	
	Degree name (Bachelor of	
	Science, Bachelor of Arts,	
	etc.)	
	Major (Computer	
	Engineering, Computer	
Undergraduate Degrees	Science, Information	
(complete or in progress)	Systems, etc.)	
	Minor	
	In progress or completed?	
	When will you (did you)	
	graduate? (Month/Year)	
	Grade Point Average	

Complete if you are currently pursuing or have completed an **additional bachelor's** degree.

Undergraduate Degrees (complete or in progress)	Institution name	
	Degree name (Bachelor of	
	Science, Bachelor of Arts,	
	etc.)	
	Major (Computer	
	Engineering, Computer	
	Science, Information	
	Systems, etc.)	
	Minor	
	In progress or completed?	
	When will you (did you)	
	graduate? (Month/Year)	
	Grade Point Average	

Make copies of this page if there is a need to list additional graduate degrees.







Defending America's Cyberspace

Complete if you are currently pursuing or have completed a **graduate** degree.

Graduate Degrees (complete or in progress)	Institution name	
	Degree name (Master of	
	Science, Doctor of	
	Philosophy, etc.)	
	Major (Computer	
	Engineering, Computer	
	Science, Information	
	Systems, etc.)	
	Minor	
	In progress or completed?	
	When will you (did you)	
	graduate? (Month/Year)	
	Grade Point Average	

Complete if you are currently pursuing or have completed an **additional graduate** degree.

	Institution name	
Graduate Degrees (complete or in progress)	Degree name (Master of	
	Science, Doctor of	
	Philosophy, etc.)	
	Major (Computer	
	Engineering, Computer	
	Science, Information	
	Systems, etc.)	
	Minor	
	In progress or completed?	
	When will you (did you)	
	graduate? (Month/Year)	
	Grade Point Average	

Make copies of this page if there is a need to list additional graduate degrees.







Complete to indicate which degree you will pursue if selected for scholarship.

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	Which level of degree do you wish to
	pursue with scholarship funds?
	Bachelor's
	Master's
	 JUMP (Joint Undergraduate
	Master's Program) – both
	bachelor's and master's
	• Ph.D.
	What discipline?
	Computer Engineering
	Computer Science
	Cybersecurity
Planned Study with	Electrical Engineering
Scholarship	Information Systems
	Mathematical Science
	Software Engineering
	Other (specify)
	If you plan to pursue the MS in
	Cybersecurity, which track will you
	choose? (Computer Engineering,
	Computer Science, or Management)
	Preferred scholarship start date?
	(January 2019 or August 2019)
	Planned graduation date?
	Have you applied for admission?
	Have you been accepted?







Attachment B: Competency Statement

Complete the Competency Statement below. The scholarship selection committee understands applicants may not have prior experience in cybersecurity; however, applicants are encouraged to answer the questions by relating to any applicable past experiences. Applicants may also relate how their future plans and career goals will help them meet the competency areas. Be sure to address all competency areas.

On plain 8 1/2" X 11" paper, titled "COMPETENCY STATEMENT (OF612 -APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT SUPPLEMENTAL)", describe your knowledge and ability in each of the six (6) competency areas below. The evaluation points are very high in this area. You must address each area identified. If you do not provide this information your package will be deemed non-responsive and will not be considered. Indicate your name and school name on each page. **Limit your responses on all six competency areas to a total of three pages.**

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.



