MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CYBERSECURITY (POLICY TRACK)

The MS Cybersecurity (MS-CSEC) is an interdisciplinary degree program with three separate tracks:

- *Policy* focused on the public policy, law and management aspects of cyber security
- *Information Security* rooted in computer science
- *Cyber-Physical* focused on cyber-physical and embedded systems, especially power systems and smart grids. There are core courses that combine students from all three specialties.

About the College

The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts, established in 1990, consists of six schools, three ROTC units and several research centers, and exemplifies strengths in humanities and social sciences.

The six schools are: Economics; History and Sociology; Literature, Media, and Communication; Modern Languages; Public Policy; and the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs.

Ivan Allen College provides innovative, human-centered perspectives at the intersections of humanities, social sciences, arts and STEM, developing leaders who advance technology and improve the human condition. Nearly 350 tenured, tenure-track, non-tenure track and permanent research faculty, prepare students to be leaders capable of balancing a richly defined base of expertise with a well-grounded sense of responsibility.

Our programs encompass traditional fields as well as unique and professional disciplines. Many of our faculty members engage in ground-breaking, interdisciplinary research to solve complex issues of the world.

Frequently Asked Questions

What kind of background do students in the program have?
MS-CSEC (Policy) students come from a variety of educational and professional backgrounds. It is suited for students with work experience seeking professional advancement, but also can benefit students coming straight from an undergraduate degree.

Some students already have degrees in computer science or engineering, or have worked as IT professionals for some years, and are interested in expanding their expertise in business and public policy. Others have a background in international affairs or other social science fields and want a stronger technical background and more specialized knowledge of cyber security issues.

You do not need to be a computer scientist or experienced programmer to benefit from the degree; however, it is advisable to have some prior coursework in and/or practical exposure to information technology.

What kind of opportunities are available for graduates of the Policy track?

There is a well-recognized need to expand the workforce in cyber security, and this need prevails across a variety of economic sectors. Commercial corporations need risk managers and operations workers who understand the economic and organizational aspects of cyber security. Government agencies at the state, local and federal levels also need cyber security workers to develop policies for managing sensitive data and networks. Cyber security is an important consideration in Fintech industries, which are prevalent in Atlanta metro area. The military and intelligence agencies are a big source of demand and experience. International organizations and legislators are increasingly concerned with cyber security issues. The program and the Institute for Information Security and Privacy form the nexus of a thriving network of cybersecurity professionals that can help advance your career.

How long does it take to get through the program?

Most commonly it takes four semesters (i.e., two years). However, as the program is only 32 credits, students who take a full load each semester can finish the program in three semesters.

Can I take the program part-time while working?

Yes. Some courses are held in the evening for working students and there is no requirement to take a specific number of credits each semester.

What kind of financial aid is available?

Through the CyberCorps Scholarship for Service program, a limited number of students who are U.S. citizens can receive a generous scholarship with internship opportunities in exchange for an agreement to work for the U.S. government in a cybersecurity role for two years after graduation.

Other students may be supported by landing Research Assistantships with faculty members who have grant funding. The number of assistantship positions varies from year to year.

What courses do I need to take to complete the degree program?

The MS-CSEC (Policy) is a 32 credit degree program. It involves 14 credit hours (3 courses) of required core courses common to all three tracks, 12 credits (4 courses) of drawn from a menu of core courses in your specialty area (Policy), and two electives, one of which must be from another track. The curriculum is described in full on the following website: https://spp.gatech.edu/masters/mscybersecurity/curriculum

When do I need to apply?

The MS-CSEC campus program admits students for the fall term only. Fall admission priority deadline is February 15th, but we accept applications with space available until May 15th. Our application process is online at: http://grad.gatech.edu/apply-now.

What do I need to submit to apply?

The application package requires:

1. Application fee - $75 or $85 International Students
2. Official transcripts from all schools attended
3. Test scores
   a. The GRE is currently waived.
   b. English Proficiency requirements: https://grad.gatech.edu/english-proficiency

4. An essay describing your career goals and preparation for the program
5. Three letters of recommendation from people in the field, your former employers or teachers who can vouch for your interest in the field and capabilities to do graduate level work.

What about the online program?

The same program is available in online format, with reduced tuition costs. The online program tends to attract more experienced professionals who go through the program part time and often are working full time. Unfortunately, due to the different tuition rates, students cannot cross over between the online and campus programs. That is, campus students cannot take online MS-CSEC courses and vice-versa.

Thanks again for your interest in the School of Public Policy. Please contact sppgradadvising@gatech.edu for any additional information.