

# LEADING CYBERSECURITY EDUCATION PROGRAMS 2017

EDUCATIONAL INSIGHT

## CYBERSECURITY PROGRAMS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA



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Pensacola, FL

850-474-2000

VISIT WEBSITE

Preparing future leaders to defend our nation’s cyberspace – and doing so in a region ripe with employment opportunities in cybersecurity – makes the University of West Florida an attractive choice for aspiring professionals. The white-sand beaches here aren’t bad either.

Designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education (CAE-CDE) by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security, UWF is among the nation’s elite institutions in cyber defense education. This prestigious recognition reflects a commitment to address the critical shortage of cybersecurity professionals and lead innovative cybersecurity education and research .

Through UWF’s industry-aligned cybersecurity program and available hands-on experiences, students learn to work comprehensively to detect critical vulnerabilities and defend organizations of all sizes against information security exploitation. Undergraduate and graduate-level degrees and certificates include:

The **Bachelor of Science in Computing and Information Sciences**, with a specialization in **Cybersecurity** , prepares graduates to be leaders in the protection of data assets, analysis of potential threats to systems, and networks and development of secure software systems. Through a mix of online and face-to-face courses, the curriculum focuses on the techniques, policies, operational procedures, and technologies that secure and defend the availability, integrity, authentication, confidentiality, and non-repudiation of information and systems in local as well as more broadly based domains. Graduates often pursue careers as systems security professionals, security managers or systems administrators. Because this program meets NSA/DHS National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education criteria, students who complete the program are eligible for related scholarships and career opportunities.

The **Master of Science in Information Technology - Cybersecurity** specialization is

designed to address the need for cybersecurity related to software security, database security, information technology management, server administration and numerous other employment fields. Offered completely online, courses prepare graduates for leadership roles in cyber-related positions in public, nonprofit and private organizations, and also for admission to doctoral programs and professional schools.

The **Undergraduate Cybersecurity Certificate** trains professionals with a programming background to advance their technical skills and be competitive in today's cybersecurity industry. Courses include a mix of online and face-to-face interactions.

The **Undergraduate Geospatial Cybersecurity Certificate** combines foundational courses in computer programming, database and cybersecurity with the specialized study of geographic information systems. This online program is designed to address the need for cybersecurity GIS applications related to business, geospatial intelligence, education, healthcare and numerous other employment fields. With a similar focus, the **Graduate Certificate in Geospatial Cybersecurity** is designed for recent graduates looking to enter the workforce with an advanced certificate and those working professionals who did not acquire a computational cybersecurity GIS background as part of their primary academic training, while they continue to hold their position in their chosen field.

Students enrolled in UWF Cybersecurity programs also have opportunities for scholarships, internships and participation in student organizations such as the UWF Cyber Club. In 2016, a UWF student team placed first in the Florida Center for Cybersecurity Cyber Defense Challenge, a statewide competition where students are tasked with defending networks against pre-programmed cyber traffic and attack scenarios.

Leaders from the UWF Cybersecurity programs are engaged within Northwest Florida and beyond, forming alliances with government, military and industry partners. These relationships not only add value to UWF's instruction and research, but also help connect students to available opportunities upon their graduation or completion of certificates. According to [cyberseek.org](http://cyberseek.org), Northwest Florida is one of the strongest geographic regions not associated with a major metropolitan area in terms of employers' demand for cybersecurity professionals relative to the national average .

Founded in 1963, UWF has a student population of nearly 13,000 and an average class size of less than 40 students. UWF's proximity to Pensacola's vibrant downtown and pristine Gulf Coast beaches add to the appeal for students completing their coursework on campus.

To learn more about UWF's cybersecurity programs, visit <http://uwf.edu/computerscience>.

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