



# 2020 Texas A&M DoD Cyber Scholarship Program **DEADLINE February 17th**

## **Benefits:**

DoD CySP has a one-year duration. Scholarships include the following:

- Full tuition
- Book allowance
- Mandatory or general fees as determined by the institution
- Stipend to cover room and board. (\$25,000/year for undergraduate, \$30,000/ year for graduate)

## **Eligibility Requirements:**

- Must be a US citizen
- Must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment at Texas A&M University
- Must have completed (or by August 2020 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
- 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 cybersecurity
- Undergraduate students must maintain 3.2/4.0 and graduate students must maintain 3.5/4.0 overall GPA.
- Students must also complete the program of study

## **Recipient Responsibility:**

In return for scholarship assistance the student must **commit to work for the DoD (job assignments will be made by the DoD), as a civilian employee for at least one calendar year for each year of scholarship assistance**, after the student graduates.

Students will also be required to serve in internship positions, if timing permits, with the DoD organizations during the time they are receiving scholarship support until they complete the course of study provided for by the scholarship.

**Please submit application and all additional materials to**  
**[cyberscholarship@tamu.edu](mailto:cyberscholarship@tamu.edu)**



## **Application Checklist**

### **DEADLINE February 17th**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Application (Pages 2-3)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Supplemental Information (Page 4)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Resume - listing all education, employment history, and extracurricular activities
- \_\_\_\_\_ Official Transcripts
  - (may be provided via secure electronic system to [cyberscholarship@tamu.edu](mailto:cyberscholarship@tamu.edu) or
  - Mailed to:  
Texas A&M Cybersecurity Center  
c/o Jennifer Cutler  
200 Discover Drive  
College Station, TX 77843)
- \_\_\_\_\_ List of Honors and Awards
- \_\_\_\_\_ Two (2) Letters of reference
- \_\_\_\_\_ Competency Statement
- \_\_\_\_\_ OF612 Optional Application for Federal Employment (Page 7 – 10)

**Please submit application and all additional materials to [cyberscholarship@tamu.edu](mailto:cyberscholarship@tamu.edu)**

OMB Control Number : 0704-0486

OMB Expiration Date:

## **DoD Cyber Scholarship Program**

### **NEW STUDENT APPLICATION**

#### **PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT:**

Authority for collecting information requested on the DoD Cyber Scholarship Program Application is contained in 5 U.S.C. Section 4101-4121, 10 U.S.C. §2200, Executive Order 13111, Executive Order 11348, as amended, and DoD Directive 8500.2. DoD's Blanket Routine Uses (found at Appendix C of 32 CFR Part 310) and the specific uses found in GNSA27 apply to this information. The requested information will be used to determine eligibility for the Cyber Scholarship Program. Disclosure of the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to provide the requested information will prevent the processing of your application and the determination of your eligibility for the Cyber Scholarship Program.

#### **AGENCY DISCLOSURE NOTICE:**

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 6 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services, Executive Services Directorate, Directives Division, 4800 Mark Center Drive, East Tower, Suite 03F09, Alexandria, VA 22350-3100, [OMB Control Number (0704-0486)]. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

**PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR APPLICATION TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS.  
APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO YOUR UNIVERSITY POINT OF CONTACT.**

**I. THIS CHECKLIST IS REQUIRED TO BE THE FIRST PAGE OF THE APPLICANT PACKAGE. AND MUST BE SIGNED BY THE STUDENT APPLICANT AND THE PI.**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Second Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (cell) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number (Landline or Permanent): \_\_\_\_\_

Student School Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Email Address (gmail / yahoo / hotmail, etc....) \_\_\_\_\_

**ALL CySP APPLICANTS MUST ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS**

ACTIVITY/QUESTION	ITEM INCLUDED / ANSWER (Y/N)	STUDENT INITIALS	P.I. INITIALS
<b>CURRENT U.S. Citizen:</b>			
<b>Official Transcript(s) Provided:</b>			
<b>Cumulative GPA</b> – provide score in next column <b><i>GPA MUST match transcripts. (No Rounding)</i></b>			
<b>Currently enrolled or accepted for enrollment, at a CAE:</b>			
<b>For which degree level are you requesting consideration by the DoD CySP? This may or may not be your current degree program. You may have a dual program (Undergrad/Grad, Masters/PhD)</b>		Single	Dual
	Bachelor's		
	Master's		
	PhD/Doctorate		
<b>ANTICIPATED <u>FINAL</u> GRADUATION DATE OF THE DEGREE PROGRAM ABOVE</b>	Month /Year ____/20____		
<b>RESUME</b> – Package will be deemed incomplete without one attached			
<b>Awards, Honors and Distinctions list attached</b>			
<b>2 Letters of Reference:</b>			

Last Name Only:

<b>Veteran Status:</b>			
	<i>If yes to above, indicate whether 5 or 10 year status</i>		
	<i>Proof of eligibility attached</i>		
<b>OF612 Supplemental Information Chart (Section II)</b>			
<b>OF612 Supplemental Competency Statement</b>			
<b>Supplemental Statement of General Academic and Employment Conditions</b>			
<b>Department of Defense (DoD) Agency Location Choices *(See Section G, Paragraph 10 - May leave blank)</b>			
	Agency Location Choice #1		
	Agency Location Choice #2		
	Agency Location Choice #3		
<b>I would be interested in active duty military service as a means to meeting my obligated service requirements. (Answer Yes or No)<sup>1</sup></b>			
<b>I am currently a member of the National Guard or a Reserve Unit:</b>		<b>__Yes</b>	<b>__No</b>

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

P.I. Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

P.I. Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> Includes full-time active duty Guard and Reserves

## **II. Supplemental Information (Chart)**

- A. Applicants for the CySP must provide certain information about their academic standing to enable a review of academic sufficiency by the appropriate National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity, hereinafter referred to as CAEs. This section contains the required supplemental information requirements. You **MUST** provide **ALL** required information below to receive full consideration. To be deemed complete you must obtain and attach certain additional materials to this statement. All information and material that you attach to this statement shall become part of your Application for Federal Employment.
- B. Provide complete responses to all information requirements, as applicable to you, and attach the additional documents required. Sign and date this statement in the area provided.

**Beginning in the FALL of Academic Year 2020-2021,**

I will enter the following: \_\_\_\_\_

**Declared Major for the degree level/program you are requesting consideration by the DoD CySP is:**

**Number of credits earned to date for this degree:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of credits required for graduation for this degree:** \_\_\_\_\_

- C. I have listed all colleges or universities I have attended in Section 2 below and have provided the necessary official transcripts. Do not include the degree program listed above. (if necessary, provide additional institution information on a separate sheet attached to this form).

Institution	State	Dates Attended	Degree Earned	GPA

### Recognitions - Honors - Awards

Separate sheet highlighting recognitions, honors and awards: Attach a plain 8 ½" X 11" paper with your name and school. Describe any academic recognition (certifications included), honors, distinctions, or awards that you have received. This is very important, as it counts towards the evaluation criteria.

#### **NOTE**

*The recognition, honors, distinctions, or awards that you describe in this supplemental statement **need not be job-related.***

*Be sure that you include any scholarships, membership in any honorary societies to which you were admitted because of academic accomplishment, and any significant leadership roles in academic groups, organizations, societies, or associations to which you were nominated or elected.*

*Provide sufficient **summary** information for evaluators to understand the period or date of the accomplishment, the awarding institution or organization, and what you did to earn the recognition.*

#### **DO NOT ATTACH:**

- a. Copies of Degrees
- b. Copies of Certificates
- c. Commemorative Memorabilia
- d. Compositions
- e. Publications
- f. Personally Identifiable Media (Driver's License, Social Security Cards, Military IDs, etc.)

- D. **You must attach two (2) Letters of Reference** to this supplemental statement from persons knowledgeable of your potential for successful learning, as well as your knowledge and ability. At least one of these letters must be from a current faculty member [or a most current faculty member], and the second letter may be from either a current or former faculty member, or a current or former employer. Each letter must contain the name, position or title, telephone number, email address, and institutional or organizational address of the referee. In addition, you must request that each referee refer to and address the following factors:
- a. The relationship of the referee to you. (The referee states whether the information is based on an academic or employment relationship.)
  - b. The length of the relationship. (The referee states how long he or she has known you.)
  - c. An assessment of your potential for academic success and fulfillment of degree requirements. (Advise your referees that your college or university will base a determination of your academic sufficiency, in part, on the letters of reference that you submit.)
  - d. **An assessment of your knowledge and ability following the six (6) competency areas listed in Section F below.**
- E. **By signing this supplemental statement, I acknowledge that the information given above is true and correct:**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **F. COMPETENCY STATEMENT (OF612 -APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT SUPPLEMENTAL )**

On plain 8 ½" x 11" paper, title as above, 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.



**F. OF612:**

**OPTIONAL APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT  
SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT OF GENERAL ACADEMIC  
AND  
EMPLOYMENT  
CONDITIONS**

To be considered for the Cyber Scholarship Program (CySP), you must agree to certain academic standards and conditions of employment. This OF612 supplement describes those conditions. Read this statement carefully, and indicate your elections, where appropriate. When you understand all of the conditions completely, and agree with all of them, sign and date the statement, and include it with your Resume and OF612 Supplemental information.

- 1) In order to receive financial assistance (a scholarship) or appointment under the DoD Cyber Scholarship Program, you must be enrolled (or accepted for enrollment) at one of the institutions of higher education designated by the National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity (CAE-C), or enrolled (or accepted for enrollment) in an institution selected by a CAE-C as a collaborating partner in the Cyber Scholarship Program.
- 2) In order to receive financial assistance (a scholarship) or appointment under the CySP, the CAE-C at which you are enrolled (or accepted for enrollment) must submit a successful grant proposal to the DoD to establish the CySP on their campus.
- 3) In order to receive financial assistance (a scholarship) or appointment under the CySP, you must be enrolled (or accepted for enrollment) in a full-time program<sup>1</sup> leading to an undergraduate or master's degree, or doctoral degree, and pursuing a course of study and/or have a declared major in one of the scientific, technical or managerial disciplines related to computer and network security, with a concentration in a cybersecurity function. (In accordance with 5 CFR 213.3202(b)(2), an individual who needs to complete less than the equivalent of half an academic course load in the class enrollment period immediately prior to graduating is still considered a student for purposes of this program.)
  - a) Cybersecurity encompasses the scientific, technical, and management disciplines required to ensure computer and network security, including the following functions:
    - System/network administration and operations
    - Systems security engineering
    - Information assurance systems and product acquisition
    - Cryptography
    - Threat and vulnerability assessment, to include risk management
    - Web security
    - Operations of computer emergency response teams
    - Computer forensics
    - Defensive information operations
    - Critical information infrastructure assurance
  - b) Relevant cyber-related academic disciplines, with concentrations in cyber security, would include, but are not limited to:
    - Biometrics
    - Business:
      - a. Management

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<sup>1</sup> If a student is applying for only one half of a school year (or graduates 1 semester early), that student shall only receive a pro-rated stipend. The stipend is based upon an annual full-time attendance at the University.

- b. Administration
  - Computer:
    - a. Crime Investigations
    - b. Engineering
    - c. Forensics
    - d. Information Science
    - e. Information Systems
    - f. Programming
    - g. Science
    - h. Systems Analysis
  - Critical Information Infrastructure Assurance
  - Cyber:
    - a. Defense
    - b. Operations
    - c. Security
    - d. Policy
  - Cryptography
  - Database Administration
  - Data Management
  - Data Science
  - Digital and Multimedia Forensics
  - Electrical Engineering
  - Electronics Engineering
  - Information Assurance
  - Systems and Product Acquisition
  - Information Security (Assurance)
  - Information Systems
  - Information Technology:
    - a. Acquisition
    - b. Program/Project Management
  - Mathematics
  - Network Administration and Operations
  - Network Management
  - Operation of Computer Emergency Response Teams
  - Software Engineering
  - Systems Security Engineering
  - Threat and Vulnerability Assessment, to include Risk Management
  - Web Security
  - Any other similar disciplines as approved by the DoD Chief Information Office (DoD CIO).
- 4) If you are an undergraduate student, you must maintain an overall 3.2 out of a 4.0 grade point average (or an analogous rank based on a comparable scale) in order to receive financial assistance (a scholarship) under the CySP. If you are a graduate student, you must maintain an overall 3.5 out of a 4.0 (or an analogous rank based on a comparable scale) in order to receive financial assistance (a scholarship). Failure to maintain these minimum grade point averages constitutes grounds for immediate termination of financial assistance and your appointment under the CySP. **Additionally, if you fail to complete the degree program satisfactorily or to fulfill the service commitment upon graduation, you shall be required to reimburse the United States, in whole or in part, the cost of the financial (scholarship) assistance provided.**
- 5) Except for small achievement awards (not to exceed \$5,500 in any academic year), you may not accept simultaneous remuneration from another scholarship or fellowship while receiving financial assistance under

the CySP. If you are in a graduate program, you may receive a reasonable amount of remuneration for teaching or similar activities as are, in the institution's opinion, contributory to your academic progress. Except where state or local law, court or proper administrative order declares otherwise, the DoD shall assume that the development of students, not service to the academic institution, will govern the assignment of these activities.

- 6) In order to receive financial assistance (a scholarship) under the CySP, you must agree to accept a federal appointment under the authority to employ individuals completing Department of Defense Scholarship or Fellowship Program, or another hiring authority. You may be appointed under this program as a GS-7, GS-9, or GS-11 based on your qualifications, and the needs and conditions of the appointing defense component. During your period of service under this appointment, if timing permits, you must accept and perform intern assignments designed to enhance your academic studies in cybersecurity. These assignments will be scheduled at times mutually agreeable to you, your school, and the DoD component that appoints you.
- 7) In order to receive financial assistance (a scholarship) under the CySP, you must agree to work for the DoD, after the award of your degree, as a civilian\* employee for one calendar year for each academic year, or partial year, for which financial assistance (scholarship) is received. \*See paragraph 8 for terms of military service, should you desire this option. This requirement is called "obligated service". The work you may perform during an internship DOES NOT COUNT toward satisfaction of your obligated service requirement.
- 8) Should you desire to enlist or accept a commission to serve on active duty in one of the Military Services<sup>2</sup>, you must 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.. "If you are interested in military service as a means to meeting your obligated service requirements, please indicate this in Section 10 of this application.
- 9) In order to receive financial assistance (a scholarship) or appointment under the CySP, you must agree to be mobile. Upon appointment, you will be required to sign an agreement to accept assignments that involve travel or changes in duty stations, assignments in different organizations, assignments in different functional areas, and assignments in different geographic areas, during your internship, if applicable, AND during your incumbency of any permanent, full-time position to which you are converted on program completion. Your travel under this agreement, and the travel of all DoD civilian employees, is governed by the Federal Travel Regulations and the DoD Joint Travel Regulations. These regulations provide for travel benefits, and pay or reimbursement of your travel expenses, on an incidental, case-by-case basis; it is not possible to specify your exact entitlement to travel benefits at this time.
- 10) The DoD **does not guarantee** that your preferences for agency assignment (or location) under the CySP, or in a permanent position to which you are subsequently converted, can be honored. Your preferences will be taken into account, along with all other relevant factors such as: mission, functional, and staffing requirements; the exigencies of service; the availability of funds; and, any hardships you may demonstrate. Nonetheless, your agency preferences are important to the department. Therefore, you may specify up to three agency preferences below, if you wish. You are not required to complete these preference selections. You may specify city and state of preference, if known as well. For information on DoD Agencies, you may view the following web site which contains the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Defense Agencies and DoD Field Activities, Organization and Functions Guidebook:  
<http://www.defense.gov/about/>
- 11) In order to receive financial assistance (a scholarship) under the CySP, you must agree to reimburse the United States should you voluntarily terminate your employment with the DoD before the end of your period of obligated service. (See also item 7 above.) **Should you terminate your appointment under the CySP, decline or refuse to honor your commitment to accept permanent employment, or, voluntarily terminate permanent employment before you have fulfilled your period of obligated service, you must reimburse the United States**, in whole or in part, the cost of the financial (scholarship) assistance provided to you. An obligation to reimburse under this condition of employment is for all purposes considered to be a debt owed to the United States.
- 12) In order to receive financial assistance (a scholarship) or an appointment under the CySP, **you must agree**

<sup>2</sup> Includes full-time active duty Guard and Reserves

**to sign certain forms authorizing a background investigation to permit the appointing agency to make a determination as to your suitability for federal employment.**

- 13) You will be required to obtain and maintain eligibility for a security clearance in order to receive financial (scholarship) assistance or an appointment under the CySP. You may be required to undergo certain tests, including drug and polygraph tests, to obtain and maintain a clearance. Before you may be awarded a scholarship or hired by DoD, you will be required to complete certain forms to initiate the security clearance process. Some of these forms will require that you reveal extensive information about your background, such as potentially sensitive information about your financial circumstances and any arrests and/or convictions for offenses of any kind. You must agree to all of these conditions of employment and you must complete these forms as a condition of financial assistance and appointment.

*Current web pages from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) provided below. This is provided for your review and consideration in determining whether you will be eligible for a security clearance. This may not be all inclusive, however, it is highly recommended that you review and understand the requirements prior to signing up to participate in the DoD CySP. <http://www.opm.gov/investigations/background-investigations/>*

**By signing this OF612 Supplemental Statement of General Academic and Employment Conditions, I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to all of its conditions, to include the Security Clearance Requirements:**

Name :

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_