



AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF COMPUTER
AND CYBER SCIENCES

AUDIENCE:

Augusta University Developing Immersive
Experiences for Novel Cybersecurity Education

PI: Michael Nowatkowski

*Co-PIs: Jay Heslen, Dariusz Kowalski,
Alex Schwarzmann, and Gursimran Walia*

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

National Science Foundation (NSF) CyberCorps® 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:

- SFS is a unique program designed to recruit and train the next generation of information technology professionals, industrial control system security professionals, and security managers to meet the needs of the cybersecurity mission for Federal, State, local, and tribal governments.
- This program provides scholarships for up to 3 years of support for cybersecurity 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, 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 and/or masters degree with a cybersecurity or cyber intelligence/cyber strategy focus.
- 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.

Eligible Programs of Study



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Cybersecurity-focused Degrees

- Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity
- Bachelor of Science in Cyber Operations
- Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity Engineering
- Master of Science in Information Security Management
- Master of Arts in Intelligence and Security Studies (through CAHSS)
- PhD in Intelligence, Defense, and Cybersecurity Policy (through CAHSS)

Additional Degrees

- Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
- Bachelor of Science in Information Technology
- Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Systems Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Data Science
- Master of Science in Computer Science
- PhD in Computer and Cyber Sciences

**Must take at least
four cybersecurity
courses in the
degree program.**

Proposed SFS Timeline

- Scholarship notifications should be in **May 2025** with support starting in the Fall 2025 (August 2025) semester.
- Recommended Timeline:
 - Launch webpage with info and application 19 February
 - Host student information sessions 19 February, 25 March
 - Student internal application due date **16 April**
 - Faculty review and finalize list of applicants 18-24 April
 - Selected students invited to interviews 1 May
 - In-person interviews 5-8 May
 - Finalize selection for review process Mid May
 - Projected announcement of SFS recipients Late May

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

AUDIENCE 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 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.

<https://www.indigobyavue.com/dod-emerging-tech/public/backgroundReadiness>

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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