**Master of Science in Cybersecurity**

**Primary department admission and faculty contact:** Alex Tuckness (tuckness@iastate.edu)

**Admission Requirements for Students with Political Science as their “Home Department”**

Applicants for admission to the Master of Science in Cybersecurity with a home department in Political Science must meet the following minimal requirements:

1. All relevant university, graduate college, and CYBSC entrance requirements
2. Verbal and quantitative GRE scores (generally waived for those with previous graduate degrees or with 5 years of relevant professional experience)
3. At least three letters of recommendation
4. A 250-500 word statement outlining applicant’s reasons and plans for graduate study

In addition to these requirements, a TOEFL score of at least 570 is required for applicants whose native language is not English. Applications are normally processed on a year-round basis. Decisions will be made as quickly as feasible once the applicant has submitted all relevant materials. Decisions for financial assistance are generally made in April for the following academic year. More information about the department can be found on the Department of Political Science web page at: http://www.pols.iastate.edu/

Admission materials should be sent to the Graduate College. They will be evaluated for approval by both the CYBSC program and the Department of Political Science.

**Degree Requirements for Students with Political Science as Their “Home Department”**

1. All relevant university and graduate college requirements.
2. Consonant with the CYBSC degree program, students must take CprE 531 Computer Security (3 credits) and CprE 534X Ethical and Legal Issues in Computer Security (2 credits).
3. Students must also take Political Science 587X E-Democracy (3 credits).
4. Students must take two (6 credits) of the following:  
   CprE 580 Advanced Computer Networking;   
   Com S 552 Principles of Operating Systems;  
   Com S 586 Computer Network Architectures; or MIS 538 Business Processes and Systems  
   Math 553 Encryptology.
5. Students taking the thesis option must complete 6 credits of thesis research with their thesis advisor. Students taking the non-thesis option must complete 3 credits of creative component with their advisor.
6. Students must complete 12 (thesis option) or 15 (non-thesis option) elective credits. Students in the Political Science CYBSC program will be expected to develop an appropriate course of study, in consultation with their advisor, to achieve their own particular academic and career goals in cybersecurity and policy with these electives. This program must include two courses in Political Science in addition to Pol S 587. One of these courses may be an independent study. The total program of study, including required courses, should total 30 credits.

**Master of Science in Cybersecurity**

**Graduation Requirements**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Core (6 credits)**  CYBSC 531: Information System Security  POLS 534: Legal and Ethical Issues in Computer Security  Com S 207: Programming I (strongly recommended)  Com S 208: Programming II (recommended) | **Supplemental Core (9 credits)**  CYBSC 530: Network Protocols and Security  or COMS 586: Computer Network Architectures  MIS 538: Business Process and Systems  POLS 587: Electronic Democracy | | |
|  |  | | |
| **Electives for Management Focus (12 credits)** | | |
| CYBSC 532: Information Warfare  (highly recommended)  POLS 507: Public Policy  POLS 508X: Policy Implementation  POLS 571: Organizational Theory  (highly recommended)  POLS 574: Policy and Program Evaluation  POLS 575: Management in the Public  Sector (highly recommended)  POL 580: Ethics and Public Policy  POLS 590G: Special Topic  (Talk to your advisors)  POLS 421: Constitutional Freedoms  Cpr E 537: Wireless Network Security | MIS 533: Data Management for Decision  Makers (highly recommended)  MIS 535 :Telecommunications  Management (highly recommended)  CYBSC 592: Seminar in Cybersecurity  \* COMS 207: Programming I ***(Must have)***  \* COMS 208: Programming II  \* COMS 311: Design and Analysis of Algorithms  \* COMS 363: Introduction to Database Management Systems  \* COMS 352: Introduction to Operating Systems (Network focus)  \* COMS 461: Database Systems Concepts and Internals  (\* Recommended for auditing) | | |
|  |  | | |
| **Electives for Political Science Focus (12 credits)** | | |
| Any 400-500 level Political Science courses may be used if approved by the DOGE and POS Committee. 400 Level political science courses may not exceed the total allowed by the Graduate College. | CYBSC 592: Seminar in Cybersecurity  \* COMS 207: Programming I ***(Must have)***  (\* Recommended for auditing) | | |
|  |  | | |
| **Thesis Research/Creative Component (3 credits)**  POLS 599: Creative Component  POLS 699: Thesis Research | |  | | |