Colorado-Washington Security Scholars Program (CWSSP)

Benefits, Requirements of Program, Application Process, and Selection Criteria for Academic Year 2024-2025

Colorado-Washington Security Scholars Program (CWSSP) program provides funding to students pursuing studies and careers in cybersecurity.

Recipients have access to activities developed for CWSSP students and will be fully integrated into the department's research programs as well as development of teamwork and leadership skills through the Virtual Team Course.

CWSSP is funded through a grant awarded by the National Science Foundation and is a CyberCorps Scholarship for Service (SFS) program. **Upon graduation, recipients agree to work for the U.S. Government for a period equal to their length of participation in the CWSSP program.** More information available at https://www.uccs.edu/cwssp/

Scholarship Benefits

While the scholarship is typically for up to two years, the funding period may be extended to three years for doctoral students or for students in combined bachelor's and master's degree programs. The specific benefits are:

Tuition and fees: Colorado Resident Tuition and education related fees (does not include items such as meal plans, housing, or parking). Non-Residents will have tuition waived up to resident amount.

Stipend: Academic year stipends of *$27,000 per year for undergraduate students* and *$37,000 per year for graduate students*.

Professional development: Professional allowance of $6,000 for program-related travel, research and projects, and professional certification in cybersecurity. Participation in virtual and in-person job fairs in Washington D.C. Virtual Teams Course for learning and developing teamwork skills and knowledge.

Research: Each student will work on a research project under the direction of a CWSSP faculty member

Employment: Participants commit to post-graduation government service for a period equivalent to the length of scholarship.

Requirements and Eligibility

The eligibility criteria are as follows:

- A United States citizen or permanent resident.
- A full-time Cybersecurity student at the UCCS Computer Science department, including a qualified junior/senior at UCCS pursuing a Computer Science degree with a

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Cybersecurity concentration, a Master's student in Cybersecurity, or a Ph.D. student in Security.

- Each student must meet selection criteria for the US federal executive agency employment.
- Internship placements and final job placements in federal government organizations typically require security clearances. Scholarship recipients are required to undergo the background investigation necessary to obtain such clearances as part of the job/internship application process.

Obligation for Scholarship Recipient

In return for receiving scholarship benefits, each recipient will have the following requirements:

Complete the degree program successfully and on time.

Participate in government internship positions in the summers during the years of scholarship study; doctoral students may be allowed to replace their summer internship with a research activity following a recommendation from their CWSSP advisor and approval from the CWSSP and SFS offices.

Upon graduation, each student will be required to work in a position related to cybersecurity in a federal executive agency of the US government for a period equal to the length of the scholarship or one year, whichever is longer (an academic year of scholarship establishes a requirement for one calendar year of work).

Each student is responsible for identifying, applying for, and securing a qualified position.

Participate in other CWSSP and CyberCorps® SFS activities, such as conferences, workshops and seminars.

Application Process and Criteria

Each applicant to the CWSSP program should provide the following:

1. Completed CWSSP application (link is provided on CWSSP homepage)
2. Statement of purpose and description of goals and motivations to pursue a career in cybersecurity.
3. Official transcripts of all college work
4. Resume including a list of academic recognitions, awards, honor or distinctions that you have received and/or academic research.
5. Two Letters of Reference from persons familiar with your background and potential. At least one should be from a current faculty and may be from UCCS or other institutions Additional letters of recommendation from employers, supervisors, or other faculty members are encouraged, but not required. **NOTE: Reference Letters must be sent directly from the reference to: econrad3@uccs.edu**

Applicants should send items 1-4 listed above in electronic form to **Ms. Liz Conrad at econrad3@uccs.edu**. Please include "**CWSSP Application**" in the Subject line.

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Criteria for Selection

The selection criteria are as follows:

Undergraduate Students

United States citizen or permanent resident

Junior or Senior at UCCS. Students must be able to complete their undergraduate degree requirements in no more than two years (i.e., four regular semesters) following acceptance into the program

Competitive GPA

Recommendation letters from two faculty members. Additional letters from employers or faculty members are acceptable

Evaluation of the student's potential for success in the program

Graduate Students (Master's or Ph.D.)

United States citizen or permanent resident

Official acceptance into the graduate program by UCCS

Competitive GPA

Recommendation letters from two faculty members. Additional letters from employers or faculty members are acceptable

Evaluation of the student's potential for success in the program

Additional Criteria for Both Undergraduate and Graduate Students

Interest in cybersecurity

Potential or experience in conducting research or project in cybersecurity

Commitment to participate in summer internship and service following degree completion according to the guidelines of the CWSSP program

Demonstrated leadership, participation in team activities, prior social service, and/or evidence of creative and independent thinking and/or acting