

## PLAN OF STUDY REFLECTION

One might be wondering why he/she has to go to a university again. The purpose of my studies at George Mason University is to eventually graduate with a master's degree in applied information technology. I hope to matriculate into my graduate program shortly, and I am interested in the Cybersecurity concentration. This program is a branch of the Volgenau School of Engineering. It requires a successful completion of 10 courses. The ten courses include: four required, four foundational, and two elective courses. Therefore, these courses are advantageous to my future career and my field.

Required Courses:

1. Algorithms and Data Structures Essentials
2. Database Management Systems
3. Fundamentals of Computing Platforms
4. Information Representation, Processing and Visualization

Foundational Courses:

1. Cybersecurity Fundamentals
2. Secure Software Development
3. Network and Systems Security
4. Incidents Handling and Penetration Testing
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Elective Course:

1. Cloud Computing Security
2. Cybersecurity Emerging Threats, and Countermeasures

Furthermore, I strongly believe that taking these courses is advantageous because it will immensely develop my skills and make me a cybersecurity specialist in the near future. Each of the above-mentioned courses will enhance my ability to deliver security effective solutions. The advantages of studying these courses are as follows: Firstly, Algorithms and Data Structures Essentials will teach me how to use basic data structures. Also, it will lead me into a deeper level of programming. Secondly, almost every business organization uses a kind of database system in its daily operation. Learning how to record, manipulate, and retrieve data efficiently is extremely important. Thirdly, Fundamentals of Computing Platforms is another useful course. There are a number of computing platforms and media. It is critical to adequately understand the operations of both software and hardware technologies. Fourthly, data is dramatically increasing consistently. Information Representation, Processing and Visualization techniques will give me the ability to use, manage, and control big data. Fifthly, the Cyber security Fundamentals course will make me potentially capable of providing security solutions to different kinds of organizations by identifying threats and protecting clients, servers, and networks from being vulnerable to attacks. Lastly, I will write defensive codes to protect computer software and hardware devices.

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Finally, a relevant question is: why is the Cybersecurity field important? The world wide web is the main tool through which people can browse online. This has made computer networks a critical aspect of our daily lives. The issue is users are unaware of the cyber space dangers. Experts are exploring ways of making computer users safe when using the internet. At the same time, the number of cybercriminals is rising rapidly. As a result, I want to be numbered among the sophisticated professionals who are exploring methods of defending hackers' targets. Individuals, private, public, and business organizations depend on the effectiveness of software, hardware, and networking solutions to stay active online. Thus, the impact of hacking is like a flu that intensely affects every member of society. It should be noted that my prospective program of choice which includes all the above listed courses are closely related to my career goal.

To conclude, my chosen program of study is Applied Information Technology. The courses I will be studying are beneficial to my aspiring career and are highly recommended for my profession.