SANS

SANS CYBER IMMERSION ACADEMY

SANS 2022 Cyber Immersion Academy Scholarship Guide

Created to help foster diversity in the cybersecurity workforce of tomorrow, the **Cyber Immersion Academies** offer full scholarships to underrepresented communities.

Our goal is to build a sense of inclusion in the industry by launching new careers into cybersecurity, rather than advancing established cybersecurity careers.

> *"I can say with absolute confidence that I couldn't have made the career switch if I hadn't taken SANS courses. Taking the courses provided me the knowledge necessary to land a job in cybersecurity."*
>
> **Hanan Saleh,** Detection and Response Analyst at Rapid 7

Program Overview

The Academies are full-scholarship programs aimed at diversifying the cybersecurity industry. They provide technical training and industry-recognized certifications, and students emerge from the program qualified to start cybersecurity positions immediately. What makes these programs unique is the line of employers that rely on our graduate pipeline to fill their open positions.

Women's Immersion Academy

Created to increase gender diversity within the industry, the Women's Academy provides women who are new to cybersecurity with the opportunity to gain in-demand skills and industry recognized certifications to launch their new career in cybersecurity.

Cyber Workforce Academy – Maryland

Designed to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion in the Maryland cybersecurity labor market. This program is state funded with the support of the EARN-MD grant. The program fast tracks students, in 6 months, into what will soon be one of the nation's major cybersecurity hubs.

SANS + HBCU Cyber Academy

The SANS + HBCU Cyber Academy was founded to provide talented scholars from Historically Black Colleges and Universities with free access to industry-leading cybersecurity training and certifications.

VetSuccess Academy

Designed for transitioning military service members, active-duty spouses, and veterans the VetSuccess Academy helps those who served our country transition into high-demand, high-paying civilian positions. (Transitioning service members must be within 6 months of ETS)

Cyber Diversity Academy
Created to increase diversity within the industry, this academy provides minorities who are new to cybersecurity with the opportunity to gain in-demand skills and certifications to launch a new career in cybersecurity.

Virginia Cyber Skills Academy

Created to reduce the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, this academy offers residents of Northern Virginia full scholarships to acquire cybersecurity training and industry recognized certifications to start a new career in cybersecurity.

984+
Scholarships Awarded (2015-2021)

90%
employment within six months of graduation

Core Curriculum Student Performance 2015-2021

$90,000
average salary for all academy graduates

Students receive up to **360 hours** of hands-on training in as little as six months

Student Roadmap

HOW THE CYBER IMMERSION ACADEMIES WORK FOR STUDENTS

1. Students complete the application process including aptitude assessments and personal interviews.

2. Scholarship recipients are named within 4 weeks of application close.

3. Students meet their cohort.

4. Students are invited to an onboarding call with all the scholarship recipients who will start the program alongside them and connect with their mentor(s).

5. **Foundational training**
   The core training of this program comes in the form of two foundational courses, building a strong basic knowledge of the cybersecurity landscape. After completion, qualified students are given the opportunity to move on to advanced training. Advanced training gives students the opportunity to pursue specialized knowledge to shape their career direction.
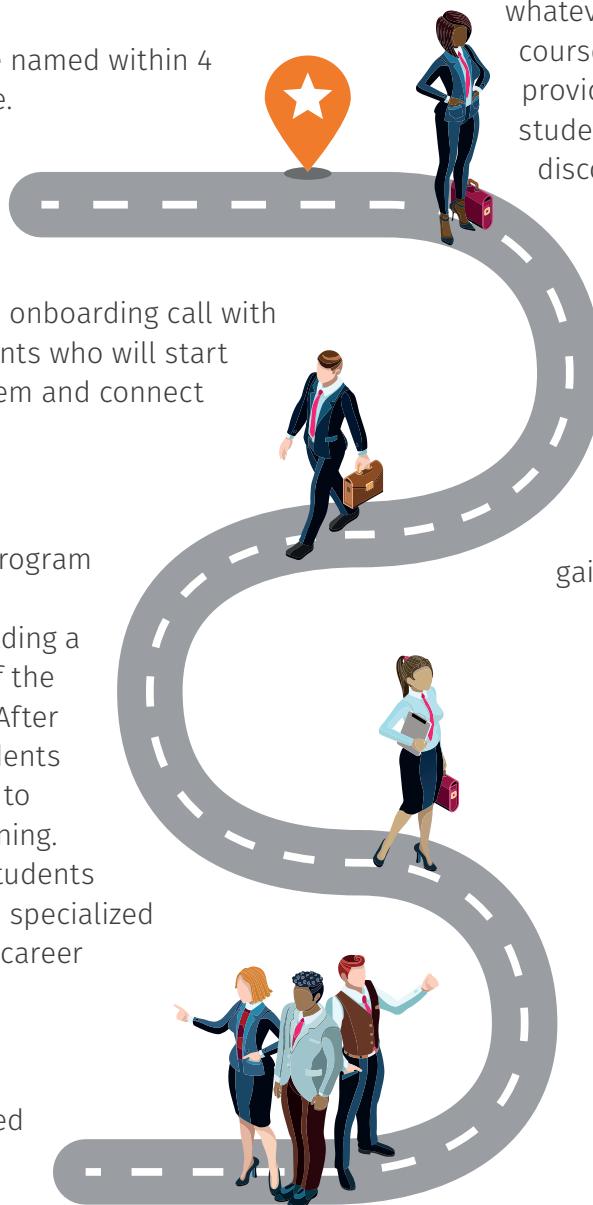
6. **GIAC Certification**
   Every SANS course is paired with a corresponding GIAC Certification exam. GIAC Certifications signal to employers that our students can apply their knowledge on a technical level and have been tested to prove so.

7. **Technical Mentorship**
   SANS technical mentors are cybersecurity professionals who help students manage whatever challenges they face in their course work. Rather than simply providing answers, our mentors ask students questions that help students discover solutions on their own.

8. **Career Mentorship**
   Our career services department offers professional mentorship to students through resume workshops, interview prep, and employer connections. We help students confidently showcase the in-demand skills they've gained through our programs.

Learn more at **www.sans.org/scholarship-academies**

Companies that have hired our students

amazon

blackpoint

Booz | Allen | Hamilton

CACI
EVER VIGILANT

CISCO

citi

Deloitte.

DRAGOS

EY

GEICO

KPMG

MANDIANT

MARRIOTT VACATIONS WORLDWIDE

Microsoft

nccgroup

ORACLE

PLEX

ThermoFisher
SCIENTIFIC

RAPID7

Qualys

salesforce

US Army Cyber Protection Brigade

workday

There is no guarantee of placement in the positions introduced to students through SANS Career Services.

"I would not be currently pursuing my dream job if the SANS team hadn't stood up and told me I could do it. I had applied and tried for many an entry level info sec role and was honestly about to give up before I applied to the SANS Women's Immersion Academy. I am so glad I did. What I am pursuing is definitely for me, I just needed someone to tell me they thought I could do it too."

Caitlin Sullivan, Industrial Threat Hunter at Dragos and Women's Immersion Academy Alumni

SANS
CYBER
IMMERSION
ACADEMY

Learn more at **www.sans.org/scholarship-academies**