

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the SANS Technology Institute's master's degree programs. The application process typically requires several hours of work to prepare the necessary documents, write the required outcomes statement and leadership essays, and create the short admissions video presentation. This document leads you through the required steps in the process, and may be used as a checklist for completion.

Minimum Program Requirements

Before you complete the application materials, please confirm you meet the minimum criteria required of all applicants:

- Have at least 12 months of professional work experience in information technology or information security
- Be employed or have current access to an organizational environment that allows you to apply the concepts and hands-on technical skills learned during the master's program
- Have earned a baccalaureate degree from a recognized accredited college or university, or the international equivalent, with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.8

Preferred Admissions Deadlines

Submit Complete Application By:	Receive Admissions Decision On:	Target Program Start Date:
May 1	June 1	Summer 2022: July/August
August 1	September 1	Fall 2022: October/November
November 1	December 1	Winter 2023: January/February

- If admitted, students will be eligible to join the next available [New Student Orientation](#) (NSO), which begin the first of each month. Only after a student completes New Student Orientation will they be allowed to register for their first course.

Application Requirements

All application materials, with the exception of the application fee and official transcripts, will be submitted online at <https://application.sans.edu/apply/>. All applicants must submit the following:

A. Application Form

- To log into the graduate application portal, you must have a SANS account.
 - To create a SANS account visit: <https://www.sans.org/account/create>.
 - If you already have an account, please log into the graduate application using your SANS account credentials.

- The application can be found online at <https://application.sans.edu/apply/> and you will be guided through each step. The application will not be reviewed for admission until all supporting documents are submitted.
- B. Current Résumé
- C. Letter of Recommendation
- D. Goals and Outcomes Statement
- E. Video Presentation
- F. Official Transcripts
- G. Aptitude Assessment
- H. Application Fee

Application Details

Current Résumé

Highlight your current experience and showcase your career history. Provide details on your responsibilities in your current role and previous roles to help understand your experience in information technology/information security. Make sure to include all industry certifications and your educational background.

Letter of Recommendation Overview

The employer recommendation is required to provide a candid viewpoint of an applicant's personal characteristics, performance and experience, strengths, capabilities, and professional promise. The optimal recommendation is written by someone who has supervised your work, served as a mentor, or worked closely with you, and has been in a position to observe your performance.

In lieu of writing a separate letter of recommendation, you will submit an electronic request through the application portal. Your recommender will receive an email with a form to complete.

Goals and Outcomes Statement Overview

Applicants to the master's programs are required to submit one short essay. This essay will enable us to evaluate the match between your goals and skills and the type of graduate we seek to develop: a person who seeks to design and implement security defenses in their organization, and has the technical proficiency, along with the team management, communication and persuasion skills, to be effective.

In addition to allowing us to learn more about you, the review of this essay is an essential tool in our ability to evaluate the quality of your writing, including your ability to organize unstructured information, to frame an argument, and to persuade others of your point of view. Our evaluation of your application essay ensures that we admit students only when we believe they are sufficiently prepared for the multiple applied research papers in the master's programs, and that they have or can develop the writing skills necessarily required of an effective manager.

Requirement: Please list at the top of the first page the title (below), your name, and the date. Please use single-spaced paragraphs with a double space between them. Font should be 11-point, in Times New Roman, or Calibri, or Arial. Of course, be mindful of grammar, spelling, punctuation, and syntax, which are essential fundamentals to our evaluations. This should be 2 pages in length.

Goals and Outcomes Statement: Provide an organized and thoughtful Goals & Outcome Statement detailing your expectations for a return on your investment in earning master's degree in information security. What drives you to pursue this degree program? Your goals should be specific, realistic, time-related, and if possible, measurable. Integrate how your professional and/or personal background and experiences led to this choice, and how they relate to the desired outcomes. Discuss how you intend to use the master's program and your work experience over the next three to five years to further your leadership goals. This should be 2 pages in length.

Video Presentation Overview

An important part of developing leaders to strengthen enterprise and global information security is ensuring the ability to communicate. The SANS Technology Institute graduate curriculum is designed to improve a candidate's verbal communication skills (both written and oral) while providing a strong, hands-on technical base. The video presentation requirement is designed to give the admissions committee insight into the applicant's oral presentation skills, especially the applicant's ability to communicate powerfully and convincingly.

Please prepare and record a 3 to 5-minute video on one of the following prompts:

- Option One:** What is something that you do well? Tell us about a skillset you possess (technical or non-technical). Create a video that is somewhat educational. This can be a tutorial or a how-to video.
- Option Two:** Please summarize and expand upon (*without reading*) your Goals and Outcomes Statement.

Video Requirements:

When you are ready to record your video, you will do so in the application portal under the Video Presentation checklist requirement (*the checklist is only seen after you submit the application form*). You will have 3 attempts to record your video within the platform.

Please review the below requirements and ensure your video complies with each of the guidelines before submitting. If your video does not comply with these guidelines, we may not be able to accept your video or we may request you submit another one.

- Candidates should speak to the camera as if they are presenting to a room of graduate school faculty.
- Candidates should *not* be reading from notes (either on their computer or hardcopy notes). Anything beyond one notecard is viewed negatively by the Admissions Committee.
- Professional recording equipment is not required. Applicants may use a phone or computer webcam.
- Candidates should be conscious of lighting and sound, though, and ensure they are visible and can be heard throughout the video.
- Slide presentations are neither required nor encouraged.

Official Transcripts

Transcripts are official only when they are sent directly from your prior school(s) to SANS.edu with no student contact involved. Please have your college/university submit an official copy of your transcript directly to transcripts@sans.edu. If electronic delivery is not an option, please mail official, sealed copies to:

SANS Technology Institute
2093 Philadelphia Pike #4606
Claymont, DE 19703

All transcripts submissions must be official, which means they are sent directly from your prior school(s) to SANS.edu with no student contact involved.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: If submitting a transcript from a college /university outside of the United States, please first review the requirements for international students (<https://www.sans.edu/admissions/international>).

Aptitude Assessment

Applicants will be required to complete an online aptitude assessment. After submitting your application form, you will see your checklist with instructions for accessing the assessment.

You will have two hours to complete the 50-question assessment which will cover areas such as networking concepts, operating systems, and general information security aptitude. You will not receive a score report after the assessment.

We recommend taking the assessment when you have the *full* 2 hours to devote to it without being interrupted. Students will have 1, and only 1, attempt at this assessment and we do not offer re-takes.

Submit the Application Fee

In order to complete the application process, students must submit the non-refundable \$100 application fee. The fee can be paid online through our [payment suite](#). You will also see instructions for paying this fee on the application checklist, after submitting your application form.

Additional Instructions for International Students

Please review the full set of additional application requirements at <https://www.sans.edu/admissions/international>.

Additional Instructions for Student Veterans

Please review the full set of additional application requirements at <https://www.sans.edu/veterans/admissions>.

Conclusion

The SANS Technology Institute is the preeminent cybersecurity college translating contemporary information security practice into effective educational experiences. Attracting and selecting the very best candidates for our program are critical elements to achieve this goal. We thank you for your interest, and wish you success with your application. Should you have questions during the application process, please email info@sans.edu.