

Master of Science in Cyber Security

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

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

1. All relevant university, graduate college, and Cyber Security 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 Cyber Security 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 Cyber Security 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 Cryptology.
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 Cyber Security 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 information assurance 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.

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Graduation Requirements

Core (6 credits)

CYBSC 531 Computer Security
 POLS 534 Ethical and Legal Issues in
 Computer Security
 Com S 207 Programming I (strongly recommended)
 Com S 208 Programming II (recommended)

Supplemental Core (9 credits)

CYBSC 530 Advanced Computer Networking
 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
 CprE 537 Wireless Security

MIS 533 Data Management for Decision
 Makers (highly recommended)
 MIS 535 Telecommunications
 Management (highly recommended)
 CYBSC 592 Seminar in Information Assurance
 * 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 Information
 Assurance
 * COMS 207 Programming I (***Must have***)
 (* Recommended for auditing)

Thesis Research/Creative Component (3 credits)

POLS 599 Creative Component
 POLS 699 Thesis Research