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 if the student does not have a bachelors or masters degree from a U.S. institution.
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 85 is required for applicants whose degree is not from the U.S or a country where English is the only official language. 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.

Admission materials should be submitted at https://www.admissions.iastate.edu/apply
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 POL S 534 Ethical and Legal Issues in Computer Security (2 credits).
3. Students must take two (9 credits) of the following:
   Political Science 587 E-Democracy
   CYBSC 580 Advanced Computer Networking
   CYBSC 532 Information Warfare
   MIS 538 Business Process and Systems
   Math 553 Encryptology.
4. 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.
5. Non-thesis students must take 6 additional credits in political science and 3 elective credits. Thesis student must take 6 additional political science credits. The total program of study, including required courses, should total at least 30 credits.

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Graduation Requirements

Required Core (6 credits)
CYBSC 531 Computer Security
POLS 534 Ethical and Legal Issues in
    Computer Security

Supplemental Core (Choose 3: 9 credits)
POLS 587 Electronic Democracy
CYBSC 530 Advanced Computer Networking
CYBSC 532 Information Warfare
MIS 538 Business Process and Systems
Math 553 Encryptology

Recommended for Auditing, not eligible for Program of Study
Com S 207 Programming I (strongly recommended)
Com S 208 Programming II (recommended)

Political Science Elective Courses (9 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. 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. If POLS 587 was used for the supplemental core, students can choose to substitute an additional elective for three of these credits. Three of these credits may be POLS 590.

Other electives (3 credits, only required for students choosing creative component):

Additional political science course approved by DOGE and POS committee, additional supplemental core course, or one of the following (300-400 level classes may not exceed the total allowed by the Graduate College):

Com S 311 Design and Analysis of Algorithms
Com S 363 Introduction to Database Management Systems
Com S 352 Introduction to Operating Systems (Network focus)
Com S 461 Database Systems Concepts and Internals

MIS 533 Data Management for Decision
    Makers (highly recommended)
MIS 535 Telecommunications
    Management (highly recommended)
CprE 537 Wireless Security
CYBSC 592 Seminar in Information Assurance

Thesis /Creative Component (3-6 credits)
POLS 599 Creative Component (3)
POLS 699 Thesis Research (6)