

Carolinas Cyber Defender Scholarship

What the Federal Cyber Service Scholarship for Service Program Offers

Through the Federal Cyber Corps Scholarship for Service (SFS) program, the North Carolina A&T State University will provide grants to students studying in areas relevant to Cybersecurity. Each scholarship recipient will complete a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, or a Master's degree in Computer Science or a Ph.D. degree in Computer Science. Each scholarship student must be able to complete his or her academic program within a maximum of two years (for Ph.D. students the degree must complete in three years). Rising juniors and seniors are eligible as undergraduates. All participants will be fully integrated into the department's research programs and be associated with one of our on-going research projects.

Scholarship Benefits

Each student in the program will be supported for up to two or three years depending on the program pursued. The specific benefits are:

Tuition and fees: Applicable tuition and fees, including the reasonable cost of textbooks and any out-of-state and/or graduate student fees, will be paid on behalf of the scholarship recipients. This support is provided in addition to the stipend.

Stipend: To cover room, board, and other expenses, an undergraduate will be paid a stipend of \$22,500 per academic year. Graduate students will be paid a stipend of \$34,000 per academic year.

Health insurance: a health insurance reimbursement allowance is up to \$3,000.

Research: Each student will be matched to an on-going research project under the direction of a cybersecurity faculty member.

Requirements and Eligibility

The eligibility criteria are:

- Must be a United States citizen or permanent resident.
- A full-time student within two years of graduation at North Carolina A&T State University with either a Master's degree in Computer Science, or a qualified rising junior or senior at North Carolina A&T State University. Ph.D. students within three years of graduation.
- Each student must meet selection criteria for federal, state, local or tribal government employment. Final job placement may require a security clearance, so each scholarship recipient may be required to undergo the background investigation required to obtain such a clearance.

Recipient Responsibility

A scholarship recipient incurs two obligations:

- During the summers each recipient will be responsible for securing an internship position at a federal, state, local or tribal government agency.
- Upon graduation, each recipient will be required to work in a qualified cybersecurity position for a federal, state, local or tribal government agency or a qualified national laboratory. The work requirement time period matches the supported time period. For example, a full two-year scholarship requires two years employment. Each student is responsible for identifying, applying for, and securing a qualified position. Numerous resources are available including an annual job fair specifically for SFS students as well as the assistance of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) which oversees permanent placement for scholarship students.

Application Process and Deadlines

Each applicant to the SFS program should provide the following:

- Completed application form (application form).
- Statement of purpose and description of goals and motivations to pursue a career in Cybersecurity.
- Official transcript(s).
- Resume.
- Two recommendation letters from university faculty members familiar with the student's background. Additional letters of recommendation from employers, supervisors, or other faculty members are encouraged.

Application deadline for receiving scholarship in Spring semesters is November 1. Application deadline for receiving scholarship in Fall semesters is June 1.

APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR EARLY DECISION IS April 1.

All applicants should send mail to (all of the information listed above)

Anna Yu
 Department of Computer Science
 North Carolina A&T State University
 1601 E Market Street
 Greensboro, NC 27411

Criteria for Selection

The selection criteria are as follows:

Undergraduate Students

- United States citizen or permanent resident
- Junior (60 hours) or Senior (90 hours) standing at North Carolina A&T State University. Students must be able to complete their undergraduate degree requirements in no more than two years (i.e., four regular semesters).
- At least a 3.0 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale.

- Recommendation letters from at least two faculty members. Additional letters from employers or faculty members are acceptable.
- Evaluation of the student's potential for success in the cybersecurity program.

Graduate Students

- United States citizen or permanent resident.
- Official acceptance into the graduate program by NC A&T State University.
- Expected graduation with MS degree in Computer Science within two years (Ph.D in three years).
- At least a 3.1 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale.
- Recommendation letters from at least two faculty members. Additional letters from employers or faculty members are acceptable.
- Evaluation of the student's potential for success in the cybersecurity program.

In addition, we will consider the following criteria for both undergraduate and graduate candidates:

- Commitment to participate in summer service and service following degree completion according to the guidelines of the SFS program.
- Commitment to participate in assessment activities after their scholarship and required federal service has ended.
- Demonstrated leadership, participation in team activities, prior social service, and/or evidence of creative and independent thinking and/or acting.

Competition is expected to be significant. Only the most qualified students will be selected.

Related links:

<https://www.sfs.opm.gov/>