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## Illinois Tech's Center for Cyber Security and Forensics Education Announces Applications for the Department of Defense Cybersecurity Scholarship Program (DoD CySP) 2021

Cybersecurity is considered so important to our national defense that a formal Department of Defense Cyber Scholarship Program (DoD CySP) was established by the National Defense Authorization Act for 2001 to promote the education, recruitment, and retention of rising junior and senior undergraduate and graduate students in cybersecurity studies. These students must be attending a college or university that has been designated by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education. Through our Center for Cyber Security and Forensics Education (C<sup>2</sup>SAFE), Illinois Tech has been awarded that distinction—so you are attending such an institution.

The DoD is seeking undergraduates who will be juniors and seniors (third and fourth year students) in Fall 2021, and graduate students who are interested in full-ride scholarships for concentrated studies in cybersecurity and other cyber-related disciplines. If you apply and are selected for the program you will receive a full scholarship. This requires you to agree to serve one year of service to the DoD, upon graduation, for each year or partial year of scholarship received, in addition to the internship identified below. An opportunity also exists for scholarship payback through military service. If you choose to enlist or accept a commission to serve on active duty in one of the Military Services, you'll incur a service obligation of a minimum of 4 years on active duty in that Service upon graduation. Each of the Military Services may establish a service obligation longer than 4 years, depending on the occupational specialty and type of enlistment or commissioning program selected. Traditional Guardsmen and Reserve Soldiers are eligible to apply. Scholarship payback for this group is two years of service for each year of scholarship received. ROTC students who are not receiving scholarship support are also eligible to apply.

During breaks in their academic studies, DoD Cyber Scholars will receive progressive, hands-on experience in information security internships. In return, scholars must agree to some restrictions and obligations regarding curriculum, GPA, and pre- and post-program employment. If all conditions are met, Cyber Scholars will receive full-time conditional/ permanent positions in Components of the DoD upon program completion.

Students selected as Cyber Scholars will receive the full cost of tuition, books, required fees (including health care), and stipend to cover room and board. The stipend levels are \$25,000 for undergraduate students and \$30,000 for graduate (Master's/PhD) students. Awards will be made via a grant to Illinois Tech. Disabled students may receive additional allowances. There are no allowances for dependents. Additional years of scholarship awards are dependent upon satisfactory academic progress, internship performance, if applicable, and the availability of funds. Returning students will be given first priority over new students to the program as long as they continue to meet the CySP requirements and appropriate funding is available.

**Requirements to Apply:** You must be at least 18 years of age and a United States citizen. You must be pursuing a course of study and/or have a declared major in one of the scientific, technical, or managerial disciplines related to cyber or with a concentration in cybersecurity. You must be able to obtain a security clearance (convictions for drug offenses or felonies are generally disqualifying.) You must have one full year of studies remaining. You must complete, sign, and submit the Scholarship Application and all associated documentation. And you must be recommended by Illinois Tech for the scholarship.

The Illinois Tech Center for Cyber Security and Forensics Education will be accepting applications for the Department of Defense Cyber Scholarship Program beginning **Monday November 23<sup>rd</sup>**. All completed applications and all required material including official transcripts must be received by the Department of Information Technology and Management no later than **8:00 am CST on Monday, January 25, 2021**. Please direct questions and inquiries to the C<sup>2</sup>SAFE Associate Director, Industry Professor Ray Trygstad at [trygstad@iit.edu](mailto:trygstad@iit.edu) or 630.447.9009.

**Application materials** are now available at <http://dickens.rice.iit.edu/DoDCySP/>. All documents submitted in your application package must be PDF files and submitted as a single zip file. Name the file *[LastName-FirstName]-CySP2021.zip*. In the application, you may type your initials where it states "Student Initials." Your résumé must be formatted as per the included template. Official transcripts should be sent to the the *Department of Information Technology and Management, 10 W. 35<sup>th</sup> St., Chicago, IL 60616* or should be supplied as an electronic official transcript to Professor Trygstad's email. Electronic transcripts are preferred. Submit your completed and signed application at <https://forms.gle/hB6tSEooeAFLnZtP6>. You must be signed into your Illinois Tech Google account to submit your application. The Center for Cyber Security and Forensics Education will review all applications for completeness and rank the applications based on our evaluation of the quality and competitiveness of the application.