Department of Homeland Security
Secretary's Honors Program
Cyber Student Volunteer Initiative

Overview

The Secretary's Honors Program (SHP) Cyber Student Volunteer Initiative (CSVI) provides students pursuing cybersecurity-related degrees with an opportunity to work with top Department of Homeland Security (DHS) cybersecurity professionals, while learning about the unique cybersecurity missions of the department. By offering temporary, hands-on experience to current students, DHS hopes to make a meaningful impact on the education of the Nation's next generation of cybersecurity talent.

Why Become a Student Volunteer?

As a Cyber Student Volunteer, you will be able to:

- Explore exciting cybersecurity career opportunities, including those available in public service
- Apply concepts, protocols, and tools acquired through coursework by assisting cyber experts in the real world
- Build technical experience in key areas such as digital forensics, network diagnostics and incident response
- Network with cybersecurity professionals through mentoring and professional development events from cyber threats

Student Volunteer Assignments

- Multiple DHS office locations across the Nation
- 12-16 week assignments (May–September) with a possibility of extension
- Flexible start dates and schedules
- Possibility to receive course credit from your institution
- Professional development events with cybersecurity and human capital experts

Previously Participating DHS Components

- Immigration and Customs Enforcement
- Office of Intelligence and Analysis
- Office of the Chief Information Officer
- Office of Policy/Cyber, Infrastructure and Resilience Policy
- National Protection and Programs Directorate
- Transportation Security Administration
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- U.S. Secret Service

Examples of Student Volunteer Activities

- Assisting with hardware and software updates to forensic systems
- Assisting with network monitoring and incident response
- Observing computer forensics analyses and their use in investigations
- Assisting with evidence intake, processing and analysis
- Producing unclassified documents describing and analyzing cyber threats
- Researching cybersecurity tools and techniques
- Researching the impacts of cyber incidents on critical infrastructure

Eligibility Requirements

- U.S. citizenship
- Current enrollment at least part-time in 2- or 4-year college or university
- Seeking an undergraduate or graduate degree in 1) science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM); 2) cybersecurity-related studies; or 3) an alternative field but possess an interest in possible future work in cybersecurity
- Grade Point Average 3.0 on a 4.0-point scale
- Ability to successfully complete a background investigation

For more information regarding the 2016 SHP CSVI cohort, contact the DHS CyberSkills Management Support Initiative (CMSI) at CMSI@hq.dhs.gov