

# CYBERSECURITY ANALYTICS AND OPERATIONS

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## Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School application for admission (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-admissions/how-to-apply/>). Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions Policies (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>).

### Master of Professional Studies (M.P.S.)

Applicants to the M.P.S. program are required to submit three letters of reference, and a one-three page personal statement of relevant experience and goals.

Because the M.P.S. program is multidisciplinary in nature, students from many different disciplines may be accepted for entry into the program. A bachelor's degree in a related area (e.g., engineering and science), while not necessary for admission, is helpful in the successful completion of the degree. It is expected that students will have a basic level of competency in statistics, as well as computer and information technology. Related work experience can be used to demonstrate such competency. A student may be accepted into the program with provisional status (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/provisional-admission/>) for no more than one year while work is completed to meet these expectations.

It is expected that the successful applicant will have an overall grade point average of 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale) or higher for his or her undergraduate study and/or graduate-level study. However, accomplishments demonstrated through work experience and recommendation letters from the applicant's academic adviser or employer will also play an important role in making the admission decision. The most qualified applicants will be accepted into the program until all spaces for new students are filled.

### Master of Science (M.S.)

Applicants to the M.S. program are required to submit three letters of reference, a current resume (including present position and any publications), 1 to 3 page statement of goals related to pursuing an advanced degree and career in IST and provide a sample of the applicant's writing (e.g. technical paper, etc.).

Because cybersecurity analytics and operations career opportunities exist in many disciplines, students with a wide range of disciplinary backgrounds may be accepted into the program. A bachelor's degree in a related area (e.g., engineering and science), while not necessary for admission, is helpful in the successful completion of the degree. However, it is expected that students will have a basic level of competency in mathematics and programming.

*Entrance Requirement regarding Programming:* Applicants must complete two introductory-level programming courses where both courses used the same language. If an applicant believes his/her work experience satisfies the background, he/she should include a recommendation letter from a technical colleague describing the applicant's coding contributions at work. In addition, students who meet all other academic requirements, but need to improve identified gaps in specific

programming skills areas, will have access to educational bridge materials to help improve certain knowledge domains

It is expected that the successful applicant will have an overall grade point average of 3.50 (on a 4.00 scale) or higher for his or her undergraduate study and/or graduate-level study. However, accomplishments demonstrated through work experience and recommendation letters from the applicant's academic adviser or employer will also play an important role in the admission decision as well. The most qualified applicants will be accepted into the program until all spaces for new students are filled.