



October 11, 2018

## Cyber: Millions of Rewarding Jobs - Educating for a Career in Cybersecurity

*In honor of National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, the DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA) is sharing important tips each week in October to help digital users within the District learn more about cybersecurity and how to better protect themselves and their loved ones from cyber threats.*



Organizations across the US currently suffer from a severe shortage of cybersecurity professionals and industry leaders predict there will be 3.5 million new cybersecurity jobs available by 2021. Despite this gap in our workforce, our vulnerability to attack continues to grow due to the adoption of new internet-connected “smart” technology in our homes and workplaces. This expanded connectivity makes us tempting targets for all types of hackers, from those motivated by financial gain to nation-state actors tasked by our adversaries to disrupt and destroy our way of life. For these reasons, the demand for skilled cybersecurity talent is and will remain high.

If you are making education plans or contemplating a career change, consider the field of cybersecurity. There are numerous schools that provide students with a comprehensive cybersecurity education in the form of certificate programs, undergraduate degrees, and advanced degrees. There are also many groups and organizations available to help people explore their interest in cybersecurity before committing to a long-term educational path.

The following links contain resources for those interested in learning more about educational and professional opportunities within the field of cybersecurity. This list is only provided for informational purposes and is not an official endorsement of any particular school or organization.

- [NICCS.US-CERT.gov](http://NICCS.US-CERT.gov) is the US Department of Homeland Security’s National Initiative for Cybersecurity Careers and Studies website that provides various cybersecurity training and workplace development resources.
- [CyberDegrees.org](http://CyberDegrees.org) lists schools that currently have cybersecurity degree programs as well as groups and conferences designed for those with an interest in the field.
- [LearnHowToBecome.org](http://LearnHowToBecome.org) provides readers with an explanation of different degree programs and career paths that exist within the field of cybersecurity.

For more cybersecurity tips, visit the District of Columbia's Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) at [octo.dc.gov/cybersecurity](http://octo.dc.gov/cybersecurity) and the National Cyber Security Alliance at [StaySafeOnline.org](http://StaySafeOnline.org).

