



UMass Amherst CyberAICorps Scholarship for Service Application

The University of Massachusetts Amherst has received a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to bring the CyberAICorps Scholarship for Service (CyberAI SFS) program to our campus. This program provides an educational and professional track for students who wish to help the nation address threats to national. While in school, the program supports the educational and professional development of the scholar, and upon graduation, scholars join federal government agencies at full pay and benefits working in cybersecurity roles.

Note that you should be applying one semester ahead of when the scholarship would start, if awarded. For example, in a Spring semester, you can apply for scholarships that start the following Fall. In a fall semester, you can apply for scholarships that start the following Spring. You are welcome to apply during the summer, but we cannot promise the scholarship would start the following September.

To apply, please complete the following application. To submit, send your responses as five PDF files (one for each part below) to sfs-info@cs.umass.edu. Applications are evaluated as they are received, but we encourage sending them according to the dates published on our website. We will conduct in-person interviews of a short list of candidates.

If you have questions as you complete this package, please contact sfs-info@cs.umass.edu.

1. Attach a resume that includes the following information. (There is no page limit.)

- Name
- Current mailing address
- Permanent mailing address (if different)
- Current email address
- Permanent email address (not a UMass/school email, in other words)
- Phone number
- Permanent phone number (if different)
- Your complete educational history, starting from at least undergraduate and including all colleges and universities where you have enrolled in courses, stating the degree program entered and/or earned or expected. State your GPA at each institute, your dates of study, and credits earned to date. Do not list the classes you have completed on the resume.
- Your complete work history, including internships and, if you wish, time spent volunteering with or leading any organization (e.g., sports leagues, summer camps, community organizations). Provide a sentence about your role or responsibilities in each of these positions.
- List three persons that can act as references for your application. List their names, titles, relationship to you, email address (required), and telephone numbers. **Do not** have them send in reference letters; we will request references when we are ready for them. Please do not include persons related to you, fellow students (unless they were a graduate student TA for you), or family friends. At least one must be a professor or TA from a college or university you attended.
- Please state on your resume if you are a U.S. citizen (or permanent resident currently), which is required by Federal law to be eligible for the program. Please do not provide us with documentation at this stage. Please do not send an image of a passport, birth certificate, driver's license, etc.
- Please state on the resume your gender identity, age and date of birth, and your race/racial identity. This information is for demographic purposes only and may be omitted by the applicant, if desired.

2. Please provide unofficial transcripts from your college-level institutions. (There is no need to request an official transcript at this stage. If accepted, and you have an educational history that does not include UMass Amherst, know that we will need official transcripts, which might take time to obtain.)

3. Please supply short answers to the following questions.

- A. Starting from the beginning of the scholarship, will you be exactly four semesters of entering the workforce and graduating?

- B. What educational program are you in now? Please tell us the institution, degree name and type (e.g., MS, BA, BS, etc.), number of credits earned in completed semesters, number of credits enrolled in for the current semester, and number of credits needed to graduate, and expected graduation date.
- C. What will your degree program be at the start of the SFS scholarship UMass Amherst? If different from part B, have you already applied to the program you've listed? Have you received an offer to attend UMass? Have you accepted the offer? Please note that we do not process applications to enter degree programs at UMass; that process is handled by others at UMass and depends on the degree program. You are welcome to apply to SFS concurrently, but we cannot offer you a scholarship until you are admitted to a degree program.
- D. For each class you are enrolled in this semester, please estimate your final grade in the class. Please tell us if you are taking the class pass/fail.
- E. Have you ever been involved in an academic honesty policy related incident? If so, please explain.
- F. Have you applied for and received or been denied a security clearance from the US government? If not, are you aware of how the security clearance process works? What challenges would you face obtaining clearance?
- G. Is there a date by which you need to hear a response from us?
- H. The program is for 4 semesters of scholarship. For each semester until graduation, state the courses you have planned. This isn't a commitment to any specific course; rather, we are trying to determine how long you'll need to complete degree requirements given that, for example, no courses would be available to you during the one summer because of the internship requirement. Include required courses for your degree in the semesters they are typically/historically offered (some classes are only offered in the Fall or Spring). Be clear if there is a credit overload required. For electives in your degree, state the electives if you know them, but you can instead state the level of the course (e.g., "400-level or higher"). Most importantly, please include requirements listed under "College-specific obligations" on this page: <https://infosec.cs.umass.edu/content/umass-amherst-scholarship-service-10-25-21>.

As an example, here's what one might write for a single semester.

- Spring 2021: CompSci365 Digital Forensics, two 300+-level CS electives; one 300+-level CS elective

If you can name specific courses, that's helpful as we'll learn your interests. Note that the scholarship requires that you focus on security.

Include in your timeline a summer when you'll complete an internship and include your planned start date in a government position. If you are planning a deferment to complete another degree (e.g., a PhD after a MS, or an MS after a Bachelor's), or it's a possibility that you might, please state that clearly on your timeline.

4. Please write an application essay that answers the following questions in any order you see fit. Please write one to two sides of a page using 12-point font, 1-inch margins on all sides, and single-spaced lines.

- Why are you applying to this scholarship? What interests do you have in the program? What benefits to yourself do you hope to gain from participating?
- Tell us about your past and current interests, experiences, courses, projects, or self-learning involving security and related fields.
- Why is this program a good fit for you? Which aspects will be most challenging given who you and your current commitments?
- Why are you a good fit for this program? What will you contribute to UMass's program?
- What can you tell us about the job you are looking for to fulfill the service requirement? Do you have specific agencies in mind? Specific positions?

5. Please print and sign the form on the next page as part of your application.

Students who receive funds under the NSF SFS program will have obligations that include the following.

- Working for a government agency in the executive branch immediately after graduation, for a period of 6 months per semester of funding (with a minimum period of 12 months). The position must be related to cybersecurity according to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management. Positions in state, local, or tribal agencies are possible only with OPM approval and are limited.
- Seeking and taking internships with the government in each summer during the scholarship period.
- Participating in conferences, workshops, and seminars as organized by UMass and NSF SFS programs (in-person and online). The main fair is in January each year in DC and attendance is obligatory, even after graduation until a job is secured and begun. There are usually two virtual career fairs in September/October that are obligated to attend.
- Undergoing background investigations as required to obtain security clearances required for internships and post-graduation employment.
- Reimbursing of all funds (including tuition and fees and all stipends) if you withdraw or are terminated from the SFS program, fail to qualify for government employment, or fail to complete government employment in a cybersecurity position. Interest on these reimbursements may accrue and other penalties may be incurred.
- Giving up all current employment to focus on the SFS program.
- Signing a legal agreement attesting to the above obligations.

Please initial to acknowledge the following statements:

_____ I have read and acknowledge these obligations. I understand that signing this document does not obligate me to accept the scholarship or fulfill the obligations at this time.

_____ I understand that false information in this application or during my interview can result in loss of a scholarship and repayment of funds, which may incur financial penalties. I declare that my application is truthful.

_____ The review committee of UMass Amherst faculty has explicit permission to view my application to UMass, as well as all academic and disciplinary records at UMass Amherst and all other colleges and universities I have attended. During only the period of time where this application is under review, I give permission to instructors and TAs of my current and previous courses to speak to faculty involved in the UMass SFS about my grades and performance in these courses (i.e., I waive all FERPA protections).

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____