



Graduate New Curriculum – Information Addendum Form

Degree: _____ **Major:** M.S. in Cybercrime

Concentration (if applicable): NA

FOR ANY NEW CURRICULUM (New Concentration, Track, Specialization, Grad Certificate, etc.), answer the following:

1. How does this align with USF System and State University System strategic goals (with particular focus on BOG’s “areas of strategic emphasis”)?

Cybercrime and cyber security are high priorities for USF. USF hosts the designated Florida Center for Cybersecurity with a mission to enhance Florida’s cybersecurity workforce and to build a statewide network among universities and business/industry. The Center for Cybersecurity has received a multi-million dollar appropriation to promote cybersecurity teaching, research, and business/industry connections. The M.S. in Cybercrime provides a missing component to the USF cybersecurity programs in that it address the social and behavioral aspects of cybersecurity in contrast to the technological aspects of cybercrime.

As a graduate program, the MS in Cybercrime will make significant contributions to the SUS and USF strategic mission by meeting the increasing demand in the job market for graduates with degrees in the STEM fields, increasing the community and business workforce prepared to address issues of cybercrime, attracting funding from external sources, promoting collaboration with private business and industry on research projects, and improving the quality and impact of scholarship and research.

2. What is the demonstrated need and demand? (in the context of statewide and regional enrollment/degree productivity, including USF institutions, SUS, and FSC), making compelling reasons for “necessary duplication,” if appropriate.

The Office of Innovative Education conducted a market study to assess the demand for the MS in Cybercrime. As a new and emerging field, historical enrollment data are limited. On a national level, the program that is closest in design and content to the proposed MS in Cybercrime is the Masters of Criminal Justice - Cybercrime Concentration at Boston University Metropolitan College. They report over 100 graduate students enrolled in the 100% online Cybercrime Concentration. Other programs that are in their early stages of implementation include the Cybercrime Investigation track with the MS in Computer Forensics at the University of Alabama Birmingham and the MS in Digital Forensics and Cyber Investigation at the University of Maryland. These two programs are too new to provide data on market demand.

At USF, the MS in Cybersecurity has over 300 students enrolled. The Digital Forensics Concentration (MSCyS-DF) has 112 graduate students actively enrolled and has become the second most popular concentration in the MS Cybersecurity academic program, clearly

showing an interest in criminal investigations. Including past graduates, over 150 students have selected this program of study.

At the time of this proposal there is no duplication of programs. The MS in Cybercrime at USF will be unique in comparison to other programs at USF and in the SUS in that students do not need to have strong prerequisite backgrounds in computer science or other high-tech skills, thus making this program both accessible and realistically achievable for those with criminal justice and criminology undergraduate backgrounds. The absence of a computer science requirement or prerequisite is the key feature of this program that distinguishes it from other cyber programs.

The program will be offered 100% online in an asynchronous format. Therefore the MS in Cybercrime at USF will be available to a wide range of students including those restricted by work responsibilities, time (e.g., shift work) and geographic location. Students located throughout the State of Florida as well as across the United States will be able to participate in the program and attain a degree.

The demand for this program is likely to come from individuals who are currently employed. High-tech investigations require the collection, preservation, and preparation of evidence according to established scientific protocols if they are to be used in the Courts for purposes of criminal, civil, or administrative investigations. Specialized skill sets are required to accomplish these processes and practitioners are now being required to document their training and expertise in the courts prior to being credentialed as experts. This program of study will support such credentialing by the courts and will enhance the job performance of current employees as well as those seeking new career opportunities.

3. What is the potential impact of new degree programs and new program majors on existing programs in the USF System? *(Including new concentrations, tracks, specializations, etc.- if there are any existing offers, please address impact)*

The M.S. in Cybercrime will complement the existing M.S. in Cybersecurity by focusing on the preparation of individuals who want to focus on the social and behavioral aspects of cybersecurity rather than the technical aspects. The Cybercrime program will offer the same core courses as the M.A. in Criminology although the courses for cybercrime will be offered online. In addition, the Cybercrime program includes three courses from the existing M.S. in Cybercrime program. Dr. Ruth Bahr and LeGrande Gardner have been actively involved in planning the Cybercrime program and have confirmed that there will be no negative impact on the Cybersecurity M.S. program.

4. Are there adequacy of resources (faculty, space, equipment, graduate assistants, staff, library etc. – the leveraging of shared resources across and between institutions will be important). Programs will not be considered contingent upon legislative budget requests.

Yes, the program has adequate resources. It is being offered as a cost-recovery program so will also generate resources to enhance the program in the future.

5. Quality assurance and commitment to any requisite accreditation.

There is no accreditation for cybersecurity. The program has developed learning outcomes that will be incorporated in the SACS Assessment of Learning Outcomes. All courses are being converted to online format in collaboration with Innovative Education personnel and all courses will meet the standards identified on the quality rubrics for course conversion. In addition, the department chair and Dean's office will monitor the student assessment of instruction to obtain feedback that will enhance instruction. A follow-up survey of graduates will also be conducted to assess their satisfaction with the program and the extent to which it helped them to obtain jobs or advance in their careers.

Attach this form to any request for new curriculum – whether a New Major, or a Change to a Major that includes a new concentration, track, specialization; or a new Graduate Certificate. For questions, contact cdh@usf.edu