

# Career professional paper

Trinity Watson  
Department of Old Dominion University

When I graduate Old Dominion University I want to pursue a career in the cybersecurity field, specifically as a penetration tester. Penetration testing, often referred to as "ethical hacking," involves simulating cyberattacks on systems, networks, or applications to identify and fix security vulnerabilities before malicious hackers can exploit them.

This field is important because cyber threats are constantly evolving, and organizations need skilled professionals who can think like attackers to help defend against them. As a penetration tester, I would play a key role in protecting sensitive data, ensuring compliance with security standards, and ultimately strengthening the overall resilience of digital systems.

I'm drawn to this career path because it challenges me to think critically, creatively, and strategically. I like the idea of solving complex problems and uncovering hidden flaws in systems that others might overlook. There's a thrill I like in mimicking real-world attacks in a controlled, ethical way and using that knowledge to help strengthen defenses.

I want to use my skills to contribute to a safer digital world, where individuals and organizations can operate securely and confidently online. There's always something new to learn, like a newly discovered vulnerability, or an innovative defense technique. It keeps me curious and constantly improving. I also find it rewarding to know that my work can directly prevent harm and protect people and organizations from serious threats.