

COVA CCI Individual Reflection

I am so proud I am in this COVA CCI internship pilot program; it is one of the most impressive courses in my undergraduate program. During the internship, Professor Duvall set flexible schedules for us to research related tasks. She also provided a harmonious study environment. There is also room for improvement. Since my client is a small company and only has one employee, she is busy, and the communication is not quite as expected. As for myself, I think I still have room for improvement in my speaking and writing skills. We learned a lot from this internship program. We implemented risk assessment with our client by using the assessment tools. We enhanced the understanding of cybersecurity concepts such as risk management, and risk assessment. We also improved our communication skills to build relationships with clients and maintain relationships with customers. If we do this project over, I may ask for more challenging tasks sooner and prioritize notetaking during meetings. I also need to spend more time on researching and I will strengthen my knowledge and explain more about the client's risk and the mitigation solutions.

Referring to our Memorandum of Agreement, I believe we fulfilled our expectations according to the objectives outlined. We gained skills like the ability to assess the private sector's potential risks and we provided the mitigation solutions as we envisioned. The most motivating or exciting aspect of the internship is that I can work on this innovative project toward expected goals and collaborate with my talented teammates. Our instructors are all knowledgeable and provide significant key points toward gaining our goals, especially Mr. Tomchick's top 10 checkpoints. On the other hand, I believe there are some aspects that are discouraging. We did not have clear internship stages at the beginning of this program, and I understand because this is a pilot program. For example, I think it would be better if we started learning "design thinking"

before we started the risk assessment guide top 10 checkpoints. This will help us to build more confidence when we face our clients. During this pilot program, I think the most challenging aspect of this program is that our client is a single-person company, and she lacks IT experience and does not have too much cybersecurity awareness. We understand that she just started her business and did not want to invest too much in the cybersecurity field. We explained to her most cybersecurity concepts and how to mitigate the potential risks.

This internship program is fantastic, even if it is a pilot program. In the future, I do have some advice for future interns in this internship. Before starting the internship, the new interns should be familiar with cybersecurity-related policies, concepts, and tools. Also, basic research skills and technical skills are also required during this program. The interns also should arrange their schedules and make sure they can attend all the meetings to follow each program stage. Since there is no technical study during the program, interns should accumulate sufficient technical knowledge before applying to this program. Communication is significant during this program; interns should prepare various communication skills when starting this program.

In conclusion, this internship is one of the most valuable lessons I have learned. I gained a deeper understanding of the cybersecurity field including concepts, tools, and policies, improved communication skills, and enhanced teamwork awareness. I also learned how to build and maintain relationships with customers. This internship definitely confirms my cybersecurity career path, and I will follow this direction to achieve my career goals. I believe this program will be a satisfactory end for my degree.