

# Darien Smith

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Emerging cybersecurity professional with a passion for problem-solving, mentorship, and digital security. Adept at analyzing complex challenges, leveraging technology, and guiding diverse student populations to success. Experienced in cybersecurity advising, public relations, and leadership roles, with a strong foundation in policy interpretation, crisis management, and ethical data handling. Committed to advancing cybersecurity resilience while fostering inclusive and informed communities.

## EDUCATION

### **Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity**

Aug 2021 - Dec 2026

*Old Dominion University, Norfolk VA*

Dean's List: 2021, 2024

Related Coursework: Linux Systems, Windows Systems Management, CyberTechniques & Operations, Network & Security, Digital Forensics, Cyber Law

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **Peer Advisor**, The School of Cybersecurity

Aug 2024 - present

*Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia*

- Serving as a primary student resource, guiding through academic policies, technology platforms, and university services in a fast-paced, problem-solving environment.
- Leveraging analytical and troubleshooting skills to assist students in navigating course registration, understanding university policies, and utilizing cybersecurity-related tools and software.
- Providing peer mentorship and individualized support, ensuring students from diverse backgrounds receive the resources needed for academic and career success.
- Maintaining strict data confidentiality and complying with FERPA guidelines, reinforcing information security principles and ethical data management.

### **Public Relations Director**, Student Activities Council, Old Dominion University

May 2024 - present

Norfolk, Virginia

- Managing and growing the organization's Instagram account, developing engaging content that increased visibility and student interaction.
- Establishing partnerships with campus organizations, fostering collaboration for large-scale student engagement initiatives.
- Strategizing and executing promotional campaigns, leveraging analytics to optimize outreach and event attendance.

### **Resident Assistant**, Old Dominion University Housing and Residence life

Aug 2022 - present

Norfolk, Virginia

- Supervising and mentoring 70+ residents, fostering an inclusive and supportive living-learning community.
- Planning and implementing educational and social programs focused on student well-being, diversity, and academic success.
- Serving as a first responder in crises, handling emergency protocols, conflict resolution, and policy enforcement.
- Engaging in leadership development, serving as a General Body Member in the Resident Assistant Delegation and as the Virginia/Ireland Staff Development Community Leader.

## ACTIVITIES / AFFILIATIONS

**Cybersecurity Student Association:** Engaging with 800+ members in hands-on cybersecurity experiences, including CTF competitions, workshops, and peer-driven technical collaboration.

**Developing Men of Color:** Supporting community service, professional development, and empowerment initiatives that foster mentorship, networking, and personal growth.

**Student Activities Council, General Body Member:** Assisted with event operations, collaborated on student programs, and helped organize major events like *ODU Skate Night* and *The Mind Really Matters*.