

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

Old Dominion University, Norfolk VA

Dean's List: 2021, 2024

Aug 2021 - Dec 2026

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

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Peer Advisor, The School of Cybersecurity

Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia

Aug 2024 - present

- 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

Norfolk, Virginia

May 2024 - present

- 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

Norfolk, Virginia

Aug 2022 - present

- 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*.