

Jacob Rivera

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EDUCATION

Old Dominion University

Cybersecurity B.S. Major, Computer Science Minor | GPA: 3.67 / 4.0

Dean's List: Fall 2023 - Spring 2026

Relevant Coursework: Basic Cybersecurity Programming and Networking, Cybersecurity Techniques and Operations,

Cybercriminology: Foundations, Cybersecurity Ethics, Linux System for Cybersecurity, Windows System Management and Security

Norfolk, Virginia

Expected 05/2027

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming Languages: Python, Java

Tools & Technologies: Wireshark, Nmap / Zenmap, Kali Linux, TLS/SSL, TCP/IP, paho-mqtt

Operating Systems: Linux (Kali, Ubuntu), Windows

Certifications: CompTIA Security+ (in progress, est. 10/2026)

EXPERIENCES

Cybersecurity Extern

Remote

Hydroficient

03/2026 - 05/2026

- Built and secured an MQTT-based IoT pipeline using Python, TLS encryption, and device certificates
- Conducted security testing via replay attack simulations and TLS performance benchmarking
- Developed a real-time security dashboard using HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and WebSocket to monitor pipeline health and detect threats
- Presented project findings and outcomes to industry partners

Cyber Sprint Participant

Norfolk, Virginia

Commonwealth Cyber Initiative (CCI) & CACI

04/2026

- Solved industry-provided cybersecurity challenges in a team-based hackathon sprint
- Built hands-on solutions using creative problem-solving techniques

Cashier/Line Cook

Virginia Beach, VA

Casual Eats LLC

08/2022 - Present

- Deliver outstanding customer service handling 50-100+ transactions per day across cash, credit, and mobile payments
- Help train and support new employees, emphasizing company procedures and customer service expectations
- Collaborate with both front and back ends to maintain efficiency during peak hours

PROJECTS

SOC Automation Homelab

07/2026 – 08/2026

- Built a 3-VM SOC lab on VMware Workstation, simulating end-to-end detection and response for brute force authentication attacks
- Automated Tier 1 alerts using n8n and OpenAI GPT, mapping detected activity to MITRE ATT&CK tactics/techniques and generated severity assessments
- Practiced end-to-end alert triage, learning the investigative workflow of a Tier 1 SOC analyst

Socket Programming | Python

09/2024 – 11/2024

- Demonstrated my understanding of Python sockets through client-server application.
- Created a server with a database of planets and, when the client requests a planet, facts and information about the planet will be displayed.
- Implemented encryption and decryption techniques to secure data transmission
- Designed user authentication mechanisms to validate client-server connection

LEADERSHIP & ORGANIZATIONS

Team Leader | Anchored4Life, Landstown High School, Virginia Beach, VA

08/2022 - 06/2023

- Connected with transitioning military students to make them feel welcomed and supported in their new school
- Provided mentorship and offered help to students facing academic and personal challenges
- Motivated students through “Real Talk” sessions

Memberships: Cyber Security Student Association (CS2A), Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) — Old Dominion University