

Jonathan Roeseler

Introduction:

Cybersecurity at Old Dominion was an incredible experience. I met several like-minded students who are motivated to push the field forward and willing to work together in building a strong future. I learned a lot of hands-on skills and theory, and developed numerous soft skills, such as time management. As I worked about ½ of my time here in cyber or IT-related roles, I could easily tell the work I did was translating to real-world projects and issues. The tremendous amount of Active Directory skills taught in various classes, such as CYSE 280, was a huge help in my current role as Systems Administrator. I enjoyed the numerous AI classes that helped me understand how modern defense systems are built and tested, as well as how to utilize AI to aid in cybersecurity efforts. These classes include AI 410, CYSE 421, and CYSE 420. The rigorous CS464 taught me a tremendous amount about protocols in depth, which are crucial to cybersecurity, such as IPsec, Kerberos, and PKI.

Program Reflection:

The most valuable lesson from ODU: The importance of soft skills. Besides technical skills, much of the work in cybersecurity requires the ability to work with technical and non-technical people, as well as across different departments. Communication is an invaluable skill, as well as the ability to stay calm under pressure. I have experienced burnout within the program as I was working full-time in the latter half of the degree (I completed in 3 years)while taking 18 credits. This taught me the importance of time management and giving adequate time and attention to parts of my life beyond work and school. A lot of course material is tied together, and into work projects as well. For example, CYSE 280 taught me numerous Active Directory administration tasks, which I now touch on almost daily; CS464 showed me how Kerberos works, which is invaluable to understanding and troubleshooting common authentication issues in Kerberos environments. CYSE 270 taught me basic Linux and Python fundamentals, enabling me to succeed in CYSE 420, which used Python a lot, and CYSE 450, also using Python, but mainly centered around Kali Linux and other Linux distros.

IDS 493 Reflection:

IDS 493 is a chance for students to highlight their growth and skills developed over the course of their tenure at Old Dominion. The course is a great chance to understand my growth and the skills I have developed. I am most proud of the work and time I put into the work I have added to my portfolio. I think if I took the time to understand WordPress design more, I could design it to be more appealing. My work in other classes supported my ability to make the portfolio quickly, as many classes at ODU emphasize its value.

Conclusion:

Interdisciplinary is crucial to being successful in cybersecurity. There are multiple other ideas from other majors or disciplines that shape a successful cybersecurity program. For example, understanding how humans interact with technology and understanding human psychology is crucial to understanding how most successful cyber attacks occur. Furthermore, as cybersecurity is usually overarching in organizations, such as determining how information flows, being able to understand how businesses and other departments function is necessary. My next steps will begin to continue my education through certifications and other sites to stay sharp and ahead of emerging technologies. I hope to make an impact no matter where I end up in the cybersecurity field. The field is so large that I do not necessarily have a defined pathway in mind, besides choosing jobs or projects that continuously challenge and/or improve me.