

Reflection #1

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CYSE 386: Cybersecurity Clinic Internship

The first 50 hours of my internship consisted of reviewing and learning cybersecurity basics, such as the NIST Framework, CIA triad, and Cyber Ethics necessary for being involved with designing cybersecurity plans for actual organizations, as well as how these factors will relate to our eventual experience helping the businesses and organizations through the clinic. Along with this, we learned about the structure of the internship, how we will work with the organizations, and the contributions expected of participants.

One of the most interesting activities we've done so far has been Design Thinking with Dr. Baaki. These exercises occurred over multiple days and involved activities designed to help students get comfortable using the design process, including everything from practicing "Yes, and" concepts to forming a mock cybersecurity plan for a fictional company. As someone who was nervous about my abilities to effectively form and design effective cybersecurity plans for this clinic, these exercises were extremely helpful in showing me the process that I will eventually be able to use for the actual business I am paired with and in getting me comfortable with actually applying the knowledge I already have in cybersecurity. This also helped foster communication and collaboration between students and allowed us to practice working as a team and balancing our abilities and contributions while brainstorming.

Both Design Thinking and our Cyber Ethics discussions also emphasized one of the most important ideas of this clinic, which is understanding the individual needs, concerns, and risks of

the client is an absolute necessity, both during this clinic and when working with businesses in future careers and projects. Understanding how to prioritize user safety, resource allocation, and the overall wellness of the organization is one of the most difficult and important skills to learn within the realm of cybersecurity and business in general. Understanding these factors and how to tailor them to each individual organization is one of my biggest goals for this experience and for my career in general.

The first 50 hours of my experience in the Cybersecurity Clinic Internship have not only been very informative, but have been incredibly interesting and inspiring. Although I have been interested in cybersecurity throughout my college experience, most classes do not give the opportunity to learn how cybersecurity professionals actually work and apply knowledge to create real-world cybersecurity designs and plans. Understanding the basics of gathering information from clients and brainstorming has grown my confidence in being able to do this in my own career.