

Intro

The Cybersecurity program at Old Dominion University has been a wonderful experience. Prior to entering the program, I was fairly inexperienced in the world of cybersecurity and during my first year, I took an intro class that gave me a more thorough understanding of what this field consists of and what kinds of career paths are available with this degree. That course laid a solid foundation and gave me more confidence that I could continue with the program.

Perhaps one of the most important skills I gained while in the program is patience plus problem-solving. Take CYSE 301, a Linux Systems course for example, where just one tiny misstep in commands would cause assignments to fail so badly I had no clue what went wrong. Many times, I had to keep going over my work hundreds of times to understand what made a bad writer. Initially, this felt aggravating and demotivational, but eventually it built my tenacity to cross-examine. Those experiences made me better and more self-assured.

Program Reflection

During my time at ODU, the one lesson, one learning opportunity that I gained was how critical time management and perseverance are. In the course of my program, I discovered that no amount of tiredness or stress stemming from academic demands would lessen my obligation to finish; if anything during those moments, it was made even more apparent. An issue I faced was not necessarily knowing what classes to choose and maintaining a busy life. Sometimes it was too hard to juggle so many assignments and obligations around. I created a detailed timetable in which I organized my time and regulated the number of hours that needed to be dedicated to work. And if I needed extra help, I also contacted tutors.

Classes like CYSE 301 were instrumental in shaping me into who I am and achieving success in my other classes. While this course taught me the fundamentals of Linux, it also gave me experience working with various systems out there while building up my confidence as well as problem-solving in the cybersecurity field. I had utilized the skills that I learned in this class into other courses and found myself approaching situations better and alone.

Course Reflection

In IDS 493, students create a personal website or ePortfolio to showcase the learning they have gained from their college experiences. This course aims to teach students to present themselves as employable workers through a more extensive form of displaying their work compared to a regular job application. From this, I gained insight into how crucial an ePortfolio is in showcasing my skills, journey, and expertise throughout the years.

My "Introduction to Me" page is one of my favourite parts of my portfolio, which shows who I am both personally and professionally. Using WordPress at first was pretty difficult as I was not used to working with it and also had to learn how to create and place my content on the page. Nevertheless, I got acclimatized to it and ended up making a functional site that looked good as well.

More time spent on the general design and navigation would improve my ePortfolio as it would allow users to find each section easier. While I am proud of what I accomplished, I feel that with an even better structure and experience, this could be an even better portfolio.

Conclusion

Interdisciplinary methods are one of the most important aspects in my learning journey as they helped me learn how to apply knowledge from different subjects to solve issues. Rather than only concentrating on one area of study, I was able to make links between topics discussed in different lectures and apply a range of concepts jointly to provide holistic insights into complex scenarios. Such an approach becomes heavyweight when working on moving the needle on real-world problems, where success generally requires expertise across both disciplines. As a result of this, I have been better equipped through interdisciplinary perspectives for challenges that may come within my field.

Making the connection between my cybersecurity courses and other academic experiences was made easy during my four years at Old Dominion University, particularly in terms of problem-solving and critical thinking skills, as well as communication. The connections provided helped me become more confident in applying what I have learned. Having an interdisciplinary mind in the IT and cyber world means flexibility, working from different perspectives, problem solving & critical thinking.

Once I graduate from ODU, I would like to start working in the IT field and improve my experience by working my way through job positions until I get further educated in a certain area. My goal has always been to go into the government, so I can serve a bigger purpose with my skills and at the same time, advance in my career.