

Cybersecurity Master's Degree Program

10 Online Courses:

- 2 Admission Courses
- 4 Core Courses
- 4 Electives

1 On-Campus Precapstone Course

1 Online Capstone Course

Explore several examples of how you might progress through the program at a pace that works for you.

- 2-year accelerated pathway: Illustrates how a student might complete the program on an intensive timeline, taking a full course load each term.
- 3-year steady pace pathway: Demonstrates a steady, year-round pace that supports consistent progress while balancing work and study.
- 4-year extended pathway: Reflects a more flexible approach, allowing lighter course loads or breaks between semesters.

Each pathway represents one possible way to structure your studies. Your path will depend on your goals and schedule. Courses listed here are examples; availability may vary by year.

Learn more about the [cybersecurity program courses and degree requirements](#).



Harvard Extension School

HARVARD DIVISION OF CONTINUING EDUCATION



2-Year Pathway

This accelerated pathway illustrates how a student can fast-track their studies, balancing multiple courses in back-to-back terms.

Completing the **admission courses** in the same term is intensive; consider the course load and your schedule before deciding how quickly to begin.

The summer precapstone and fall capstone sequence suits both U.S. and international students.

Year 1

Spring

2 Courses

- **Admission Course**
Introduction to Cybersecurity
- **Admission Course**
Networks and Cloud Security

MILESTONES:

- Connect with a predegree and admissions advisor for support during the admission process.
- Submit your application while completing the courses for admission (application period open March 15–April 15).

Summer

2 Courses

- **Elective Course**
Example: Introduction to Kali Linux and Ethical Hacking
- **Elective Course**
Example: Communication Protocols and Internet Architecture

MILESTONES:

- Celebrate admission. Decisions released in June.
- Connect with an academic advisor to plan your degree path.

Fall

3 Courses

- **Application Development Course**
Example: Software Applications: Security Lifecycle Threats
- **Risk Assessment Course**
Example: Foundations of Technology Risk Management and Assessment
- **Elective Course**
Example: Cloud and Generative Artificial Intelligence Security Architectures

MILESTONE:

- Convocation. Join us on campus for a celebration with fellow degree candidates.



2-Year Pathway

Year 2

Spring

3 Courses

- **Compliance and Controls Course**

Example: Fundamentals of the Law and Cybersecurity

- **Cloud Computing Course**

Example: Secure Applications: Managing the Deployment Infrastructure

- **Elective Course**

Example: Artificial Intelligence, the Internet-of-Things, and Cybersecurity

Summer

Precapstone Course

MILESTONE:

- On-campus experience. In a 3-week course, collaborate with your project team, industry partner, and faculty on a capstone plan.

International students: Plan ahead during the prior term for necessary visa and travel logistics.

Fall (Final Term)

Capstone Course

MILESTONE:

- Complete your capstone project & fulfill your degree requirements for graduation.

Graduation (May)

Join your peers on campus to celebrate at Harvard University Commencement.

Stay engaged through the Harvard Alumni Association and Harvard Extension School Alumni Association.



3-Year Pathway

This sample plan illustrates a steady pace, with the admission courses taken separately in back-to-back terms. The path includes a January precapstone and spring capstone sequence (*the January precapstone course is only available to U.S. students*).

Year 1

Fall

1 Course

- **Admission Course**
Introduction to Cybersecurity

MILESTONES:

- Earning your way in. Complete your first course for admission.
- Connect with a predegree and admissions advisor for support during the admission process.

Spring

1 Course

- **Admission Course**
Networks and Cloud Security

MILESTONE:

- Submit your application while taking your second admission course (application period open March 15–April 15).

Summer

1 Course

- **Elective Course**
Example: Communication Protocols and Internet Architectures

MILESTONES:

- Celebrate admission. Decisions released in June.
- Connect with an academic advisor to plan your degree path.



3-Year Pathway

Year 2

Fall

2 Courses

- **Application Development Course**
Example: Software Applications: Security Lifecycle Threats
- **Elective Course**
Example: Information Systems Forensics

Spring

2 Courses

- **Cloud Computing Course**
Example: Secure Applications: Managing the Deployment Infrastructure
- **Compliance and Controls Course**
Example: Fundamentals of the Law and Cybersecurity

Summer

1 Course

- **Elective Course**
Example: Introduction to Kali Linux and Ethical Hacking



3-Year Pathway

Year 3

Fall

2 Courses

- **Risk Assessment Course**

Example: Foundations of Technology Risk Management and Assessment

- **Elective Course**

Example: Cloud and Generative Artificial Intelligence Security Architectures

MILESTONE:

- Convocation. Join us on campus for a celebration with fellow degree candidates.

January

Precapstone Course

MILESTONE:

- On-campus experience. In a 3-week course, collaborate with your project team, industry partner, and faculty on a capstone plan.

Spring (Final Term)

Capstone Course

MILESTONE:

- Complete your capstone project & fulfill your degree requirements for graduation.

Graduation (May)

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4-Year Pathway

This extended pathway represents a flexible, part-time pace, with online courses taken only in the fall and spring semesters. It culminates in a summer precapstone and fall capstone sequence — ideal for both U.S. and international students.

Year 1

Fall

1 Course

- **Admission Course**
Introduction to Cybersecurity

MILESTONES:

- Earning your way in. Complete your first course for admission.
- Connect with a predegree and admissions advisor for support during the admission process.

Spring

1 Course

- **Admission Course**
Networks and Cloud Security

MILESTONE:

- Submit your application while taking your second admission course (application period open March 15–April 15). Admission decisions released in June.



4-Year Pathway

Year 2

Fall

2 Courses

- **Cloud Computing Course**
Example: Cloud Services, Infrastructure, and Computing
- **Elective Course**
Example: Systems Programming and Machine Organization

MILESTONES:

- Convocation. Join us on campus for a celebration with fellow degree candidates.
- Connect with an academic advisor to plan your degree path.

Spring

2 Courses

- **Application Development Course**
Example: Artificial Intelligence, the Internet-of-Things, and Cybersecurity
- **Elective Course**
Example: Fundamentals of Cloud Computing and OpenAI with Microsoft Azure

Summer

1 Course

- **Compliance and Controls Course**
Example: Fundamentals of the Law and Cybersecurity



4-Year Pathway

Year 3

Fall

2 Courses

- **Elective Course**

Example: Cloud and Generative Artificial Intelligence Security Architectures

- **Elective Course**

Example: Communication Protocols and Internet Architectures

Spring

1 Course

- **Risk Assessment Course**

Example: Cryptocurrency and Blockchain: Understanding the Technology and the Challenges It Presents

Summer

Precapstone Course

MILESTONE:

- On-campus experience. In a 3-week course, collaborate with your project team, industry partner, and faculty on a capstone plan.
- *International students:* Plan ahead during the prior term for necessary visa and travel logistics.

Year 4

Fall (Final Term)

Capstone Course

MILESTONE:

- Complete your capstone project & fulfill your degree requirements for graduation.

Graduation (May)

- Join your peers on campus to celebrate at Harvard University Commencement.
- Stay engaged through the Harvard Alumni Association and Harvard Extension School Alumni Association.

