Carolinas Cyber Defender Scholarship

What the Federal Cyber Corps Scholarship for Service Program Offers
Through the Federal Cyber Corps Scholarship for Service (SFS) program, the North Carolina A&T State University will provide grants to students studying in areas relevant to Cybersecurity. Each scholarship recipient will complete a Master's degree in Computer Science (main campus program) or a PhD degree in Computer Science. Each scholarship student must be able to complete his or her academic program within a maximum of two years (for PhD students the degree must complete in three years). All participants will be fully integrated into the department's research programs and be associated with one of our on-going research projects.

Scholarship Benefits
Each student in the program will be supported for up to two (MS) or three (PhD) years depending on the program pursued.

The specific benefits are:
- Tuition and fees: Applicable tuition and fees, any out-of-state and/or graduate student fees, will be paid on behalf of the scholarship recipients.
- Stipend: Graduate students will be paid a stipend of $37,000 per academic year.
- Others: Graduate students can reimburse the cost of required textbook(s), and the cost of attending required conferences.
- Research: Each student will be matched to an on-going research project under the direction of a cybersecurity faculty member.

Requirements and Eligibility
To apply for the scholarship, a student must meet the following eligibility criteria:
- Must be a United States citizen or permanent resident.
- Must be a full-time student within two years of graduation at North Carolina A&T State University to complete a Master's degree in Computer Science (main campus program), or within three years of graduation to complete a PhD degree in Computer Science.
- Must meet selection criteria for federal, state, local or tribal government employment. Final job placement may require a security clearance, so each scholarship recipient may be required to undergo the background investigation required to obtain such a clearance.

Recipient Responsibility
A scholarship recipient incurs two obligations:
- During the summers each recipient will be responsible for securing an internship position at a federal, state, local or tribal government agency.
- Upon graduation, each recipient will be required to work in a qualified cybersecurity position for a federal, state, local or tribal government agency or a qualified national laboratory. The work requirement time period matches the supported time period. For example, a full two-year scholarship requires two years employment. Each student is responsible for identifying, applying for, and securing a qualified position. Numerous resources are available including an annual job fair specifically for SFS students as well as the assistance of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) which oversees permanent placement for SFS students.

Application Process and Deadlines
Each applicant to the SFS program should provide the following:
- Completed application form (application form).
- Statement of purpose and description of goals and motivations to pursue a career in Cybersecurity.
- Official transcript(s).
- Resume.
- Two recommendation letters from university faculty members familiar with the student's background. Additional letters of recommendation from employers, supervisors, or other faculty members are encouraged.

Application deadline for receiving scholarship in Spring semesters is November 1. Application deadline for receiving scholarship in Fall semesters is June 1.

APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR EARLY DECISION IS April 1.
All applicants should send mail to (all of the information listed above)

Xiaohong Yuan (xhyuan@ncat.edu)
Department of Computer Science
North Carolina A&T State University
1601 E Market Street
Greensboro, NC 27411

Criteria for Selection
The selection criteria are as follows:
- United States citizen or permanent resident.
- Official acceptance into the graduate programs by NC A&T State University.
- Expected graduation with MS degree in Computer Science within two years (PhD in three years).
- At least a 3.1 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale.
- Recommendation letters from at least two faculty members. Additional letters from employers or faculty members are acceptable.
- Evaluation of the student's potential for success in the cybersecurity program.

In addition, we will consider the following criteria for candidates:
- Commitment to participate in summer service and service following degree completion according to the guidelines of the SFS program.
- Commitment to participate in assessment activities during and after their scholarship and required federal service has ended.
- Demonstrated leadership, participation in team activities, prior community service, and/or evidence of creative and independent thinking.

Competition is expected to be significant. Only the most qualified students will be selected.