



Syllabus for CYB720 Communication in Cybersecurity

NOTE: This syllabus document contains the basic information of this course. The most current syllabus is available in the full course.

Course Description

Research, organize, and present technical information to audiences with varying goals and technical needs. Emphasis on ethics, critical thinking, listening skills, and feedback to develop effective messages utilizing verbal and nonverbal communication strategies and visual aids. Individual and group presentations and projects will emulate professional scenarios in cybersecurity.

Prerequisite(s)

None

Program Outcomes

This course addresses the following competencies and program outcomes of the Masters of Science in Cybersecurity:

- Program Outcome 12: Engage in ethical decision-making and apply ethical principles to cybersecurity
- Program Outcome 13: Engage in professional collaboration and communication with technical and nontechnical stakeholders on issues related to security

Course Outcomes

Upon completing this course, you will be able to do the following:

- Utilize communication strategies to effectively build and maintain professional relationships with diverse audiences
- Analyze audience and context in order to adjust communication to be optimally effective, appropriate, and ethical
- Collaborate with others to make decisions in ways that are effective and ethical
- Critically evaluate and provide feedback to messages
- Design an effective training seminar targeted at diverse audiences

Course Requirements/Components

Discussions

Most real learning comes not from mere reading or listening to a lecture, but from a true exchange of ideas and questions. In a traditional classroom, discussions are easy and natural. In the online environment, we will attempt to simulate these discussions through prompting questions and a space for responses. While there is a longer description of discussion expectations elsewhere in the course material, fundamentally you are expected to participate in those discussions fully—not only for your education, but for the expanded education of your classmates.



Assignments

You will engage in a variety of assignments covering different aspects of communication such as, planning for communication, conducting an audience analysis, engaging in active listening, conducting team problem solving activities, critiquing messages, and building and managing workplace relationships.

Technical and Non-Technical Communication

Being able to communicate technical information to technical and non-technical people is an essential skill in the field of cybersecurity. In this course there are two assignments that specifically focus on this. You will develop and deliver an informative presentation meant to convey technical information to a non-technical audience. Additionally, you will engage in developing training materials for a non-technical audience.

Course Outline

Module 1 – Recognize Effective, Appropriate, and Ethical Communication in Cybersecurity

Module 2 – Practice Cultural Mindfulness when Communicating with Diverse Audiences

Module 3 – Interpersonal Communication: Build and Maintain Professional Relationships

Module 4 – Practice Active Listening and Use Nonverbal Communication Effectively

Module 5 – Manage Work Team Relationships

Module 6 – Deliver Accurate, Effective, and Credible Informational Presentations

Module 7 – Create and Implement Effective Presentational Aids and Overcome Common Presentation Barriers

Module 8 – Use the Principles of Persuasion to Bring About a Desired Outcome

Module 9 - Design Engaging and Effective Training Materials

Grading

The following grading scale will be used to evaluate all course requirements and to determine your final grade:

Grade	Percentage Range
A	94% - 100%
A-	90% - < 94%
B+	87% - < 90%
B	84% - < 87%
B-	80% - < 84%
C+	77% - < 80%
C	74% - < 77%
C-	70% - < 74%
F	0 - < 70%

Assignment	Percentage
Discussions	20%
Assignments	45%
Informative Presentation	20%
Training Presentation	15%
Total	100%