

# Combined Advanced Degree Program

## Bachelor of Arts Computing and Informatics/

## Master of Science in Cybersecurity

### Definitions

The description below uses the following terms:

- *CADP BA/MS in Cybersecurity program*: The complete Combined Advanced Degree Program Bachelor of Arts/Master of Science in Cybersecurity Degree Program, at the completion of which a student receives both a BA in Computing and Informatics and an MS in Cybersecurity. A student enrolled in this program takes 12 credits less in order to receive both degrees than the number of credits required when obtaining the degrees separately.
- *BA/MS year*: This is normally the student's senior year. During the BA/MS year, the student who is accepted into the program enrolls in 12 credits of graduate Cybersecurity courses, as specified below. During this year the student completes the necessary requirements for the BA.
- *MS/BA year*: This is the student's "+1" year. During this year the student completes the requirements for the graduate degree.

### Procedures Overview

Procedures for applying and fulfilling the requirements of the Combined Advanced Degree Program BA/MS in Cybersecurity:

Step	Date	Procedure
1	Student's second semester of junior year, after completing 75 credits	Student submits <a href="#">application</a> to the Department of Computer Science for Combined Advanced Degree BA/MS program (deadlines and procedures below).
2	Upon acceptance into the CADP BA/MS in Cybersecurity program	Student and Computer Science Graduate Program Coordinator fill out a <i>CADP Student Agreement</i> form. Student is matriculated in the CADP BA/MS in Cybersecurity.
3	Senior year	Student informs the Cybersecurity Graduate Program Coordinator which graduate classes they want to take. This must be done both semesters of BA/MS (senior) year!
4	When student has completed requirements for BA degree	Student fill out the <i>CADP Transition and Transfer</i> form and submits it to Computer Science Graduate Program Coordinator and Department Chairperson/Head for approval. The approved form is submitted to the Graduate School and the student is enrolled in MS/BA year of the program.
5	When student has met all requirements of both BA and MS degree	Student applies for graduation for both the BA and MS in Cybersecurity degrees.

### Program Details

This program allows highly motivated students to begin taking graduate courses in their senior year, accelerating their graduate studies while still at the undergraduate level and while paying undergraduate tuition and fees. The Combined Advanced Degree BA/MS degree program allows interested and qualified students to complete the department's Bachelors of Arts and Master of Science degrees in a shorter time, usually in five years rather than the normal six.

## Requirements for Application

- Be enrolled in the BA Computing and Informatics Degree Program at Rowan University.
- Have completed at least 75 credits towards the BA in Computing and Informatics, with an average GPA of at least 3.0, and will be able to complete all BA requirements in two additional semesters.
- Obtain two letters of recommendation from faculty members in the Rowan Computer Science Department.

## Application Process

Admission to the program will be based on the student meeting the above-listed criteria and an application packet. This application packet, which includes 2 letters of recommendation, the Combined Advanced Degree BA/MS in Cybersecurity application form, and the CADP Student Agreement and Confirmation Form, must be submitted to the Graduate Program Coordinator of the Cybersecurity Program by the application deadline listed below. This application packet can be obtained from the Computer Science Department website at [CADP in Cybersecurity application](#).

## Application Deadlines

Deadlines for applying to the program are as follows:

- Fall - March 1<sup>st</sup>
- Spring - October 1<sup>st</sup>

## Admission

Final admission decisions will be made by a Graduate Admissions Committee chaired by the Cybersecurity Graduate Program Coordinator and communicated to the applicants.

## Satisfactory Standing and Progress towards Graduation

In order to graduate from the Combined Advanced Degree BA/MS Cybersecurity program all students must meet the following requirements:

1. Completion of all the requirements for the BA in Computing and Informatics by the end of senior year: Up to 6 semester hours of graduate Cybersecurity courses taken by the student each semester of their senior year (BA/MS year of program) may count as undergraduate C&I restricted elective credits towards the BA in C&I.
2. Completion of all requirements for the MS in Cybersecurity.
3. Full-time status:
  - a. Maintain full-time status each semester as an undergraduate student (minimum enrollment of 12 semester hours) during their BA/MS year of the program.
  - b. Maintain full-time status each semester as a graduate student (minimum enrollment of 9 semester hours of graduate Cybersecurity courses) during their MS/BA (+1) year of the program.
  - c. A student who fails to maintain full-time status during any semester of the Program (except the semester in which the student expects to complete the Program) will be dismissed from the Program at the end of that semester. Moreover, any student who has not completed requirement 1 above will be re-admitted back into the BA Computing and Informatics Degree Program subject to the requirements of that program.
  - d. Students with extenuating circumstances may request an exception to requirements (a)-(c) above by obtaining written approval of the Computer Science Graduate Program Coordinator, Computer Science Department Chairperson/Head, and any other approvals that are required under university policy.

4. Satisfactory academic progress:
  - a. Completion of at least 2 graduate Cybersecurity courses by the end of the BA/MS year of the program.
  - b. Earn at least a grade of B in all graduate courses taken during the BA/MS year of the program.
  - c. Comply with all requirements of the MS in Cybersecurity outlined in [Graduate Academic Policies](#). The MS in Cybersecurity is a Category 3 program: “No more than two total C grades or any combination of “C+” or “C” can be counted toward courses required and counted for graduation/program completion. (C- grades and any grade lower than a “C” are not acceptable.)”
  - d. Completion of the program by the end of the +1 year of the program.

The academic progress of every student in the program is reviewed at the end of each semester of the program and any student who fails to maintain satisfactory progress as described in parts (a)-(c) above may be dismissed from the program.

Students with extenuating circumstances may request an exception to this requirement by obtaining written approval of the Computer Science Graduate Program Coordinator, Computer Science Department Chair/Headperson, and any other approvals that are required under university policy.

At any time while the student is in the CADP program they may submit a written request to revert to the BA program. If all the requirements of the BA in Computing and Informatics degree are met, the student will be able to apply for graduation with the BA in Computing and Informatics degree.

### **Dismissal from the Program**

If a student does not fulfill the requirements for satisfactory progress towards graduation and is dismissed from the program the following applies:

- If the student has not already completed the requirements of the BA Computing and Informatics Degree at this point, then they will be re-admitted back into the BA Computing and Informatics Degree Program subject to the requirements of that program.
- If the student has completed the requirements for the BA degree, they can apply for and will be awarded the BA in Computing and Informatics degree and are eligible for applying for admission to the MS in Cybersecurity program. In this case, Senior Privilege transfer policies apply, under which up to 6 eligible graduate credits can be transferred to the graduate transcript.

### **Graduation**

After completion of all requirements listed in 1-4 under *Satisfactory Progress towards Graduation*, students must apply to receive simultaneously the Bachelor of Arts in Computing and Informatics and the Master of Science in Cybersecurity. These degrees are awarded as separate diplomas.

### **Tuition Costs**

Students enrolled in the BA/MS year of the program will pay undergraduate tuition and fees for all courses—whether the courses are undergraduate or graduate—until they are accepted into the MS/BA year. Upon transition into the MS/BA year, students will pay graduate tuition and fees for all courses and all graduate requirements apply. Under no circumstances are students allowed to take more than 12 graduate credits while they are enrolled into BA/MS program as undergraduate students or more than 6 graduate credits per semester.

### **Structure of the Program**

The Combined Advanced Degree BA/MS in Cybersecurity is structured so that students first complete requirements for the BA in Computing and Informatics Degree Program, but begin to take graduate courses required for the MS in Cybersecurity Degree Program in the first semester of their senior year. In particular, the number of graduate CS courses that each student should enroll in each semester is listed in the table below:

<b>Semester of CADP in Cybersecurity</b>	<b>Number of graduate Cybersecurity courses</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> (First semester of Senior Year - typically Fall)	2
2 <sup>nd</sup> (Second semester of Senior Year - typically Spring)	2
3 <sup>rd</sup> (First semester of Graduate Year- typically Fall)	3
4 <sup>th</sup> (Second semester Graduate Year- typically Spring)	3

### **MS in Cybersecurity Degree Program**

The Master of Science in Cybersecurity will prepare students with the knowledge and skills needed to understand key issues along with present and emerging cyber threats to information systems, develop graduates with a sufficiently broad and strong technical foundation to understand and analyze cybersecurity vulnerabilities and protections, and prepare students for specialized cybersecurity careers.

### **Program Requirements**

The M.S. in Cybersecurity is a 30 credit-hour program. All students must complete 6 credits of foundation courses (2 courses) and 9 credits of core courses (3 courses). Students may complete this degree within 1 ½ to 2 years of study.

Students accepted into the program are expected to be well versed in programming, discrete mathematics, computer organization/architecture, direct interactions with operating systems, data structures, and algorithmic thinking either through undergraduate course work or work experience. Students not meeting all of these criteria may be accepted into this master's program but will be required to complete one or two computer science bridge courses before enrolling into other computer science graduate courses. These courses are:

- CS 01501 Essential of Computer Science I
- CS 01502 Essentials of Computer Science II

### **Ensuring Academic Success**

The success of our graduate students is essential to the Computer Science Department and to Rowan University. Therefore, in order to ensure progress towards graduation and academic success, it is important for CADP in Cybersecurity students to stay in regular contact with the Graduate Program Coordinator ([mscs@rowan.edu](mailto:mscs@rowan.edu)) and to get advice on courses, to check academic progress as well as communicate any concerns, questions or general student issues.

It is the students' responsibility to make sure that they have the necessary background for every course they take. In order to ensure that, the students are encouraged to contact the instructor of the course to enquire about the expected necessary background. If a student is lacking the necessary background for a course, it is the student's responsibility to supplement with self-study in preparation for the course.