

NSF CyberCorps® Scholarship for Service (SFS)

Information Session

February 11, 2025

Faculty: Raj Boppana,
Greg White, and Phil Menard



SFS Program Benefits



Tuition & Fees

Covered for 2-3 years



Stipends

\$27K-37K/year



Supplies

Books, laptops, and other course materials



Networking

SFS Job Fair and conference travel for networking opportunities

+ Professional development and certification opportunities (Security+, CCNA, ...)

UTSA

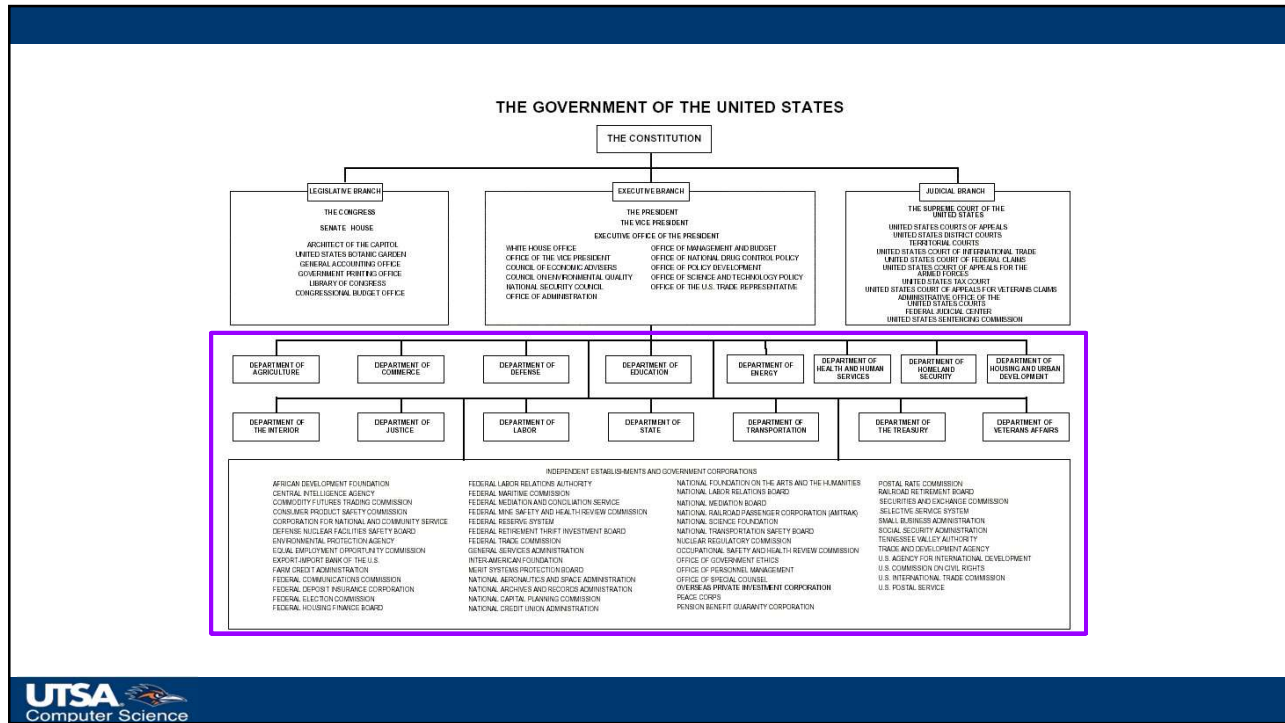
Important Points

- Must be a full-time student
 - Working while in the SFS program is discouraged
- Work for an executive branch of Fed Gov
 - <https://www.usa.gov/branches-of-government>
 - Intern during summers at an executive branch of the government
- Must be able to obtain “Top Secret” security clearance
- SFS program is very flexible 😊

UTSA
Computer Science

3

4



Striving for Representation

SINCE 2021, UTSA'S SFS PROGRAM HAS RECRUITED APPLICANTS, RESULTING IN...

41%
Female
SFS Scholars
 Outpacing national cybersecurity workforce by 16 percentage points¹

43%
URM
SFS Scholars
 Outpacing national cybersecurity workforce by 17 percentage points²

URM: underrepresented minority



1. <https://cybersecurityventures.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Women-In-Cybersecurity-2022-Report-Final.pdf>
 2. <https://www.isc2.org/-/media/Files/Research/Innovation-Through-Inclusion-Report.aspx>

NSF SFS Checklist

- Completed application form
- Two letters of recommendation
- College transcripts (unofficial, student versions are OK)
- Personal statement of career interests, goals, and plans
- Resume (up to 2 pages)

<https://sciences.utsa.edu/computer-science/scholarships/sfs.html>



Tips for Great Reference Letters

- Select faculty members you took courses with
- Provide them
 - Your resume with GPA, major courses completed, and grades for them
 - A statement of your career interests and your major accomplishments — course projects, certifications, etc.



7

8

Tips for Writing Personal Statements

- 3 or more paragraphs; 12-point font; ~ 500 words or 1 page
- 1: **establish your interest and suitability for the scholarship**
 - Clearly state you are applying for the scholarship
 - Indicate your interest in cybersecurity
 - Indicate your current academic progress in pursuing cybersecurity concentration/track/degree — GPA, and most relevant courses taken
 - 2: **Make a case for yourself (1 or more paragraphs)**
 - Why are you well qualified for the scholarship, indicate any academic honors/distinctions
 - Why are you interested in working for the government, indicate any relevant prior experience
 - Point out positives that are not obvious from your resume
 - Explain any issues that are obvious from your resume
 - 3: **Summarize and offer to discuss and provide more info**