**FAQs: Bachelor of Applied Technology (BAT) - Cybersecurity**

**How do I know if cybersecurity is a good career path for me?**

Cybersecurity is a great option for people who are comfortable with technology and inquisitive by nature. Many professionals in this field say that they explore technology (such as programming, software, technical tools, etc.) in their free time. If you like complex problem solving and don’t give up easily, cybersecurity may be a good career path for you!

**How do I qualify for enrollment in the BAT?**

To qualify for admission in the BAT-Cybersecurity degree, you must already hold an associate-level degree (or higher) in cybersecurity or information security. All other IT/computer science majors will need to seek the AAS degree prior to seeking admissions into the BAT program as they will be missing all lower level coursework.

**How many credit hours are in the BAT degree?**

Technically, the BAT-Cybersecurity degree is 120 credit hours; however, this includes the 60 credit hours that you completed with your associate degree in cybersecurity/information security. Once you’ve enrolled in the BAT-Cybersecurity program, you will complete 60 credit hours of coursework: 33 credit hours of upper-level cybersecurity classes and 27 credit hours of general education core curriculum.

**Is the tuition rate the same for the BAT degree as it is for associate-level classes?**

Yes, the tuition rate for our associate and baccalaureate degrees are the same. Current tuition information can be found here: <https://www.collin.edu/bursar/tuition.html>. Keep in mind that these costs do not include activity fees, labs, industry certifications, or the cost of text books, etc.

**What time of day will these classes be offered?**

CYBR classes will be held mainly in the evenings and weekends at the Frisco Campus. Some courses are offered during the day, but we encourage our students to start working during their upper level courses as work experience is important in the field. Keep in mind that general education (Core) classes and some lower-level IT classes are available at various times of the day, on weekends, and online.

**How long will it take me to complete the BAT degree?**

If you strictly follow the defined degree plan, you should be able to complete the BAT-Cybersecurity in two years or four semesters (provided you start the program with 60 credit hours). The upper level CYBR classes have prerequisites which can be found in the course catalog.

**I received my AAS in cybersecurity from Collin College in 2020 and have not taken academic courses there since. What do I need to do to enroll in the BAT program?**

Reapply to Collin College on applytexas.org. Be sure to submit ALL of your official transcripts and request a transfer evaluation through the home page on Cougarweb (your student portal). You will need to attend a mandatory orientation (found under step #2 on the Department webpage). After attending the orientation, you will be sent a degree plan to review and sign. Once paperwork and the orientation are complete you will be able to register for classes. Keep in mind that seats are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

**I have a bachelor’s degree from another university. Can I enroll in the BAT?**

Your classes from another major may not apply to the cybersecurity program and will not substitute for classes in the AAS cybersecurity degree. You will need to complete the AAS in cybersecurity prior to seeking admissions into the BAT program. Core classes from previous degrees will be evaluated and applied to both cyber degrees as long as they are from an accredited college. All of this will be addressed during the BAT admission process and mandatory orientation session.

**I got my cybersecurity degree 10 years ago. Am I eligible to enroll in the BAT?**

Yes. However, if you’ve not been employed in a cyber or IT-related position during that time, you’ll likely want to take some lower-level technical courses in order to refresh your knowledge and skillset. This will help ensure that you’re equipped to successfully complete the CYBR coursework.

**Will my industry certifications and/or relevant work experience count toward the BAT?**

The college does not currently award credit for relevant experience or industry credentials. However, there is a process to claim credit through the Prior Learning Assessments (PLA) so that certain certifications can be converted into credits upon proof of knowledge/skill. You can read about the [PLA process here](https://www.collin.edu/academics/Prior%20Learning%20Assessment.html). All students must have earned at least three credit hours with Collin College in the last twelve months before seeking to claim credit.

**I received my degree from a university outside of the U.S. Will those credits be applied toward my enrollment in the BAT?**

No, Collin College is not authorized to accept transfer credits from academic institutions outside of the United States.

**I am an international student with a cybersecurity degree. Can I enroll in the BAT?**

Yes, as long as you hold an AAS degree in cybersecurity. For more information, please contact the International Student Office.

**I am still in high school. Can I enroll in the BAT?**

High school students should select *AAS Information Systems Cybersecurity* as their major when applying to the college. This will enable you to acquire the necessary AAS in Information Systems Cybersecurity and allow you to seamlessly transition into the bachelor’s degree. In the meantime, consider taking dual credit courses that can be applied toward [the cybersecurity degree plan.](https://www.collin.edu/academics/programs/CYBR_BAT.html) This will expedite completion of your undergraduate education!

**I do not hold a college degree. Can I enroll in the BAT?**

No, but you can enroll in the Associate of Applied Science in Information Systems Cybersecurity, which is the prerequisite for admission into the BAT-Cybersecurity. Please go to [www.collin.edu](http://www.collin.edu) and begin the admission process today!

**Will my less-than-perfect background impact my ability to get a job in cybersecurity?**

****Due to the confidential nature of their work, cybersecurity professionals undergo rigorous background checks during the employment process. If you have a criminal conviction on your record, you may want to discuss your options with a career coach or hiring manager.

**Questions?** Contact: [GoCyber@collin.edu](mailto:GoCyber@collin.edu)   
Updated 9/11/2023