



News & Updates

Feb 2025

Empowering Washington's community and technical colleges to build a resilient cybersecurity workforce for a secure future.

Spotlight on: Clover Park Technical College

Many industry experts agree that a solid understanding of networking is a fundamental requirement for cyber defenders. Clover Park Technical College (CPTC) heard that message loud and clear when they designed their cybersecurity program offerings.



The **Network Operations & System Security (NOS)** programs lay the groundwork for technical careers by teaching students how to secure networks, detect and mitigate threats, and implement both physical and virtual security measures. Program types include a certificate, as well as associates and bachelor's degrees.

A notable innovation is their **Bachelor of Applied Science in Cyber-Physical Software Engineering**. This program prepares students to become software developers for industries leveraging robotics, Internet of Things (IoT), and industrial control systems. Ethical practices, secure software development, and a strong focus on the software development lifecycle are cornerstones of the curriculum.

A collaborative and supportive learning environment is fostered at CPTC where students come from a wide array of backgrounds. Student cohorts include fresh high school graduates learning alongside mature career-changers. In this blended learning environment, younger students bring enthusiasm and tech-savvy skills while older students contribute resilience, life experience, and mentorship. This cross-generational dynamic fosters mutual growth.

To learn more about Clover Park Technical College and their energizing partnership with the Pierce County Skills Center, please click the Read More button.

[Read More](#)

ISC2 Certification Pathways

The International Information System Security Certification

Consortium (ISC2) provides structured certification pathways for those starting or seeking to advance their cybersecurity careers.

According to [infosecurity-magazine.com](https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com), breaking into cybersecurity today is complex and challenging since many employers prefer applicants with experience and the certifications to validate it.



Many companies use applicant tracking systems (ATS) with algorithms that scan for industry buzzwords such as the ISC2 certifications. Without these trigger words, a resume might never be brought to the attention of a hiring manager. But it's relatively easy to get the Certified in Cybersecurity (CC) certification since ISC2 is offering the training and exam for FREE right now.

After earning the CC, you are coached and supported towards earning more advanced ISC2 certifications such as the CISSP. According to [Cyberseek.org](https://www.cyberseek.org), as of today, there are **over 70 thousand U.S. job postings** that are **seeking applicants with CISSP**.

Don't wait to gain industry experience before studying and attempting the CISSP exam. If you pass, you'll become an Associate. Later, after acquiring 5 years of paid work experience, you can convert your CISSP credential to "Certified." Only 4 years are required if you have a bachelor's degree or other qualifying certifications.

Please click the Read More button to see a more complete list of the ISC2 certification pathways.

[Read More](#)

Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2025

The World Economic Forum, in partnership with Accenture, has released their Global Cybersecurity Outlook for 2025.

Over 300 CEOs and CIOs from around the world were polled and interviewed as the basis for these findings:

- The cyber talent gap has grown with 49% of respondents indicating they lack necessary workforce to meet cybersecurity goals.
- Smaller organizations struggle to ensure cyber resilience while larger corporations have increased resilience.
- 69% stated that regulations are too complex or too numerous to maintain compliance and verify that suppliers are compliant.
- Cyber vulnerability of the public sector has increased. But vulnerability in the private sector among medium-to-large companies has decreased.



Lessons

1. Understanding geopolitical dynamics is becoming crucial for effective long-term risk management. State-sponsored attackers are targeting not just governments, but also aiming to disrupt economies and undermine critical infrastructure.
2. Interconnectedness of supply chains means that when smaller, less secure companies fall victim to cybercrime, the wider ecosystem is also impacted. It benefits the whole community when leaders of more secure companies **foster talent growth through formalized mentorship and internship programs**.
3. Skills in operating AI and defending against it are becoming increasingly important for the next generation of cybersecurity workers. AI presents an opportunity to close the skills gap with automation and a workforce that can harness AI in the detection, prevention, and recovery from attacks.

[Read More](#)

Upcoming Events

Workshop for Cybersecurity Career Coaches

Teachers and career coaches are in a key position to identify and inspire the next generation of cyber defense heroes. Students of STEM may not even know about cybersecurity careers until someone like YOU articulates these fantastic career options. Join us to learn how to tailor an educational and career pathway for each student.



In this workshop, you will learn about:

- Using the NIST NICE framework to help students explore job roles in cybersecurity
- Online tools for researching current job openings by region
- A new cybersecurity career advising toolkit produced by the EPNC
- Top cyber career roles including requirements, skills, salaries, and pathways
- Academic scholarships for cyber students
- Extracurricular opportunities for students interested in cybersecurity careers

Presenter: Kristine Christensen, Professor, Computer Information Systems & Director, Faculty Development at Moraine Valley Community College, EPNC Co-PI

Choose between two locations. Lunch provided at each!

February 19, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Whatcom Community College
Syre Building, room 107-108
Bellingham, WA

Questions: msingletary@whatcom.edu

February 20, 12 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
North Central Educational Service District
430 Old Station Road - 2nd Floor Ponderosa
Wenatchee WA

Questions: petep@ncesd.org

[Register for Wenatchee](#)

[Register for Bellingham](#)

Cybersecurity Student Day at Microsoft

Hack the Future: Securing Tomorrow's Defenders

Supercharge your budding career and choreograph your next step.

Don't miss this strategic opportunity to:

- Connect with top cybersecurity leaders in the PNW and gain insider career secrets from Microsoft executives
- Build game-changing mentorships and expand your network with industry professionals
- Listen to informative speakers while enjoying free breakfast and lunch
- Take home exclusive industry swag

This event may set the trajectory for your exciting career in cybersecurity. Demand is high and space is limited, so register now.



Sponsored by **Women CyberGuardians**, **Cyversity**, **BAMSEC**, and the **CCoE**.

Friday February 21, 2025
9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Microsoft campus
Bldg 92 at 15010 NE 36th St,
Redmond, WA

Please forward this invitation to the cyber students in your sphere.

[Register](#)

NCyTE's Monthly Meeting for February

Cloud Computing Security and AI

Join NCyTE and the Cloud Security Alliance's co-founder, Jim Reavis, as they discuss these intriguing questions:

- What are the AI risks in cloud computing?
- What standards and risk mitigation has CSA developed and implemented for cloud services?
- What other CSA AI/Cybersecurity resources are available to academia and to students?

Learn more about Jim Reavis at NCyTE's list of industry advisors, [here](#).

February 21 | 9:00 AM
9:00 a.m. | Virtual



[Register](#)

About

Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (CCoE)

Hosted at [Whatcom Community College](#) in

Bellingham, WA, the CCoE serves as a state-wide hub to enable Washington state's community & technical college system to be the epicenter for cybersecurity education and connect employers with a highly skilled workforce, empowering our region to thrive securely and safely.



Photo of Syre Student Center at Whatcom Community College

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