



Commonwealth
Cyber Initiative
COASTAL VIRGINIA

COVA CCI Internship Clinic Information Session

July 15, 2024



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Cyber Initiative

Research | Innovation | Workforce Development

Commonwealth Cyber Initiative



CCI has brought in \$192 million in federal and private sector funding, contributed to the creation of 2,517 jobs, helped generate \$196 million in labor income, and added \$367 million to Virginia's Gross Domestic Product.

Source: CCI 2024 Impact Update and 2030 Strategic Plan



Commonwealth Cyber Initiative

--- CCI Mission ---

To serve as an engine for **research, innovation, and workforce development** at the intersection of cybersecurity, autonomous systems, and intelligence

--- CCI Vision ---

To establish Virginia as a global center of excellence in cybersecurity research and serve as a catalyst for the commonwealth's economic diversification and long-term leadership in this sector.

375+
researchers

41
higher ed
institutions



What is a Cybersecurity Clinic?



The cybersecurity clinic uses a model like what has been done with law schools and medical schools, where students work with real-world clients who have limited resources to gain valuable hands-on experience.

Using this model, we will have students with diverse backgrounds and academic expertise work with local business clients to evaluate and strengthen their cybersecurity risk profile. At the same time, the students will gain real-world experience working with clients and other team members, through the completion of a cybersecurity risk assessment and presenting their findings to the business client.

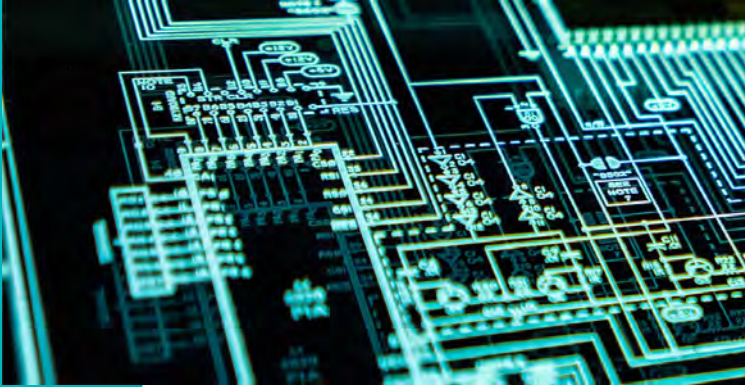
[What is a Cybersecurity Clinic Video:
https://youtu.be/mYCka8oF7rQ](https://youtu.be/mYCka8oF7rQ)



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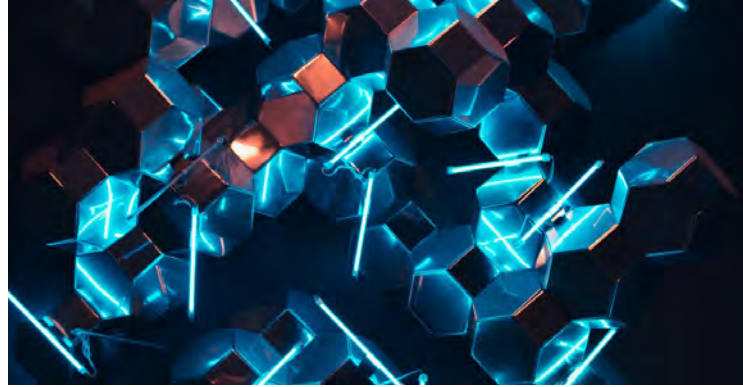


Why Clinics Work



Providing essential cybersecurity services

University-based cybersecurity clinics help clients develop long-term cybersecurity defense, increase their resilience, and expand their cybersecurity capacity. Students provide a range of digital security services, such as vulnerability and risk assessments, cybersecurity policy templates, incident response plans, ransomware training, NIST and CMMC certifications, and more.



Prioritizing under-resourced organizations

The widespread effects of a successful cyber attack can have broad impacts, yet many public interest organizations lack the resources for cybersecurity self-defense. University-based cybersecurity clinics provide *pro bono* assistance to resource-strapped organizations like non-profits, small businesses, local government, hospitals, and other community organizations.



Serving our local communities

Cyber clinics students work with local and regional organizations, bringing cyber talent where it is needed in their own backyards. Participating in clinics embeds the value of public service in future cybersecurity leaders.

What is COVA CCI's Cybersecurity Internship Clinic?

The COVA CCI Cybersecurity Internship Clinic provides pro bono Cybersecurity-as-a-Service to small businesses, non-profits, local government offices/agencies/boards, and other organizations using selected students from the COVA CCI partner community colleges and universities to assess the organization's cybersecurity-preparedness and risk posture.

This clinic aims to provide cybersecurity awareness and services (education, risk management posture) to client organizations within Hampton Roads while providing an experiential learning opportunity for the students participating in the program as cybersecurity interns/consultants. Specifically, this clinic targets client organizations that do not have a strong cyber presence and can find value in gaining cybersecurity knowledge through cybersecurity awareness and services.

This is a 15-week program that will be offered during the fall and spring academic semesters. During the program,

- Students receive training on different cybersecurity modules which will allow them to interview client organizations during the middle portion of the program.
- Students work in teams under the supervision of ODU faculty.
- Teams provide service to the client in one or more areas of cybersecurity network defense, cybersecurity policies and procedures, cybersecurity training for employees, cyber risk assessments, and/or cybersecurity best practices.
- Assessments include cybersecurity network defense awareness, cybersecurity policies and procedures, cybersecurity training for employees, cyber risk management, and/or cybersecurity best practices.



VALOR
CYBERSECURITY



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<https://covacci.org/cyber-as-a-service/>

Business Client Testimonials

Beth Vinson, Business Client, Cybersecurity Internship Clinic

"As one of the first two small business participants in the incubation stage/pilot program of the COVA CCI Cybersecurity Internship Clinic, my first word after completion was FABULOUS! I was so impressed with the young people of ODU involved in this effort, and the massive benefit they provided for my small business was invaluable. The students were super professional, incredibly knowledgeable about all things Cybersecurity, and taught me so many things with their intuitive research and ability to deliver the best information available.



Gwen Moss, Business Client, Cybersecurity Internship Clinic

"I highly recommend the Cybersecurity Internship Clinic. It was a hassle-free experience that gave me a detailed assessment I can use now and later in the future as we grow as a ministry. With bad actors constantly trying to compromise our digital footprint, I believe if you gain one more piece of information to protect your business is time well spent. Additionally, the experience you afford student interns is gratifying!"



Cyber Clinic Student Testimonials

Lee Acheampong, BS Cybersecurity

“My main take away from this internship would be the incredible hands-on experience that I gained from this opportunity. The ability to expand my knowledge and expertise from this program will help me as I move forward in my career. It allowed me to create new connections and taught me so much about the ever-changing landscape of cybersecurity. This internship will absolutely have an influence on my future career and prospects because it serves as a foundational experience that I can build on as I grow through my career. I am truly grateful for the experience to be a part of such an enriching and educational program. I will truly never forget it.”

Heliene Macaraeg, BS Cybersecurity

“My internship experience was incredibly enriching and impactful. It reinforced the importance of teamwork, resilience, and effective communication in a professional setting. Moving forward, I will carry forward the lessons learned from this experience throughout my remaining time at ODU and into my future professional endeavors. It has provided me with a solid foundation upon which to build my career and has instilled in me a sense of confidence and purpose that will guide me in all my future endeavors.”

Daniel Smeltz, BS Cybersecurity

“I believe this internship pilot was an incredible opportunity for students to foster a better understanding on the process of creating a risk analysis. This is paralleled with conducting research to find secure methods to safeguard a business from the potential threats and vulnerabilities and delivering it in a platform that best conveys the solutions prospected to a client.”



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Cyber Clinic Faculty Testimonial

Teresa Duvall, School of Cybersecurity Professor, Cybersecurity Internship Clinic leader

“The Coastal Virginia Commonwealth Initiative pilot Cybersecurity Internship clinic was a resounding success. We focused on the cybersecurity needs of the client. The students were exposed to Design thinking, first-hand briefs from the CISA Vulnerability Management/Cyber Resilience expert, assessment training and cyber interview training under the expertise of and partnership with a CIO of a well-respected cybersecurity company – all in 15 weeks.

The pilot clinic provided experiential learning for the students. I watched the growth of each student in confidence, presentations skills, independent research and team research. I witnessed each client express their joy and appreciation at the conclusion of the student in-person briefs and presentations.”



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How do I get involved?



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OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY
School of Cybersecurity

Cybersecurity Internship Clinic

We are looking for small businesses, non-profits, or other organizations who need help understanding their cybersecurity risks.

COVA CCI, the southeastern node of Virginia's Commonwealth Cyber Initiative, in partnership with Valor Cybersecurity will use teams of selected students to provide pro bono Cybersecurity-as-a-Service to small and medium businesses to assess these organizations cybersecurity preparedness and risk posture.

If interested in applying for this program submit an application using this QR code.

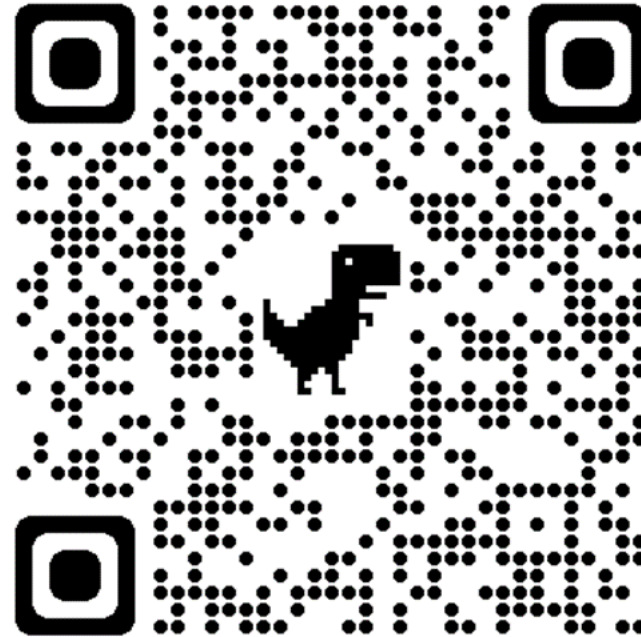
Why Apply?

- Free cybersecurity risk assessment to your business.
- Gives hands-on, real-world experience to students pursuing a career in cybersecurity.
- Creates connections with cybersecurity professionals.

Send questions to:
Covacci@odu.edu

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Apply using this link - <https://forms.odu.edu/view.php?id=1031770%20>



Questions?

<https://covacci.org/cyber-as-a-service/>



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Points of Contact

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COVA CCI Website
www.covacci.org



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