Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the SANS Technology Institute’s master’s degree programs. The application process typically requires several hours of work to prepare the necessary documents, write the required outcomes statement and leadership essays, and create the short admissions video presentation. This document leads you through the required steps in the process, and may be used as a checklist for completion.

Minimum Program Requirements

Before you complete the application materials, please confirm you meet the minimum criteria required of all applicants:

- Have at least 12 months of professional work experience in information technology, information security, or audit
- Be employed or have current access to an organizational environment that allows you to apply the concepts and hands-on technical skills learned during the master’s program
- Have earned a baccalaureate degree from a recognized accredited college or university, or the international equivalent, with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.8

Preferred Admissions Deadlines

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<tr>
<th>Submit Complete Application By:</th>
<th>Receive Admissions Decision On:</th>
<th>Target Program Start Date:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 1</td>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>Spring 2019 April/May</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>Summer 2019 July/August</td>
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<td>August 1</td>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>Fall 2019 October/November</td>
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<td>November 1</td>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>Winter 2020 January/February</td>
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- If admitted, students will be eligible to join the next available New Student Orientation (NSO), which begin the first of each month. Only after a student completes New Student Orientation will they be allowed to register for their first course.

- Applications submitted after the preferred deadlines will be accepted but may take up to 90 days to review. Example Admissions Timeline: For applications submitted by May 1st, applicants will be notified of an admissions decision within 30 days, on or before June 1st. If submitted after the deadline, on May 8th for example, an application review may take up to 90 days. In this case, the applicant would receive an admissions decision no later than August 8th.
Application Requirements

All application materials, with the exception of the application fee and official transcripts, will be submitted online at apply.sans.edu. All applicants must submit the following:

A. Application Form
   • To log into the graduate application portal, you must create a SANS account at https://www.sans.org/account/create. If you already have an account, please log into the graduate application using your SANS account credentials.
   • The application can be found online at apply.sans.edu and you will be guided through each step. The application will not be reviewed for admission until all supporting documents are submitted.

B. Current Résumé

C. Employer Recommendation
   • See below for further instruction.

D. Essay
   • See page 3 for further instruction.

E. Video Presentation
   • See pages 3 & 4 for further instruction.

F. Official Transcripts
   • See page 4 for further instruction.

G. Aptitude Assessment
   • See page 4 for further instruction.

H. Application Fee
   • See page 5 for further instruction.

Application Details

Current Résumé

Highlight your current experience and showcase your career history. Provide details on your responsibilities in your current role and previous roles to help understand your experience in information technology/information security. Make sure to include all industry certifications and your educational background.

Employer Recommendation Overview

The employer recommendation is required to provide a candid viewpoint of an applicant’s personal characteristics, performance and experience, strengths, capabilities, and professional promise. The optimal recommendation is written by someone who has supervised your work, served as a mentor, or worked closely with you, and has been in a position to observe your performance. In lieu of writing a separate letter of recommendation, you will submit an electronic request through the application portal. Your recommender will receive an email with a form to complete.
Application Essay Overview

Applicants to the master’s programs are required to submit one short essay. This essay will enable us to evaluate the match between your goals and skills and the type of graduate we seek to develop: a person who seeks to design and implement security defenses in their organization, and has the technical proficiency, along with the team management, communication and persuasion skills, to be effective.

In addition to allowing us to learn more about you, the review of this essay is an essential tool in our ability to evaluate the quality of your writing, including your ability to organize unstructured information, to frame an argument, and to persuade others of your point of view. Our evaluation of your application essay ensures that we admit students only when we believe they are sufficiently prepared for the multiple applied research papers in the master’s programs, and that they have or can develop the writing skills necessarily required of an effective manager.

Requirement: Please list at the top of the first page the title (below), your name, and the date. Please use single-spaced paragraphs with a double space between them. Font should be 11-point, in Times New Roman, or Calibri, or Arial. Of course, be mindful of grammar, spelling, punctuation, and syntax, which are essential fundamentals to our evaluations.

Goals and Outcomes Statement: Provide an organized and thoughtful Goals & Outcome Statement detailing your expectations for a return on your investment in earning master’s degree in information security. What drives you to pursue this degree program? Your goals should be specific, realistic, time-related, and if possible, measurable. Integrate how your professional and/or personal background and experiences led to this choice, and how they relate to the desired outcomes. Discuss how you intend to use the master’s program and your work experience over the next three to five years to further your leadership goals. This should be 2 pages in length.

Video Presentation Overview

An important part of developing leaders to strengthen enterprise and global information security is ensuring the ability to communicate. The SANS Technology Institute graduate curriculum is designed to improve a candidate’s verbal communication skills (both written and oral) while providing a strong, hands-on technical base. The video presentation requirement is designed to give the admissions committee insight into the applicant’s oral presentation skills, especially the applicant’s ability to communicate powerfully and convincingly.

Please prepare and record a 3 to 5-minute video on one of the following prompts:

Option One: What is something that you do well? Tell us about a skillset you possess (technical or non-technical). Create a video that is somewhat educational. This can be a tutorial or a how-to video.

Option Two: Please summarize and expand upon (without reading) your Goals and Outcomes Statement.

Video Requirements: please review the below requirements and ensure your video complies with each of the guidelines before submitting. If your video does not comply with these guidelines, we may not be able to accept your video or we may request you submit another one.

- Candidates should speak to the camera as if they are presenting to a room of graduate school faculty.
Reading directly from a prepared script or document is discouraged and is viewed negatively by the Admissions Committee.

- Candidates should not be reading from notes (either on their computer or hardcopy notes). Anything beyond one notecard is viewed negatively by the Admissions Committee.
- Professional recording equipment is not required. Applicants may use a phone or computer webcam.
  - Video should be done in one continuous shot and should not be edited.
- Candidates should be conscious of lighting and sound, though, and ensure they are visible and can be heard throughout the video.
- Slide presentations are neither required nor encouraged.

When complete, please upload the video into Vimeo or YouTube and submit the appropriate URL and password for viewing. Please see these host’s websites for acceptable video recording parameters.

Please note, video links from Vimeo that are in this format will NOT work:
https://vimeo.com/user10467231/review/370167048/f130fe42b. In order for a link to work, it must read in this format: https://vimeo.com/37016704.

Official Transcripts
For schools where a degree was conferred, please have your college/university submit an official copy of your transcript directly to transcripts@sans.edu. If electronic delivery is not an option, please mail official, sealed copies to:

SANS Technology Institute
Attn: Graduate Admissions
11200 Rockville Pike, Ste. 200
North Bethesda, MD 20852

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: If submitting a transcript from a college/university outside of the United States, please first review the requirements for international students (https://www.sans.edu/admissions/international).

VA EDUCATION BENEFITS: If you are planning to use VA Education Benefits to pay for any part of your master’s degree program, we are required to collect all previous transcripts. Please plan to submit a transcript to the above email or address for any previous higher education institution you’ve attended, whether you’ve earned a degree from them or not.

Aptitude Assessment
Applicants will be required to complete an online aptitude assessment.

After starting an application, applicants will receive an email with an access code and instructions for completing this aptitude assessment. You will have two hours to complete the assessment which will cover areas such as networking concepts, operating systems, and general information security aptitude.
For the purposes of the graduate school, this assessment is evaluated on a pass/fail basis. You will not receive a score report after the assessment, but our team will let you know if you do not pass the assessment.

Submit the Application Fee
In order to complete the application process, students must submit the non-refundable $100 application fee. The fee can be paid online through our payment suite.

Additional Instructions for International Students
Please review the full set of additional application requirements at https://www.sans.edu/admissions/international.

Additional Instructions for Student Veterans
Please review the full set of additional application requirements at https://www.sans.edu/veterans/admissions.

Conclusion
The SANS Technology Institute aspires to be the preeminent graduate institution translating contemporary information security practice and scholarship into effective educational experiences. Attracting and selecting the very best candidates for our program are critical elements to achieve this goal. We thank you for your interest, and wish you success with your application. Should you have questions during the application process, please email info@sans.edu.