

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the SANS Technology Institute's post-baccalaureate certificate programs. 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

Admissions Deadlines

Application deadlines fall on the 15th of each month and application review takes up to 30 days. If admitted, students will be eligible to join the next available [New Student Orientation](#) (NSO), which begins the first of each month. Only after a student completes New Student Orientation will they be allowed to register for their first course.

Example Admissions Timeline: For applications submitted by May 15th, applicants will be notified of an admissions decision within 30 days, on or before June 15th and then begin New Student Orientation (NSO) on July 1st.

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. Official Transcripts
 - Students must submit official transcripts from all colleges or universities where a degree was conferred.
- D. Application Fee
- E. Writing Sample (Cybersecurity Engineering (Core) program only)

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.

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.

Submit the Application Fee

In order to complete the application process, students must submit the non-refundable \$35 application fee. The fee can be paid online through our [payment suite](#).

Writing Sample Instructions (Cybersecurity Engineering (Core) program only)

Applicants to the Cybersecurity Engineering Core program are required to write a short essay on the following prompt.

Requirement: Please list at the top of the first page the title: *Leadership Essay*, 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.

Prompt: We aspire to develop engineers and managers who can be leaders in our industry. To help ground so broad a term, the past President of the SANS Technology Institute, Stephen Northcutt, wrote a Leadership Essay (<https://www.sans.edu/admissions/leadership-essay>) to help characterize and expand upon our definition of leadership. Please read his essay and explore some of the resources he suggests.

Then (1) describe your own preferred definition(s) of leadership, (2) some competencies where you believe you have strengths, and (3) also the competencies you would most like to develop. Relate each competency to personal and/or professional experience, or discuss how you intend to use the certificate program and your work experience over the next three years to further your leadership goals. This should be 2-3 pages in length.

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.