
15 U.S. Code § 7404

National Science Foundation computer and network security programs

(a) Computer and network security capacity building grants

(1) In general

The Director shall establish a program to award grants to institutions of higher education (or consortia thereof) to establish or improve undergraduate and master's degree programs in computer and network security, to increase the number of students, including the number of students from groups historically underrepresented in these fields and students who are veterans, who pursue undergraduate or master's degrees in fields related to computer and network security, and to provide students with experience in government or industry related to their computer and network security studies.

(2) Merit review

Grants shall be awarded under this subsection on a merit-reviewed competitive basis.

(3) Use of funds

Grants awarded under this subsection shall be used for activities that enhance the ability of an institution of higher education (or consortium thereof) to provide high-quality undergraduate and master's degree programs in computer and network security and to recruit and retain increased numbers of students to such programs. Activities may include—

- (A) revising curriculum to better prepare undergraduate and master's degree students for careers in computer and network security;
- (B) establishing degree and certificate programs in computer and network security;
- (C) creating opportunities for undergraduate students to participate in computer and network security research projects;
- (D) acquiring equipment necessary for student instruction in computer and network security, including the installation of testbed networks for student use;
- (E) providing opportunities for faculty to work with local or Federal Government agencies, private industry, nonprofit research institutions, or other academic institutions to develop new expertise or to formulate new research directions in computer and network security;
- (F) establishing collaborations with other academic institutions or academic departments that seek to establish, expand, or enhance programs in computer and network security;
- (G) establishing student internships in computer and network security at government agencies or in private industry;
- (H) establishing collaborations with other academic institutions to establish or enhance a web-based collection of computer and network security courseware and laboratory exercises for sharing with other institutions of higher education, including community colleges;

- (I) establishing or enhancing bridge programs in computer and network security between community colleges and universities;
- (J) creating opportunities for veterans to transition to careers in computer and network security; and
- (K) any other activities the Director determines will accomplish the goals of this subsection.

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