M.S. IN COMPUTER SCIENCE – CYBERSECURITY CONCENTRATION

Tentative Schedule: Cohort 2025

All courses are offered asynchronously over the Internet. The schedule follows JMU's calendar for fall and spring semesters. Course schedules and course offerings are subject to change with advance notice to students. For an up-to-date schedule please see JMU's academic calendar.

This program is cohort-based. Students who fall behind in their cohort will be moved to the following cohort and are required to satisfy the new cohort requirements.

Preparatory Courses

The following four courses provide a strong foundation for the InfoSec Master's program and students are encouraged to take the courses as refreshers. For course descriptions, see the Graduate School catalog. CS510 and CS511 are taught every summer, and CS512 and CS515 are taught every fall.

Students making less than a "B" in any preparatory course will be dismissed from the program.

Summer 2025

May 27 – Aug 16	CS510 Object Oriented Programming
June 09 – Aug 2	CS511 Computer Organization

Fall 2025

Aug 20	CS512	Data Structures
	CS515	Discrete Mathematics

Core Courses

Spring 2026	
Starts Jan 20	CS550 Operating Systems CS559 Computer Security
Summer 2026	
June 1 – July 25	CS523 Ethics, Law and Policy in Cyberspace
Fall 2026	
Starts Aug 26	CS531 Secure Programming CS610 Networks and Network Security
Spring 2027	
Starts Jan 19	CS633 Computer Forensics CS627 Cryptography: Algorithms and Applications
Fall 2027	
Starts Aug 25	CS660 Advanced Network Security AND Non-Thesis Option:

CS685 Special Topics in Information Security
                         Comprehensive Exam
             Thesis Option:
                         CS700 Thesis (thesis approval and research)

Spring 2028

Starts Jan 18   CS635 Secure Operations AND
             Non-Thesis Option:
                         CS685 Special Topics in Information Security
             Thesis Option:
                         CS700 Thesis (thesis defense by mid-April)

Thesis Option:

Students who are interested in the thesis option should contact the faculty member whom they want to work with, preferably by the end of their second spring semester in the program. So, they can start working on their thesis over the summer. They register for the Thesis in the fall and spring semester of their graduation academic year.

The thesis will replace the two Special Topics courses, scheduled in the last two semesters in the program. Thesis defense counts as their Comprehensive Exam.

Non-Thesis Option:

Students who don't use the thesis option will have to take a Comprehensive Exam, including Operating Systems, Network Security, Cryptography, and Forensics. Students are encouraged to take the exam during the fall semester of their last year in the program. Students who fail the exam will have a second chance to take it during the following spring semester. Students who fail the exam for the second time will be dismissed from the program.