UCDAVIS
Continuing and Professional Education

TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN THE CYBER SECURITY IMMERSION ACADEMY

Course 1- *Cyber Security: Immediate Immersion*

OVERVIEW OF WHAT TO EXPECT

You may be used to traditional lecture courses during which a professor tells you things which you then practice on small, well-defined problems. This course is NOT like that. It will not provide you with step-by-step instructions for everything you need to do. You are expected to figure out some things on your own.

In particular, you will need to identify your own challenges and address them as needed. If you don't understand how web browsers and web servers interact, take some time out to seek out and read an introductory tutorial. If you are inexperienced with command line interfaces, look at some introductory tutorials. If you see some jargon you don't know, look it up. All students are expected to engage in some amount of **self-directed learning**. Google is your friend when you need to learn something on your own. Information security (Infosec) professionals have to be skilled at finding answers to problems they've never seen before. If you don't already have self-directed learning skills, this course will help you develop them.

Students come into this course with all kinds of backgrounds and all kinds of deficiencies. It's up to you to figure out what's holding you back so you can work on it. That said, you don't need to master everything there is to know about networking or operating systems or programming. You don't need a degree in computer science. But you will need to know just enough about all of these things to handle problems that touch on these things. Most importantly, you will need to work with (and adapt) online resources that may not address a particular problem perfectly, but will nevertheless give you helpful hints and clues about how to proceed.

A FEW MORE PRACTICAL TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Before the course starts:

- Watch your inbox for important emails and instructions
- Be responsive to any emails that ask for a response

Once the course is underway:

- Attend the orientation meeting
- Attend all of the weekly meetings with your mentor
- Carefully read all of the Roadmap instructions and reread them as needed
- Look at all of the Learn resources and revisit them as needed
- Use Google search to find additional online resources as needed
- Follow the #discussion channel in Slack on a daily basis
- Watch for direct messages in Slack and be responsive to any requests there
- Plan to spend at least 25 hours/week on the course (we recommend you spread those 25 hours out so you are working at least a little every day)
- Find blocks of time (ideally at least three hours each) when you will not be interrupted

Then if you get stuck, remember that each stumbling block is a puzzle. It's your job to solve the puzzle, and you will find puzzle pieces in lots of places:

1. Take another look at the Roadmap instructions
2. Revisit relevant resources in the Learn folder
3. Review previous Q/A discussions with fellow students on Slack
4. Use Google search to find additional resources if you need more
5. Experiment with your software—just try things
6. If you are still stuck after trying the above, post a question on Slack

And, finally, one last tip:

DO NOT fall behind. This course moves quickly and it is impossible to play catch up if you let it get away from you. Watch your deadlines, pace yourself and make sure you're making progress every day.

Now you are ready for success in the Cyber Academy!

For more information

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