About the Major

The Ph.D. in Information Assurance is a comprehensive, multidisciplinary, research program that prepares graduates for key positions in academia, in federal, state and local government agencies, and in business and industry. The curriculum combines both technically intensive and management-focused security courses to provide a comprehensive approach to the study of information assurance/information security.

Program Format

The school offers a unique Ph.D. program, called the cluster format, that includes a blend of on-campus and online activities. Students taking courses attend four cluster sessions per year, held quarterly over an extended weekend (Friday and Saturday) at the university. Between sessions, students work on course assignments and research, and participate in online activities that facilitate frequent interaction with the faculty and with other students.

Career Opportunities

- College/University Faculty
- Chief Information Security Officer
- Information Security Consultant
- Research & Development
- Vice President, Information Security
THE CURRICULUM - 64 TOTAL CREDITS

The program requires at least 64 credit hours, of which 40 are for courses and 24 are for the dissertation.

Required Core Courses (four credits each; select at least four or five)
- ISEC 730 Network Security and Cryptography
- ISEC 740 Secure Systems Analysis and Design
- ISEC 750 Information Protection
- ISEC 755 Information Security Management
- ISEC 765 Managing Risk in Secure Systems

Dissertation Registrations
Students must make three consecutive registrations (eight credits each) for ISEC 901, Doctoral Dissertation, to total the 24 credits of dissertation required. Students whose dissertations are not completed within three registrations (one year) continue to register for ISEC 920 Continuing Dissertation (four credits) each term until the dissertation is complete.

Elective Core Courses (four credits each, select three or four to total eight core courses)
Either
- RESD 705 Quantitative Research Methodology
Or
- RESD 710 Qualitative Research Methodology
- DISS 720 Human-Computer Interaction
- CISD 730 Operating Systems
Either
- DISS 750 Database Systems
Or
- CISD 750 Database Management Systems
- CISD 760 Artificial Intelligence
- CISD 770 Software Engineering
- DISS 775 Privacy

Research Registrations
Students are required to complete at least two sections (four credits each) of ISEC 885, Doctoral Research, before entering candidacy. Students must register for the course with a particular faculty member as directed in the course description. Students are further advised to wait for the second year of study before registering for Doctoral Research. Students will repeat Doctoral Research until securing a dissertation idea approved by the instructor and two faculty readers.

Notice of Nondiscrimination and Accreditation
Nova Southeastern University admits students of any race, color, sex, age, nondisqualifying disability, religion or creed, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school, and does not discriminate in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs. Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097; Telephone number: 404-679-4501) to award associate’s, bachelor’s, master’s, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees.

For further information

- Visit the Office of Admissions online at www.scis.nova.edu or email scisinfo@nova.edu.
- Call the Office of Admissions at 954-262-2001 or 800-986-2247, ext. 22001.
- Visit our campus at 3301 College Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314.
- Apply Online at www.scis.nova.edu/applyonline.