



Cybersecurity Bridge Course FAQ

The Katz School of Science and Health offers students who have been provisionally accepted to the Online Master's in Cybersecurity program an opportunity to acquire a basic IT network skill set. Whether you are switching from another career path or just need to brush up on your existing skills, we still want you to apply! This unique component gives all students coming into the program an equal advantage prior to starting their graduate studies.

Below are some frequently asked questions that we hear from prospective students, but we encourage you to [connect with an Admissions Advisor](#) for more information.

I don't have a strong computer networking/IT background, am I still eligible for the Online Master's in Cybersecurity program?

If you meet the rest of the admissions criteria but lack computer networking/IT experience, you may still be eligible for the program and provisionally admitted as long as you can pass a required Cybersecurity Bridge Course prior to starting your first class. You can also [connect with an Admissions Advisor](#) to discuss your background and determine if the program is right for you.

What is the purpose of the Cybersecurity Bridge Course?

The purpose of the course is to allow students who lack a strong background in computer networking/IT with the chance to upskill and prepare before entering the credit-bearing courses within the Online Master's in Cybersecurity program. This is a unique opportunity offered by the university that differentiates our program and provides students with an equal opportunity for success.

Who will let me know if I am required to take the Cybersecurity Bridge Course?

After you apply to the program, your application will be reviewed by the university to determine whether or not you will be accepted. Students that meet the other admissions requirements but lack the necessary technical background will be informed via their acceptance letter that they have been provisionally accepted. This means that you must first complete and pass the Cybersecurity Bridge Course before you can continue on with the program.



What content does the Cybersecurity Bridge Course cover?

It is a 0-credit course that consists of four modules covering the following topics:

- Introduction to Computer Network Theory
- Network Implementation and Management
- Foundations of Network Security
- Network Security Implementation

Students should expect the following types of engagement and assignments across the modules: viewing content within the modules, readings, formative activities like polls, hotspots, and matching, discussion posts, and a final quiz. You will learn the vocabulary and language typically used in the field and throughout the MS courses.

What are the learning objectives of the Cybersecurity Bridge Course?

Students will learn how to:

- Describe how the basic network components interact with each other
- Explain the role of CIA (confidentiality, integrity, availability) in cybersecurity
- Analyze the OSI model in data transmission and troubleshooting contexts
- Use basic network management and troubleshooting strategies

How long is the Cybersecurity Bridge Course and what is the workload?

Students should expect to spend approximately 8-10 hours per week on course-related activities over a 4-week period.

Can I take the Cybersecurity Bridge Course at any time or is there a schedule?

There is a schedule. The course begins four weeks prior to the start of every term (Spring, Summer, Fall) so that you can finish the course before your first credit-bearing course begins. This is why it is important to submit your application and all necessary documentation as early as possible in the process, so you can be admitted to the program provisionally and submit your tuition deposit in time to start the Cybersecurity Bridge Course.



How is the Cybersecurity Bridge Course graded?

The course has four Discussions (100 points or 33%) and four Quizzes (200 points or 67%). A total of 70% is required to pass the course.

What happens if I don't pass the Cybersecurity Bridge Course?

If you do not pass the Cybersecurity Bridge Course, you will not be able to start the program that term because it is a requirement of provisional admission. However, you may be able to re-take the Bridge course the next time it is offered for a later term. Please reach out to your [Admissions Advisor](#) if you do not pass the course so you can determine the best plan of action.

What can I do to prepare in advance of the Cybersecurity Bridge Course to ensure that I pass it?

If you'd like to prepare even further before starting the Cybersecurity Bridge Course and the Master's in Cybersecurity program, you may use the free Cybrary resource (<https://www.cybrary.it/>) to strengthen skills in CompTIA Networking+.

How far in advance must I complete the Cybersecurity Bridge Course in order to start in my desired term?

The Cybersecurity Bridge Course is offered 4 weeks before the start of each term so that it will be completed by the time you start your first credit-bearing course in the Master's in Cybersecurity program. The academic calendar can be found [here](#).



How much does the Cybersecurity Bridge Course cost?

The Cybersecurity Bridge Course is offered at no additional cost, but you must submit your tuition deposit prior to starting the course. There are optional learning resources available within the modules which may have an incremental cost, however, these are not required.

Does the Cybersecurity Bridge Course prepare me for any certifications?

Although the content and quiz questions within the Cybersecurity Bridge Course do follow some of the same content found in the Network+ exam, the preparation required to become Network+ certified requires additional work that is outside the scope of this course. After passing the Cybersecurity Bridge Course and completing the Online Master's in Cybersecurity program, students could take CompTIA Networking+ courses to further prepare for the exam. More information about CompTIA and the Network+ Certification can be found [here](#).