AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, DC

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

Cyber Policy & Management

Gain the expertise to advance your career with SPA's Graduate Certificate in Cyber Policy and Management. Designed for aspiring leaders, the program integrates policy, management, and technical perspectives to prepare you for senior roles across government, nonprofits, and the private sector.

Why This Certificate?

- Develop a strong foundation in cybersecurity policy and governance.
- Hands-on diagnosis of complex challenges in internal cyber management
- Address emerging issues such as AI, regulatory harmonization, and software liability
- Acquire skills to propose actionable solutions across diverse sectors
- Real-world problem analysis and applied solutions

Curriculum Highlights

- U.S. Cyber Policy & Governance
- Internal Cyber Management Challenges & Solutions
- Critical Infrastructure & Civil Cyber Defense
- Emerging Issues in AI & Cybersecurity
- Cyber Risk & Threat Intelligence
- Cybercrime and Public Policy

Who Should Apply?

- Students with a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution
- Current School of Public Affairs master's students (credits may transfer)
- Professionals seeking to advance in cyber policy and management and individuals looking to pivot into leadership roles across sectors

Certificate Details

- 15 credit hours (may transfer into an SPA master's program if declared before completion)
- Up to 3 credit hours may be transferred from another accredited institution
- Flexible scheduling designed for working professionals

Admissions & Application

APPLY ONLINE
www.american.edu/spa/cyber

LOCATION
Kerwin Hall, Room 306
Washington, DC

CONTACT
SPA Graduate Admissions
(202) 885-6230
spainfo@american.edu

Apply today and join a community of leaders shaping the future of cyber policy and management.

Course Offerings

REQUIRED COURSES — 12 CREDIT HOURS

JLC-660 Emerging Tech for Non-Technical Policymakers (3)

JLC-665 Introduction to Advanced Cyber Policy (3)

JLC-683 Cyber Threats and Security (3)

JLC-695 Terrorism and Homeland Security Policy Practicum (3)

ELECTIVE COURSES

JLC-628 Cybercriminology and Criminal Justice (3)

JLC-639 Cybercrime and Public Policy (3)

JLC-685 Cyber Risk & Threat Intelligence (3)

ITEC-666 Cybersecurity Risk Management (3)

SIS-619 Special Studies in International Politics (1–6)

Our Faculty

Our instructors bring deep expertise spanning federal government, private industry, and academia — offering students both rigorous scholarship and real-world perspective. Faculty include former White House officials, senior federal executives, technology leaders, and practicing attorneys specializing in emerging technology law. This blend of policy, operational, and technical experience ensures students learn not just theory, but how cybersecurity decisions are made at the highest levels of government and industry.

Workshops, Webinars & Events

Beyond the classroom, the program regularly convenes practitioners, policymakers, and students through panels, intensive workshops, and guest speaker events. Examples include:

- **SAMI Course: Emerging Threats in Cybersecurity and Policy**
  An intensive weekend workshop offered through SPA's Analytics & Management Institute, immersing students in pressing cybersecurity challenges — from ransomware and AI-enabled attacks to governance debates. Led by a roster of industry veterans through a dynamic mix of lecture, discussion, and applied exercises.
- **National Security Series: The Future of Cybersecurity Policy**
  A panel event connecting students with leaders shaping cybersecurity policy across government, tech, and the private sector. Speakers included a former White House Director of Cyber Workforce, a CEO of an AI policy firm, and senior executives at Samsung Semiconductor and Edison Electric Institute.
- **Guest Speaker Lecture Series**
  Throughout the academic year, the program hosts leading practitioners as guest lecturers across core courses — including cybersecurity threat intelligence professionals, AI governance specialists, experts from government agencies, and cybercrime researchers — giving students firsthand exposure to the cutting edge of the field.

What Our Students Say

> *The Cyber Policy and Management Certificate Program played an important role in shaping how I approach cybersecurity and cyber policy today. Throughout its courses focusing on U.S. cyber policy and governance challenges, I gained a deeper understanding of how technical issues intersect with policy and organizational decision-making. The program strengthened my ability to analyze emerging cyber issues and translate them into practical strategies for real-world environments. I apply these skills in my current role, where I navigate and assess cybersecurity policy and posture.*
>
> **Clarissa Gallo**
> THSP & Cyber Policy and Management Certificate Graduate, 2023

> *Courses in the Cyber Policy and Management Certificate Graduate Program deepened my understanding of the policy, security, and human dimensions of cyber threats. I gained insights into the vulnerabilities shaping our digital landscape as well as the importance of collaboration across public and private sectors to build resilience and reduce risk. These classes gave me the tools to meaningfully engage with the evolving challenges of the cyber realm — an invaluable asset I'll always be thankful for!*
>
> **Emily Williams**
> BA in Justice, Law, and Criminology '24 • MPP '26 Student

> *Emerging Trends in Cybersecurity and Policy SAMI course, organized by Cyber Policy and Management Certificate Graduate Program endowed me with the foundational knowledge necessary for cybersecurity literacy! The course challenges students' critical thinking skills through a mix of lecture, discussion, and exercises led by a line-up of personable and highly knowledgeable industry veterans. At a time where nearly all work is becoming digitized, having awareness of cybersecurity threats on both individual and organizational levels and current debates on cyber policy development is critical for everyone.*
>
> **Aidan Skidds**
> BA in CLEG '25 • SPA MS in THSP '26 Student

Apply today and join a community of leaders shaping the future of cyber policy and management.