Program Overview

Program Outcomes

- Graduates will demonstrate an interdisciplinary and comprehensive view of information security and assurance including:
  - Evaluating the impact of technology developments on information assurance risk and security practice.
  - Assessing the impact of human factors on security strategies.
  - Developing effective risk assessment programs, integrating security into organizational culture, and engaging all stakeholders.
  - Developing and implementing information security and assurance policies.
  - Building business value for information security and assurance within the organization.

- Graduates will demonstrate the skills needed to work effectively with a client, customer, or user base.

- Graduates will be able to use information security and assurance knowledge and practices to contribute to the strategic goals of an organization and take a leadership role in information assurance.

Building Business Strategies

Today’s organizations rely on the internet to conduct business and share information with their employees and customers in real time. With this reliance, however, comes an increased risk for information security breaches and critical business disruption. Now more than ever, organizations are looking to information security professionals who understand the complexity of today’s network operations, the effect of technology on business objectives, and the importance of recognizing and managing risk to design and implement their information assurance strategy.

Norwich was one of the early institutions to be recognized by the National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security as a Center for Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education. That excellence is driven in large part by our faculty members, whose vast professional and research experience ensures that students graduate with highly relevant and sought-after skills.

Program Mission

The Master of Science in Information Security & Assurance program provides students with a comprehensive exploration of the information security life cycle and its growing importance to an organization in achieving its strategic and tactical objectives. Knowledge and skills students gain from the program can enhance their capability as information security practitioners; support their growth toward upper management and executive positions such as chief information security officers (CISOs) and chief risk managers; and enable them to promote best practices through effective communication with C-level executives.

The program is structured as follows:

- Four start dates per year: March, June, September, or December.
- Six credits for each of the six, eleven-week courses.
- A course of study no longer than 18 months (date of graduation depends on your start date).
- One-week residency preceding graduation.
Matthew J. Bambrick, Alumnus

“My professional growth as a result of my education has given me confidence that I can think critically, respect diverse points of view, and speak candidly to a wide range of people. When you have a degree from Norwich, you don’t have any fear making your point known in a discussion with staff or the CEO. You are given the confidence to present your case in a professional, efficient, and tactful manner.”

The Norwich Advantage

In Your Corner. A Motivating Force.

If you can dream it, you can accomplish it — thanks to Norwich University’s expert faculty and dedicated student support advisers. Your team works together to keep you motivated and build the skills needed for a rewarding career. From program start to finish, you’ll never be alone. Our dedicated faculty and program staff are genuinely invested in your success and will go out of their way to provide the mentorship and support you need. Norwich provides 24/7 access and technical support to an online learning platform, enabling you to contribute to class discussions and complete your coursework at any time, from any location.

Access to Extensive Resources

The Kreitzberg Library serves all online students and faculty. You will have access to our library’s 100 online databases, 54,000 full-text electronic journals, and hundreds of thousands of e-books.

To help you succeed as an online learner, our dedicated distance learning librarian and reference staff members provide research assistance via email, phone, and chat. Our staff can also ship you books anywhere in the world from our circulating collection of over 140,000 titles, and provide journal articles not available online through our material request services.
Curriculum

Overview

The Information Security & Assurance Program is made up of six, six-credit courses for a total of 36 credits. Each course is approximately 11 weeks in length. The program is designed so you can complete the coursework in as few as 18 months. It ends with a one-week residency and graduation ceremony at Norwich University in June. The program offers four start dates per year: March, June, September, and December.

The curriculum explores the technical theories and methods behind information assurance, best practices in information security technology, organizational structure and policy development, the regulatory environment, and management strategies. Key skills fostered throughout the program include written communications, critical analysis, problem solving, project management, and leadership.

During their four core courses, students will conduct a case study using their current workplace or industry*, or other relevant organization that they have access to. They will examine current security strategies and identify recommendations for improvement. For their last two courses, students focus their studies on a selected concentration that can include computer forensics and incident response management or project management.

Concentration Courses

* If you are unable to complete a case study, other options may be available. Please talk to an admissions advisor.
Norwich University’s Master of Science in Information Security & Assurance program helps working adults in the IT and related fields develop the business acumen and management skills needed to pursue leadership positions in information security and assurance. Our rigorous curriculum explores the technical theories and methods behind information assurance, best practices in information security technology, organizational structure and policy development, the regulatory environment, and management strategies. Key skills fostered throughout the program include written communications, critical analysis, problem solving, project management, and leadership.

The Norwich Advantage

Unique Blend of Theory and Practicality

Norwich University’s Master of Science in Information Security & Assurance program helps working adults in the IT and related fields develop the business acumen and management skills needed to pursue leadership positions in information security and assurance. Our rigorous curriculum explores the technical theories and methods behind information assurance, best practices in information security technology, organizational structure and policy development, the regulatory environment, and management strategies. Key skills fostered throughout the program include written communications, critical analysis, problem solving, project management, and leadership.

Superb Teacher-Practitioners

Our faculty members have broad industry and research experience that informs and enriches their teaching, providing students with real-world insight and a context for applying their expanded skills and knowledge. Our Master of Science in Information Security & Assurance faculty members are top information assurance practitioners and thought leaders in their fields.

Faculty work closely with students and inspire them to produce their best work, motivate them to reach higher and further than they thought possible, and encourage them to make a difference. The faculty’s mission is to inspire, teach, and mentor the next generation of information security leaders.

Sharon Wilder, Alumna

“I chose Norwich because it is well-regarded. It has a significant history and the right accreditations. The Norwich instructors are well known in the field and are actual working professionals, not purely academics. The value of instructors with real-world work experience should not be underestimated.”
For leaders who are driven to serve.

Leading change takes commitment, compassion, and the skills and knowledge needed to inspire and motivate. Norwich University channels your motivation to serve into a strong ability to lead within your organization and community.

The Norwich Advantage

The pace for each course is designed with busy schedules in mind

Through our flexible online platform, you can access program content and contribute to class discussions on your own schedule and at your own pace each week. This format gives you extra time to contemplate questions and compose well-thought out responses. Small classes and students from diverse professional and cultural backgrounds foster in-depth discussions and unique perspectives.

Your learning community can become an invaluable network

You will progress through the program in small classes called cohorts. Small classes of 16 or fewer students encourage frequent student-student and student-faculty interactions, while a team of dedicated program staff provides students with additional support and guidance as needed. When students enroll at Norwich, they not only gain access to a dynamic learning community but also to an extensive career network of successful alumni from around the globe.

Career Preparation

A master’s degree in information security and assurance from Norwich University prepares you for leadership positions such as chief information security officer, chief risk manager, and information assurance security officer. Our alumni help shape and administer information security for leading companies such as Cisco Systems, Fidelity Investments, General Electric, and Bank of America as well as the Department of Defense and other government organizations.

Residency

The culmination of the 18 months of study is the one-week residency at the beautiful campus in the Green Mountains of Vermont. Residency is held in June of each year. During residency, students meet to permanently cement their relationships with their cohort and faculty, exchange ideas, create and foster professional networks, and immerse themselves in the Norwich campus and legacy.
Norwich seeks goal-oriented individuals who have high standards of personal ethics and have demonstrated excellence in their professional lives and academic studies.

Applicants should have a desire to make a positive contribution to their field. Selective admissions standards are intended to ensure that those admitted will have the greatest prospect of successfully completing the program and contributing to the field.

Choosing a school to pursue your Master of Science in Information Security & Assurance is a major decision. We invite you to contact our Admissions Advisors who are available to guide you in your decision-making and provide as much information and assistance as you need.

**Admission Criteria**

- A bachelor’s degree from a regionally or nationally accredited institution or an equivalent degree from a foreign institution, as evaluated by WES, IERF, Span Tran, or CED
- The GMAT is not required to apply
- If English is not your first language, proof of English language proficiency is required. This can be demonstrated in one of two ways:
  - TOEFL - a minimum score of 550 (paper-based test) or 80 (internet-based test) is required.
  - IELTS - a minimum composite score of 6.5 is required.

**Application Process**

Call an Admissions Advisor to begin the application process and submit the following items:

- Application form
- Resume
- Official transcript from undergraduate degree-granting institution
- Letter of intent
- One letter of recommendation (professional or academic)
- Proof of English language proficiency (TOEFL, if applicable)
- Industry case study proposal (if applicable)

**Financial Aid Information**

Financing your graduate school education can be a daunting task if you are unfamiliar with the process, timeline, expectations, and options. Norwich University wants to make this process a smooth journey for you.

To speak with one of our Admissions Advisors about financial aid:
Call 1-800-460-5597 ext. 3363 or Email msisa@online.norwich.edu.

Visit online.norwich.edu for more information.
About Norwich University

Founded in 1819, Norwich University is a small, private, not-for-profit university that offers professional and liberal arts programs to military and civilian students. The campus is located in Vermont. The College of Graduate and Continuing Studies builds upon nearly 200 years of Norwich University traditions while offering a variety of degree programs online in a rigorous academic environment. By enrolling in our Master of Science in Information Security & Assurance program, you’ll become part of a long tradition of public service education and leadership at Norwich, which goes all the way back to our founding as the nation’s first private military college.

Norwich University is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (formerly the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc.).

Norwich University has been designated as a Center for Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education by the National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security.

Norwich is ranked #2 as a “Best School for Cybersecurity” in a 2014 survey conducted by Ponemon Institute for Hewlett-Packard.

Norwich University’s Master of Science in Information Security & Assurance Program Project Management concentration is accredited by the PMI Global Accreditation Center for Project Management Education Programs (GAC).*

College of Graduate and Continuing Studies

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Visit our online master’s programs at online.norwich.edu:

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- Master of Arts in International Relations
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- Master of Arts in Strategic Studies
- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Civil Engineering
- Master of Public Administration
- Master of Science in Criminal Justice
- Master of Science in Information Security & Assurance
- Master of Science in Leadership
- Master of Science in Nursing

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