

# Program Review Executive Summary

---

## Program Name Here

Majors Reviewed:

- *Information Assurance and Cyber Security (BCS), B.S. (formerly BIS)*

May 2016



The bachelor's degree in Information Assurance and Cyber Security (BCS) is currently in its third revision within the last ten years. Each revision has realigned the curriculum with the current National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security standards for cyber security. As such, the curriculum has, and continues, to prepare well-qualified employees for the information security industry.

Information Assurance and Cyber Security is a strong program that serves the students, employers and the security community. The program prepares students to enter employment in the information assurance and security (IAS) field or continue their education at the graduate level.

Based on the assessment process, significant changes to the curriculum are not needed; however, minor updates and clarifications to the class outcomes should be addressed. Additionally, program education objectives should be considered and added to the degree to comply with ABET criteria. During the curriculum review process, other maintenance updates will be considered. Specific findings and recommendations resulting from the program review are provided below.

**Findings:**

- Enrollment trends have remained level, with about 60 students enrolled in the major.
- Employment in the industry is expected to grow by more than 100,000, with average salaries in the \$90,000 to \$110,000 range, depending on location. The largest growth area and salaries are present in the Washington, DC metropolitan area.
- The program focuses on administrative and analysis work, rather than technical/lab work. This is contrary to many other cyber security programs, but this approach is inline with requests from employers. Based on alumni feedback, these soft skills lead to higher pay, earlier increases in pay and position, and greater responsibility than their peers with cyber security degrees.
- The BCS program involves 14 specific security classes, more than double the average of peer programs (4-6 courses), ensuring that Penn College students leave with a strong foundational knowledge in cyber security and information assurance.

**Recommendations:**

- Pursue external program validation (ABET, then CAE).
- Develop program educational objectives.
- Investigate ways to expand security course work into other disciplines.