UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

University of Southern Mississippi Campus

The **University of Southern Mississippi (USM)** offers an inclusive and welcoming environment for all persons seeking to develop expertise in cybersecurity. USM is a Carnegie Foundation R1 doctoral research university located on two campuses in MS, Hattiesburg and on the Mississippi Gulf Coast in Long Beach, in addition to an online campus. The School of Computing Sciences and Computer Engineering provides a student-engaged environment that blends theoretical knowledge with practical experience, with a portfolio of programs that include ABET-accredited programs in Computer Engineering, Computer Science, and Information Technology. In addition to those face-to-face offerings, students may choose an online pathway to their baccalaureate degree in Computer Science or with the Bachelor of Applied Science in Cybersecurity. USM offers masters and PhD programs of study in computer science.

DESIGNATIONS

- **CAE-Cyber Defense**

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Of the program listed above, the following are focused on cybersecurity content:

Information Technology with Cybersecurity concentration (the NSA validated program of study, also available online starting in fall 2024)
Cybersecurity BAS (The first BAS in Cybersecurity offered in Mississippi, available fully online)
USM provides a rich landscape for broadening participation in cybersecurity. Enrollment figures from Fall 2023 reveal more than half of the student undergraduate population are female and over one-fourth are Black/African American. The undergraduate population in the School of CSCE grew 39.5% between fall 2023 and 2024, with 22.89% total women; 26.65% Black/AA; 26.95% First Generation students in the School's undergraduate majors.

USM boasts a distinguished faculty comprised of industry professionals and researchers with extensive knowledge and experience in cybersecurity. This faculty actively contributes to the R1 research environment, ensuring students receive instruction from individuals at the forefront of the field, equipped with not only theoretical knowledge but also practical insights from cutting-edge research and simulated real-world scenarios. USM's curriculum aligns with NICE criteria, ensuring students graduate with the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in the cybersecurity workforce.