FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TEXAS Extended Campus now offering cybersecurity training program developed for the U.S. Department of Defense

AUSTIN, Texas — TEXAS Extended Campus is launching two online Cyber Academy certificate programs this spring to help meet the rising demand for trained cybersecurity professionals. The ideal student should be intensely curious, a tenacious problem solver, and predisposed to self-directed work. An online information session is scheduled for Feb. 20.

"UT Austin's Cyber Academy certificate programs leverage training developed by the U.S. Department of Defense to train its own cyber operators," said Frank DiGiovanni, assistant deputy chief of naval operations for manpower, personnel, training and education. "They will teach a critical set of cyber foundational skills, knowledge, and problem-solving abilities that graduates need to defeat today's cyber threats and those expected in the future, whether they choose a career in the military, the government, or in the private sector."

The first certificate program, **Cyber Academy Defense**, is composed of two courses — Course 1: Immediate Immersion — launches March 13 and lasts three weeks. It is a prerequisite for Course 2: Cybersecurity Defense, which starts April 17 and lasts 11 weeks. Students who successfully complete these courses are eligible to enroll in the second certificate program **Cyber Academy Attack**, learning offensive skills.

"We're excited to offer this program, which is so important right now," said Liliya Spinazzola, senior director of professional education and strategic initiatives at TEXAS Extended Campus. "Our goal is to provide accessible career training that enables students to upskill quickly and immediately apply their new skills in the workplace, so the Cyber Academy Certificate Programs are a natural fit for us."

Businesses face the constant threat of online attacks and the risk is only increasing. Attacks from cybercriminals and even some nations are becoming more prevalent and sophisticated, leading to increased demand for trained cybersecurity professionals.

Starting salary for cybersecurity specialists	
Austin	$86,161
Dallas	$75,520
Houston	$78,662
San Antonio	$77,352
Source: Glassdoor.com	

While the median annual salary for cybersecurity professionals varies by location, in Texas starting salaries range from $75,000 to $86,000. As shown at left, cybersecurity specialists in Austin can expect to be among the best paid in the state.

The minimum education requirements for these programs is a high school diploma or equivalent. Only basic computer skills are required, but a rudimentary knowledge of networks, protocols and operating systems is helpful.

Those wanting more information must sign up online for the Feb. 20 information session. They can also visit https://professionaled.utexas.edu/cyber-academy-defense-certificate-program

About TEXAS Extended Campus

As part of The University of Texas at Austin, TEXAS Extended Campus (TEC) draws upon the multiple strengths of the University to develop and offer programs that serve working professionals and lifelong learners in Austin and across Texas. Faculty members, industry professionals and curriculum experts produce courses and programs to benefit students at the high school, college and professional levels. Courses are available on campus, online and on site.

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