Ph.D. in Information Assurance

The Information Assurance doctoral (DIA) program is a comprehensive, multidisciplinary, research program that prepares graduates for key positions in academia; in federal, state, and local government agencies; in business; and in industry. The curriculum combines both technically intensive and management-focused security courses to provide a comprehensive approach to the study of information assurance/information security.

The uniquely structured cluster program combines traditional and online instruction to give professionals the opportunity to pursue graduate study while continuing to work in their current positions. Each student must complete eight core courses, two research courses, and a dissertation.

Notably, the information assurance degree program is recognized by the U.S. National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security.

Program Faculty Member

Yair Levy, Ph.D., began working in web development and infrastructure when he was in charge of a $3M website implementation coordinated between various National Aeronautics and Space Administration research centers/administrative offices, local colleges, and private industries. Currently, Levy is a professor and the director of the Center for eLearning Security Research.

Levy’s extensive research and related publications have focused on cybersecurity and web-based user authentication, as well as security and ethical issues with web-based and eLearning systems. Before joining Nova Southeastern University, he was a DSIS instructor and the director of online learning at Florida International University’s College of Business Administration.

Program Features

- 64 credit hours
- Unique executive format offers flexibility to working professionals.
- The information assurance degree is recognized by the U.S. National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security.
- Students receive quality instruction from CEC faculty members—all of whom hold Ph.D. degrees and are experts in their respective fields of research/application.

Program Formats

- Cluster format includes a blend of on-campus and online activities.
- On-campus sessions are held quarterly over an extended weekend (Friday–Saturday) at the Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus.
- Between sessions, students work on course assignments and research, as well as participate in online activities.

Career Opportunities

- college/university faculty member
- chief information security officer
- information security consultant
- research and development
- vice president of information security

Learn More

cec.nova.edu
Curriculum 2015–2016
Total Credits: 64

DEGREE PROGRAM COURSES
This program consists of both required and elective core courses, totaling 32 credits. Students have the option to select any three or more from the required core courses, and the remainder from elective core courses.

Required Core Courses
Select at least three and up to six courses.

Managerial Concentration (4 credits each)
- ISEC 755 Information Security Management
- ISEC 765 Managing Risk in Secure Systems
- DISS 775 Privacy

Technical Concentration (4 credits each)
- ISEC 730 Network Security and Cryptography
- ISEC 740 Secure Systems Analysis and Design
- ISEC 750 Information Protection

Elective Core Courses (4 credits each)
Select between two and five courses.
- RESD 705 Quantitative Research Methods
- RESD 710 Qualitative Research Methods
- RESD 720 Multivariate Research Methodology
- DISS 720 Human-Computer Interaction
- CISD 730 Operating Systems
- DISS 735 Knowledge Management
- DISS 750 Database Systems
- CISD 750 Database Management Systems
- CISD 760 Artificial Intelligence
- CISD 770 Software Engineering

RESEARCH REGISTRATIONS (4 credits each)
Each student will be required to complete two directed research courses of ISEC 898.

Note: Students beginning fall 2014 or later will instead take two or more sections of ISEC 885 Doctoral Research.

These courses will be taken at the end of the student’s coursework. These directed study courses will enable the student, with the support of a faculty adviser, to identify a viable research topic and conduct preliminary research that will lead to formal candidacy for the student.

- ISEC 885 Doctoral Research
- ISEC 898 Directed Research in Information Assurance

DISSERTATION REGISTRATIONS
Students must complete 24 credits of dissertation registrations, (three registrations of ISEC 901). Students who do not complete the dissertation within 24 credits will register for ISEC 920 Continuing Dissertation until the dissertation is complete.

- ISEC 901 Doctoral Dissertation (8 credits each)
- ISEC 920 Continuing Dissertation (4 credits each)

This publication should not be viewed as a substitution for official program requirements and outcomes. A student is responsible for meeting the curriculum and program requirements in the Graduate Student Catalog that are in effect when the student enters the program.