What is distinctive about a professional degree? The traditional master's degree typically has research components and can be generally focused across multiple computer science domains.

This professional degree is concentrated on the practical aspects of applying the tools and techniques of information security in addition to covering the theoretical foundations. Students will be prepared for advanced work in information security to develop software and systems, to build secure network and communication systems, to protect intellectual property, and to measure and understand security status and risk.

Am I qualified? This master’s program is designed for computing professionals with strong programming skills gained either through work experience or educational background. Therefore, students from a variety of educational backgrounds can succeed. A computer science bachelor’s degree, another technical degree with a computer science minor, or significant programming experience developed on the job will prepare students to be successful.

How is the program structured? Students are required to take 30 credit hours and can graduate in less than 12 months. The two initial foundational courses are offered online. All of the remaining courses are taught at Purdue’s West Lafayette campus.

- Two online foundational courses [6 cr.]
- Six CS courses [18 cr.]
- Two electives [6 cr.]

What will I study?
- Foundations of Information Security
- Cryptography
- Network Security
- Software Security
- Social, Economic, and Legal Aspects
- Security Analytics
- Data Security and Privacy

To address the diverse background of the professional students, the program begins with two courses covering foundational computer science material relevant to information security. Subsequently, students take two required core courses and four other security courses chosen by the student to allow flexibility of focus. These six courses provide a thorough knowledge base of the technical aspects of information security with an emphasis on systems, network, data, and software security, plus security analytics. Labs and projects will develop and strengthen a student’s expertise in using tools and assessing security needs.

More information?
Visit our website: www.cs.purdue.edu/ISCP
Email iscp@cs.purdue.edu for additional information about the Information Security for Computing Professionals (ISCP) program.

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The need for well-informed information security leaders who can think strategically is real. Compromises, breaches, and intrusions are a daily occurrence. Information security professionals are in hot demand, as corporations and businesses are investing their time and resources to battle cyber crime, making sure their systems and data are secure and protected.