# The University of Texas at Austin
# Texas Cybersecurity Clinic

**CLINIC PURPOSE & GOALS** — The Texas Cybersecurity Clinic at UT Austin offers students hands-on cybersecurity experience by providing pro bono services to community organizations, small businesses, and public entities that cannot afford or provide such services on their own, or that require temporary augmentation of their cybersecurity teams. The clinic:

- Provides free, student-led cybersecurity services to target-rich, resource-challenged nonprofits, small businesses, and public sector organizations in Texas.

- Provides UT Austin undergraduate and graduate students with hands-on cybersecurity experience, ultimately helping them pursue careers in cybersecurity, national security, emergency management, and related fields.

- Leverages the strong tradition of cybersecurity leadership at UT Austin to foster robust cyber resilience in Texas.

**CLINIC STRUCTURE** — The Texas Cybersecurity Clinic consists of two, 3-credit hour courses hosted by the UT Austin School of Information:

- **FIRST SEMESTER FOUNDATIONAL COURSE:** Students learn key cybersecurity defense concepts and skills—including asset inventory, risk assessment, network and cloud security, access control, patch management, cyber incident response, and security policy drafting—as well as associated skills required to implement these concepts effectively in a real institutional setting.

- **SECOND SEMESTER PRACTICUM COURSE:** Students apply the skills learned in the first semester to provide free cybersecurity hygiene and preventive services to their assigned clinic client under the supervision of Professor Francesca Lockhart of the Strauss Center. The students gain invaluable practical cybersecurity experience and clients receive the benefit of a substantially improved cybersecurity posture.
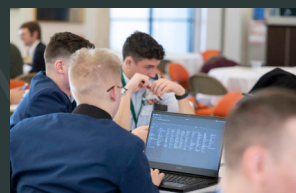






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**CLINIC CLIENTS** — Students work in teams of 3-4 to render free cybersecurity services for a small number of clients each semester. Strong client candidates are organizations with under 250 employees and little to no formal cybersecurity program or support. No prior cybersecurity knowledge or experience is required of the client team. Clients should expect to commit no more than 2 hours of manpower per week to liaising with the clinic student team during their service semester.

- **PROCESS:** Students are partnered in interdisciplinary teams with clients which fit their interests and career goals. Students first work with their client organization to develop a cybersecurity improvement project plan with a timeline spanning the service semester. Students then work with client organization staff to implement the project plan and provide the necessary education, training, and resources for continued efficacy and tool management.

- **SERVICES:** Services are highly customizable depending on the short- and long-term needs and goals of the client organization. Sample services include, but are not limited to: identifying and evaluating assets and their criticality, configuring devices and software securely, creating organizational security policies, mitigating known vulnerabilities, conducting custom cybersecurity education and awareness training, and responding to cybersecurity incidents.