



🛡 CYBERSECURITY CAREER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Build Your Future in Cybersecurity

A 6-month applied learning experience designed for students and career changers. Structured, mentor-supported, and career-focused.



PILLAR

Learn the skills

PLAN

Launch your career



PRACTICE

Practice the craft

A Clear, Guided Path Into Cybersecurity



— Who This Is For



Undergraduate Students

Seeking a structured bridge from academic theory to industry-ready practical skills.



Graduate Students

Looking to specialize and validate advanced concepts with hands-on execution.



Career Changers

Motivated professionals pivoting into tech who need a rational, well-mapped pathway.

The Experience

TechStep solves the challenge of **fragmented learning**. We offer a guided, mentor-supported journey that combines academic clarity with applied learning. Over six months, you will progress from foundational concepts to **hands-on execution**.

— Key Outcomes

- ✓ **Practical Capability:** Apply skills in realistic scenarios, not just theory.
- ✓ **Professional Confidence:** Articulate your experience clearly in interviews.
- ✓ **Certification Readiness:** Aligned directly to entry-level industry roles.

Mission & Program Goals



Cohort 2026

OUR MISSION

"TechStep empowers communities by providing accessible, high-quality cybersecurity education that leads to real career opportunities."

Key Program Goals



Clear Pathway

Provide a rational, structured roadmap into the cybersecurity industry.



Strong Foundation

Build solid technical baselines alongside real-world practical application.



Role Alignment

Help learners select and master a specialization aligned with their strengths.



Practical Exam

Deliver a capstone project and proctored exam to validate capabilities.



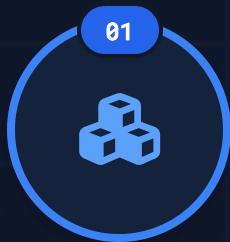
Career Ready

Prepare graduates for certification pursuit and successful career entry.

The 3Ps Framework



A proven model grounded in **Pillar, Plan, and Practice**. This framework ensures a clear progression from foundational understanding to real-world capability.



PILLAR

Establish the essential building blocks. Develop a strong understanding of networks, system security, cloud operations, and data protection.

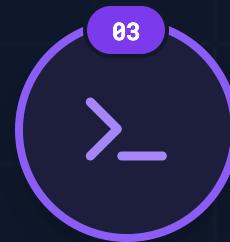
FOUNDATIONS BASELINE



PLAN

Focus on career direction. Identify roles aligned with your strengths, map required skills, and set an intentional growth plan with mentor guidance.

STRATEGY MENTORSHIP



PRACTICE

Transform learning into execution. Engage in hands-on labs, real-world scenarios, capstone projects, and a rigorous proctored exam.

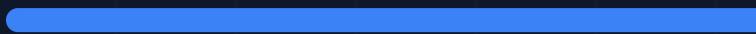
HANDS-ON EXECUTION

Structured Learning Journey



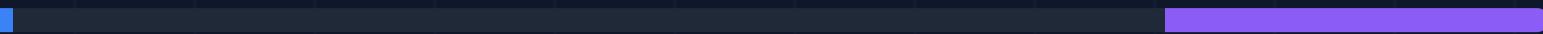
6 Months Duration

PHASE 01



Month 1

PHASE 02



Month 2

Month 3

Month 4

PHASE 03

Month 5

Month 6



MONTHS 1-2

Fundamentals

Build a solid technical foundation regardless of your starting point. This phase establishes the common baseline needed for advanced topics.

- ✓ Networking Basics & Protocols
- ✓ Operating Systems (Linux/Windows)
- ✓ Cloud Fundamentals
- ✓ Modern Threat Landscape



MONTHS 3-5

Specialization

Select a practice area aligned with your career goals. Engage in deeper, hands-on learning with mentor support in your chosen domain.

- ✓ Select Certified Practice Area
- ✓ Guided Hands-on Labs
- ✓ Applied Exercises
- ✓ Mentor-Supported Skills

MORE FOCUS



MONTH 6

Capstone & Career

Bring it all together. Complete a real-world project, prove your skills in a proctored exam, and prepare for the job market.

- ✓ Real-World Capstone Project
- ✓ Proctored Final Exam
- ✓ Resume & Profile Optimization
- ✓ Mock Interview Readiness

Course Phases Breakdown



Detailed Roadmap



MONTHS 1-2

Fundamentals

Building the critical baseline.

Networking Basics

Understanding TCP/IP, OSI Model, subnetting, and routing protocols essential for security.

Operating Systems

Administration and security fundamentals for both Linux and Windows environments.

Cloud Fundamentals

Introduction to cloud architecture, shared responsibility models, and core services.

Modern Threats

Analysis of current threat landscape, attack vectors, and defensive strategies.



MONTHS 3-5

Specialization

Deep diving into your role.

Practice Selection

Choose one of 9 certified tracks aligned with specific industry roles and goals.

Hands-on Labs

Intensive practical exercises using real-world tools within simulated environments.

Applied Exercises

Scenario-based challenges designed to build problem-solving muscle memory.

Mentor Support

Weekly guidance from experienced professionals to troubleshoot and refine skills.



MONTH 6

Capstone & Career

Proving capability & readiness.

Capstone Project

Execute a comprehensive real-world project to serve as a portfolio artifact.

Proctored Exam

Validate knowledge with a rigorous 75-question final assessment (2-hour duration).

Career Prep

Finalize resume, optimize LinkedIn profile, and conduct mock interview sessions.

Certification

Receive course completion certificate and guidance for industry credentials.

Choose Your Practice Area

 9 Certified Paths

Network Defense

Focuses on securing networks, endpoints, and infrastructure. Develop skills in architecture, defensive controls, and monitoring.

DEFENSIVE SECURITY 

Ethical Hacking

Introduces offensive security concepts, attacker methodologies, and penetration testing techniques to strengthen defenses.

OFFENSIVE SECURITY 

Digital Forensics

Covers investigation of security incidents through evidence collection, log analysis, and techniques for legal processes.

INVESTIGATION 

DevSecOps

Explores integrating security into automation pipelines, emphasizing secure coding, CI/CD, and infrastructure-as-code.

APP SECURITY 

SOC & Threat Detection

Prepares learners for security operations: monitoring, alert triage, threat detection, and coordinated response.

OPERATIONS 

Cloud Security

Securing environments across AWS, Azure, and Google Cloud, covering identity, configuration, and threat models.

CLOUD INFRA 

IoT Security

Protection of connected devices and operational technology (OT), emphasizing risk ID and device hardening.

HARDWARE 

Threat Intelligence

Analyzing adversary behavior, interpreting threat data, and producing actionable intel for decision-making.

ANALYSIS 

Governance (GRC)

Concentrates on security governance, risk management, compliance frameworks, and policy development.

MANAGEMENT 

Immersive Learning Experience



Key Components



Premium Instruction

Access to premium self-paced video instruction supported by extensive e-courseware, study guides, and curated materials.



Hands-on Labs

Practice skills in realistic settings using simulated environments, real tools, logs, and live attack scenarios.



Live Mentorship

Weekly 45-minute live mentor sessions provide personalized guidance, technical clarification, and accountability.



Real-World Capstone

Culminate your learning with a comprehensive project that serves as a portfolio-ready artifact for employers.



Proctored Final Exam

Validate your competency through a rigorous 2-hour, 75-question final assessment designed to test applied knowledge.



Career Support

Receive a course completion certificate and one month of dedicated career services for resume and interview prep.

Prepare for Industry-Recognized Certifications



— Our Philosophy



Knowledge Over Memorization

Rather than teaching to a single exam, we focus on building the underlying knowledge required to succeed across multiple pathways.



Experience-Based Readiness

Hands-on practice with real tools ensures you can handle performance-based exam questions with confidence.

— Strategic Alignment

Certification readiness is a core outcome of the TechStep program. Each practice area aligns with **respected industry certifications** that help validate skills and improve employability for entry-level roles.

— Graduation Benefits



Targeted Focus

Understand exactly which certifications align with your specialization.



Skills Validation

Validate your capabilities with credentials that matter to hiring managers.



Career Velocity

Enter the job market with proof of your technical competence.

Learn by Doing



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TechStep skills are developed through **active practice**. Throughout the program, you engage with the tools, data, and scenarios used in professional environments.



REAL TOOLS

Work directly with industry-standard tools, live logs, and actual alerts. Move beyond theory to handle the same technologies used in SOCs.

LIVE LOGS INDUSTRY TECH



SIMULATIONS

Engage in hands-on labs and mentor-supported exercises. Reinforce technical decision-making and problem-solving in safe, realistic environments.

SCENARIOS ACTIVE LABS



CAPSTONE

Produce a portfolio-ready artifact through the final project. Demonstrate capability with tangible evidence you can confidently discuss with employers.

PORTFOLIO EVIDENCE

Mentorship Structure & Support



— Weekly Guidance

Weekly Live Sessions

45-minute live sessions providing direct feedback, clarification on complex topics, and accountability.

Strategic Navigation

Mentors help refine career goals and guide students through specialization and certification choices.

Professional Context

Insights into the hiring landscape, role expectations, and how to position yourself professionally.

— Career Integration

We recognize that **technical skills alone** are not enough. Career development is integrated from day one, ensuring you understand the market before you enter it.

— Referral & Placement Support

Talent Partnerships

TechStep partners with recruiting agencies to create referral pathways for qualified graduates.

Dedicated Support Month

Post-graduation support for resume strengthening, LinkedIn optimization, and mock interview coaching.

Confidence Building

Communication coaching to help you confidently explain technical work and decisions to employers.

Capstone & Assessment



Exit Criteria

Capstone Project

APPLIED LEARNING ARTIFACT

Complete a comprehensive, real-world cybersecurity project aligned to your chosen specialization. This project serves as tangible proof of your skills and is designed to be a portfolio-ready artifact for job interviews.

Month 6

Project Deliverables

- ✓ Real-World Scenario Execution
Solve a complex problem using industry-standard tools.
- ✓ Documentation & Reporting
Produce professional technical reports and executive summaries.
- ✓ Defense of Decisions
Be prepared to articulate and justify technical choices.



Final Assessment

KNOWLEDGE VALIDATION

Validate your technical competency through a rigorous final exam. This assessment ensures that all graduates meet the TechStep standard of excellence before entering the workforce.

Proctored

75

QUESTIONS

Multiple Choice &
Scenario

120

MINUTES

Time Limit (2 Hours)



Live Remote Proctoring

Exam integrity monitored via webcam and screen share



CERTIFICATION PREREQUISITE



Successful Completion

Earns Course Completion Certificate & 8 Practice Certificates

✓ Resume Optimized

✓ LinkedIn Ready

✓ Interview Prepared

Career Support Services



Dedicated Support Month

Following graduation, enter a focused month of career services designed to transition you from student to professional.



Resume Strengthening

Receive expert reviews to optimize your resume, ensuring it highlights your technical skills and capstone projects effectively.



LinkedIn Optimization

Learn strategies to build a professional digital brand that attracts recruiters and showcases your certifications.



Mock Interviews

Build confidence through practice interview sessions with detailed feedback on both technical answers and soft skills.



Referral Pathways

Gain access to referral opportunities through TechStep's network of recruiting agencies and talent placement partners.



Hiring Insights

Understand the current hiring landscape, role expectations, and positioning strategies to compete effectively.

Graduation Outcomes



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STUDENT SUCCESS PROFILE

"Graduates leave the program with tangible credentials, documented experience, and a clear next step toward industry certification and employment."

What You Graduate With



8 Completion Certificates

Issued by TechStep and partners, validating applied learning across foundational concepts and your chosen specialization.



Documented Experience

Verified hands-on lab experience aligned to real-world scenarios, creating a portfolio of practical work for resumes.



Completed Capstone

A real-world project artifact demonstrating your ability to execute, analyze, and explain technical decisions to employers.



Certification Readiness

Full preparation for formal industry credentials, understanding exam domains, and readiness for proctored testing.



TechStep

CYBERSECURITY CAREER MENTORSHIP

● APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR 2026

Start Your Cybersecurity Journey

Join a community of motivated learners and experienced mentors. Transform your interest into a career through our structured, applied learning pathway.

Apply Now for Cohort 2026 →



EMAIL SUPPORT

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VISIT WEBSITE

www.techstepfoundation.org



ORGANIZATION

TechStep Foundation

"TechStep empowers communities by providing accessible, high-quality cybersecurity education that leads to real career opportunities."