

Host Institutions for the INSuRE Summer 2027 Camps

Introduction and Overview

The Department of War (DoW) Cyber Service Academy (CSA), in partnership with the Information Security Research and Education (INSuRE) Program Office

<https://www.caecommunity.org/initiatives/initiative-insure> , is soliciting proposals from qualified academic institutions to host the 2027 INSuRE Summer Workshop.

The Summer Workshop is a cornerstone of the INSuRE program, designed as an intensive, project-based research experience. The primary goals of the Workshop are to:

- Provide **students** (bachelors / masters / PhD / Doctorate) with an opportunity to collaborate on in-depth, innovative research projects.
- Foster a strong and collaborative research community among student peers.
- Offer a platform for sustained engagement with professionals from government and industry.
- Align student skill development with the DoD Cyber Workforce Framework (DCWF/DoD 8140.01) and introduce them to the mission of the DoW, and the DoW Cyber Service Academy (CSA).

This event serves as a critical opportunity for deep learning, professional development, and hands-on research experience in the cyber field.

Scope of Work

The selected host institution will be responsible for the overall planning, facilitation, and management of the summer workshop. Key responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Providing the necessary infrastructure (virtual and/or physical) to support a multi-week collaborative research project.
- Coordinating with the INSuRE Program Office to manage student applications, team formation, and projects.
- Mapping the Workshop's learning objectives and project outcomes to relevant DCWF/8140 work roles and competencies.
- Integrating dedicated sessions or materials to inform students about the DoW CSA program, its benefits, and the application process for careers within the DoW.

- Administering post-workshop surveys and compiling a final report on outcomes, challenges, and participant success metrics.

Proposal Submission Requirements

To ensure a thorough and equitable evaluation, all proposals must be formatted to include the following sections in the order listed.

Statement of Capability

Proposals must begin with a Statement of Capability (not to exceed one page) that summarizes the institution's qualifications. This statement should highlight experience with project-based learning or similar research workshops, relevant faculty expertise, and the quality of available infrastructure.

Proposed Workshop Structure and Timeline

Applicants must provide a detailed framework for the workshop. This section must describe:

- Modality: The proposed format of the workshop (e.g., fully virtual, hybrid).
- Timeline: A sample timeline outlining key phases and milestones.
- Mentor Engagement: A plan for facilitating effective interaction between students and Problem Mentors (PMs).
- Final Showcase: A description of the proposed format for final project presentations.

DCWF/8140 Alignment

Applicants must describe how the proposed workshop projects and learning objectives will map to specific work roles, tasks, and competencies within the DoD Cyber Workforce Framework.

DoW Cyber Service Academy:

The proposal must detail a plan to educate students on the DoW Cyber Service Academy (CSA) program. This could include sessions, materials, or guest speakers (e.g., current DoW CSA members, DoW recruiters) focused on the benefits of the program and the pathways to apply for and secure a career within the Department of War.

Additionally, the proposal should set a goal of reserving 20% of the overall workshop capacity to provide priority access for current DoW CSA Scholars.

Key Personnel

The proposal must identify the Key Personnel who will facilitate the workshop, including a Workshop Coordinator or Director. Provide brief biographies for each person, highlighting their qualifications and experience relevant to their proposed role.

Evaluation and Metrics for Success

Proposals must include an Evaluation Plan detailing the metrics for measuring the workshop's success. This should include methods for assessing the quality of final projects, participant skill development, and feedback from both students and Problem Mentors.

Detailed Budget

A detailed, line-item budget must be included. The budget should clearly justify all anticipated costs and demonstrate how the funds will be used to support the workshop's objectives. (*Utilize the DoW CSA Budget and Student Identification Sheet 2026-2027*)

Logistical and Administrative Details

- **Workshop Duration:** Each workshop will run for 3-4 weeks, depending on the problem difficulty and Problem Mentor (PM) availability. Proposals should describe how they will manage this variable duration. Note: Problems and Problem Mentors will be solicited through the DoW CSA via an internal tasker with assistance from the INSuRE Team.
- **Workshop Timing:** The workshop is planned for the Summer 2027 timeframe (June-August). The exact start and end dates will be finalized with the selected host institution.
- **Delivery Model:** The host institution will define the primary delivery model (virtual, hybrid, or in-person) in their proposal.

Budget

A total of \$125,000 may be requested for each camp. Funds may be allocated for personnel costs, virtual collaboration platform licenses, supplies, and honoraria or stipends for guest experts or student support, as justified in the budget.

Submission and Evaluation

Proposals must be submitted as a single Portable Document Format (PDF) document attached as a part of the larger DoW CSA submission.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. The institution's demonstrated capabilities and experience.
2. The clarity and feasibility of the proposed workshop structure.
3. The quality of the plan for aligning projects with the DCWF/8140 framework.
4. The thoroughness and creativity of the plan for integrating DoW CSA.
5. The qualifications of the proposed Key Personnel.

6. The effectiveness of the Evaluation and Metrics for Success plan.
7. The reasonableness and cost-effectiveness of the proposed budget.