PALO ALTO NETWORKS CYBERSECURITY ACADEMY

Palo Alto Networks Cybersecurity Academy exists to equip students with the next-generation cybersecurity knowledge and skills they'll need to succeed in today's rapidly changing cyberthreat landscape. In the few years since the program launched, it has grown to have more than 450 partner institutions in more than 55 countries worldwide.

The Critical Need for Cybersecurity Training

A major driver behind the Palo Alto Networks Cybersecurity Academy initiative is the critical need for qualified cybersecurity professionals. The Center for Cyber Safety and Education forecasts a worldwide cybersecurity personnel shortage of 1.8 million by 2022,[1] and Cybersecurity Ventures predicts there will be 3.5 million cybersecurity job openings by 2021.[2] All analysts agree: cybersecurity training must be prioritized as the sophistication, complexity and sheer volume of successful cyberattacks increases and threatens our digital way of life. Palo Alto Networks dedicates significant resources to help address this shortage.

Program Overview

Palo Alto Networks Cybersecurity Academy provides technology and resources for use in the classroom – at no cost – to any degree-granting, nationally accredited academic institution of higher education.

Benefits

Palo Alto Networks Cybersecurity Academy benefits for participating institutions include the following:

- Beginner, intermediate and advanced cybersecurity curricula online via Moodle®
- Assistance with curriculum adoption and lab options
- Training on academy curriculum and next-generation security technology
- Free, fully bundled Palo Alto Networks VM-50 virtual firewall and licenses
- Discounts on select next-generation firewall hardware
- Discounts on Palo Alto Networks certification exam vouchers

Our goal is to make teaching our state-of-the-art cybersecurity technology as easy as possible while providing a relevant, interesting and challenging learning experience for students.

Faculty Training

Prior to teaching, faculty must successfully complete one of the following training sessions, including scoring 80 percent or higher on all associated course assessments and completing labs:

- Self-paced online training
- Live, instructor-led online training
- Instructor-led in-person training

1. Frost & Sullivan, "2017 Global Information Security Workforce Study," (ISC)², June 7, 2017, https://iamcybersafe.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Europe-GISWS-Report.pdf.
2. "Cybersecurity Jobs Report 2018–2021," Cybersecurity Ventures, May 2017, https://cybersecurityventures.com/jobs/

Student Lab Options

Palo Alto Networks Cybersecurity Academy technical staff will advise and assist in the optimal lab setup. There are three lab options:

1. **Virtual labs (preferred; visit netdevgroup.com for pricing)**

   NDG NETLAB+ platform by Network Development Group with VMware ESXi™ infrastructure

   NDG cloud-based labs

2. **Palo Alto Networks VM-50s (free)**

   Bundled with WildFire® malware prevention service and URL Filtering

3. **Palo Alto Networks firewalls (academic discount offered on select models)**

Curriculum & Certification

Palo Alto Networks Cybersecurity Academy provides resources and certifications tailored to the academic year and institutions' specific needs. Our goal is to provide a full complement of curriculum resources, including courseware, quizzes, assessments, hands-on labs and certifications. Figure 1 outlines the current course and certification roadmap, from entry-level through graduate-level studies. For each level, we provide a formal certification that will add significant value to a student's résumé.
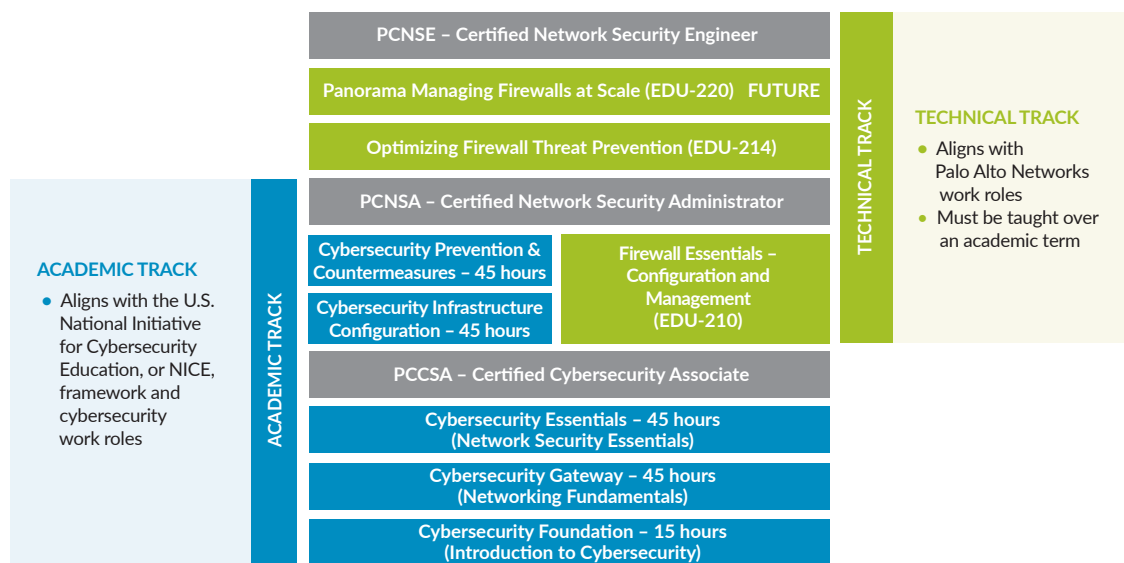

Figure 1: Course and certification roadmap

Join the Cybersecurity Academy

To start incorporating the cybersecurity courseware and technology into your curriculum, complete the application and sign and return our Cybersecurity Academy Agreement, which can be found at www.paloaltonetworks.com/academy.

Further Questions

If you have any questions about Palo Alto Networks Cybersecurity Academy, email the team at **academy@paloaltonetworks.com**.