

# Benjamin Taylor

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## EDUCATION

<b>University of North Carolina at Charlotte</b> M.S. Cybersecurity, Early Entry • GPA: 4.0 / 4.0	Charlotte, NC <i>Aug. 2025 – May 2027</i>
<b>University of North Carolina at Charlotte</b> B.S. Computer Science, Cybersecurity Concentration; Minor in Mathematics • GPA: 3.85 / 4.0   Chancellor's List	Charlotte, NC <i>Aug. 2023 – Dec. 2026</i>

## PROJECTS

<b>Betta Phish: Hooked? (CCI Startup Hackathon 2025, Most Creative Award)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Led a 4-member team at UNC Charlotte's CCI Startup Hackathon to design Hooked?, a gamified phishing-awareness and financial-literacy platform, winning the "Most Creative" award out of 40+ teams.</li><li>Developed a full-stack prototype in under 48 hours using Flask, HTMX, and React, featuring real-time scoring, XP/badge progression, and interactive phishing inbox missions.</li><li>Built a scalable back-end for modular lesson paths and user tracking, integrating dual learning paths for cybersecurity and financial literacy.</li></ul>
<b>HackTheBox Capture the Flags: National Guard, Holmes CTF &amp; HackTheBoo 2025</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Represented UNC Charlotte's 49th Security Division in a Hack The Box CTF hosted by the North Carolina National Guard, placing 2nd out of 23 teams and capturing 40/46 flags across AI exploitation, reverse engineering, and web challenges.</li><li>Individually competed in HackTheBoo 2025, solving 19/23 challenges and ranking Top 4% globally (120/2,893) across forensics, web, OSINT, crypto, and reverse engineering categories.</li><li>Led UNC Charlotte's 49th Security Division team "Sherlock's Homies" in HackTheBox's first Blue CTF, placing Top 8% globally (634/7,085) through forensic flag analysis, Registry artifact parsing, and MITRE ATT&amp;CK mapping.</li></ul>
<b>Obscura: Real-Time Threat Detection Platform</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Engineered a full-stack SOC simulation platform analyzing 10K+ packets per session, with real-time detection of SYN scans, brute-force attempts, and YARA rule matches.</li><li>Integrated Python (Flask, PyShark, YARA) backend with a React/Tailwind dashboard, enabling analysts to triage alerts 40% faster through live visualization and log interaction.</li><li>Designed correlation pipelines that emulate enterprise SOC workflows, providing end-to-end visibility into attack chains using custom PCAP datasets.</li></ul>
<b>Securing the Unseen: Hardening Cybersecurity in IoT Devices</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Authored a Medium article highlighting IoT insecurity as a public safety issue, referencing Mirai, WannaCry, and medical device vulnerabilities.</li><li>Analyzed EternalBlue-based ransomware propagation and mapped attack chains to MITRE ATT&amp;CK, recommending Zero Trust and segmentation defenses.</li><li>Presented findings to 50+ students and faculty, translating complex exploits into practical security strategies.</li></ul>

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

<b>Languages:</b> Python, C++, C, Java, JavaScript, SQL, Bash, C#, HTML, CSS
<b>Cybersecurity &amp; Networking:</b> Threat Detection & IR, SIEM (Splunk, Sentinel, ELK), Packet Analysis (Wireshark, Zeek), Recon (Nmap, Banner Grabbing), IDS/IPS (Snort, Suricata), Detection Engineering, Vulnerability & Risk Assessment, YARA Rules, MITRE ATT&CK
<b>Tools &amp; Platforms:</b> Security Onion, Microsoft Defender, Burp Suite, Splunk, PyShark, GitHub, VS Code, VMware, VirtualBox, MongoDB, Node.js
<b>Operating Systems:</b> Windows 10/11, Kali Linux, Parrot OS, Ubuntu, Red Hat

## CERTIFICATIONS

<b>Certified in Cybersecurity (CC) ((ISC)<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<i>Apr. 2025</i>
<b>Google Cybersecurity Certificate</b> (Coursera)	<i>Mar. 2025</i>
<b>SOC Level 1 Certificate</b> (TryHackMe)	<i>May 2025</i>
<b>Google Business Intelligence</b> (Coursera)	<i>Apr. 2025</i>
<b>Microsoft Office Specialist: Expert</b> (Office 2019)	<i>May 2023</i>

## CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

<b>49th Security Division Club</b> — <i>Officer</i> Organized and participated in weekly cybersecurity talks and workshops for 50+ students.	<i>Dec. 2024 – Present</i>
<b>Charlotte AI Research</b> — <i>Member</i> Discussed AI/ML applications for cybersecurity and threat detection.	<i>Aug. 2025 – Present</i>
<b>CLT Lifters Club</b> — <i>Member</i>	<i>Sept. 2024 – Present</i>