



**UFSIT**  
**Career Fair**

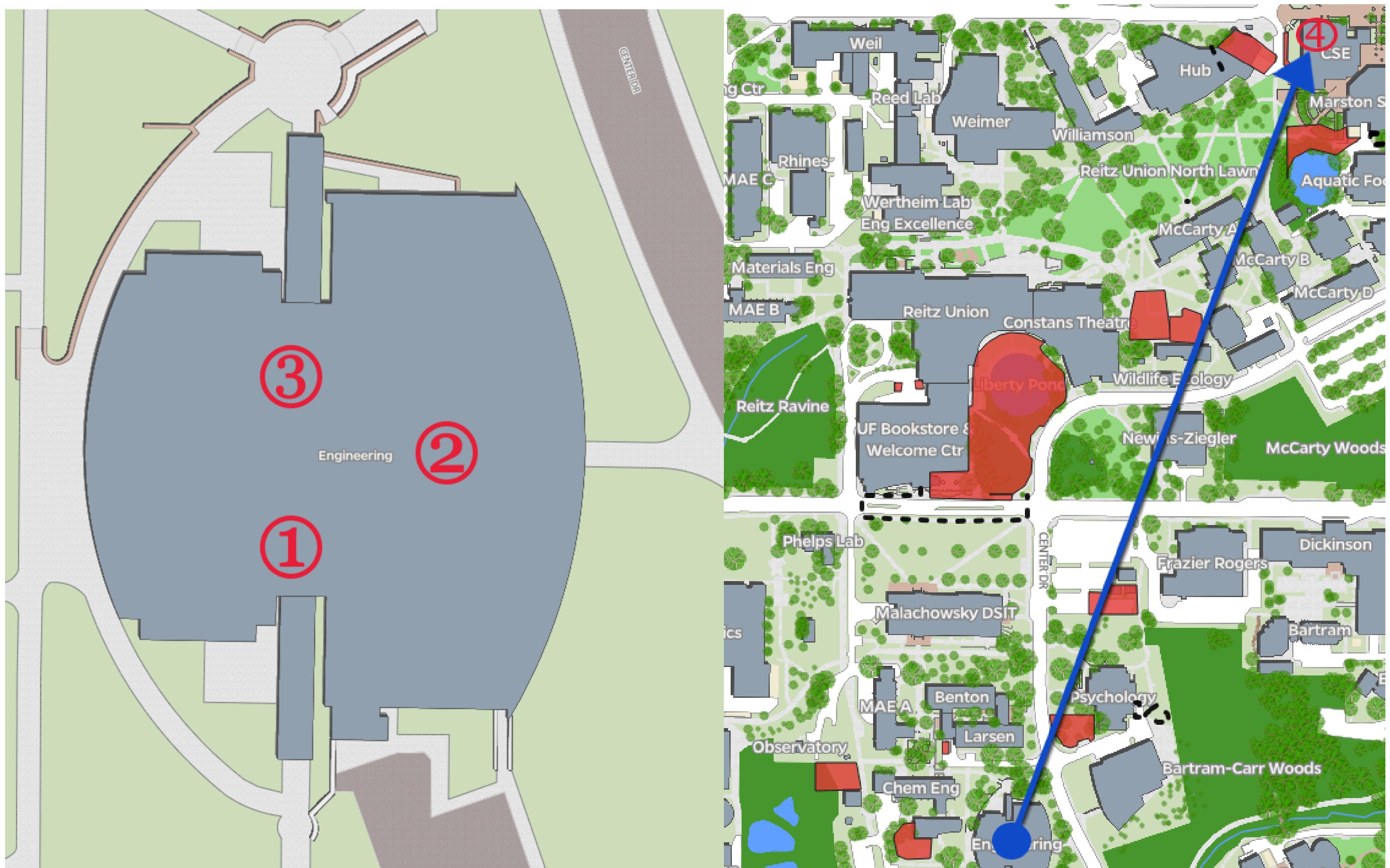
# Hacking your career

As a computer science student at the University of Florida, whether undergraduate or graduate, there is one obstacle always looming over you:

**finding a job after graduation.**

It drives you to spend your free time building your resume, practicing interview questions, and developing new skills. These efforts culminating in the opportunity to showcase yourself at the CISE career fair... only to find that you're just another sardine packed in the vast sea of black and blue suits. Hours are spent slowly inching through lines, just to be told to apply online and that the positions offered aren't even in your specialty: **cybersecurity**.

If this situation sounds familiar, then you need worry no longer. Located in the New Engineering Building Rotunda, the UFSIT career fair is an event created by security students, for security students. This walk will guide you through all aspects of the cybersecurity-themed career fair so that you can get a jump start on your career.





# Locks, Picks, & People

Nestled in the hills between the glamorous Malachowsky Hall and dependable Shands Hospital lies the New Engineering Building. Arriving at the entrance, you stride confidently under the metal overhang. Towering brick columns pass you on either side, but you pay them no heed for your eyes lie on the opportunities ahead. Opening the glass doors, a gust of cool air blows past you, carrying your fatigue from the Florida heat with it. To your left lie several bulky vending machines in case you need a quick snack. But your eyes gravitate to the rectangular wooden table on your right, draped in a banner. The letters UFSIT and neon green text resembling hacker code shine from the black depths of the banner, inviting you into a world of hidden knowledge.

Atop the banner glimmer golden locks and slender silver picks. Some small, some large; some transparent, some cut in half. Before you lies an array of locks of all shapes and sizes. An unusual sight for a career fair, but glancing around you see attendees passing their time in lines with locks in their hands. A representative of the club UFSIT mans the wooden table. They explain to you the inner workings of a lock, throwing around terms like pins, raking, and tension. Once they finish, they hand you a set to practice on yourself and send you on your merry way to enjoy the rest of the fair.



A quick stride through the towering white hall brings you to the center of the rotunda. Above, faint rays of sunshine stream through the skylights. Your gaze follows them as they gently descend into the room. White cylindrical lamps adorn the walls, imbuing the space with a soft, calming light. The rays glide down the grand staircase, wrapping around the room until they rest on the floor. Below, you realize that you are standing in the middle of a large ceramic flower. Tiles, resembling the colors of ancient Greek pottery, decorate the floor you stand on.



Following the pattern, you realize that there are three paths you can take from here, one of which you just came from. Ahead, a branching hallway lies. The logo above the entrance indicates that you are, in fact, in the L3HARRIS Rotunda. The tables of recruiters lining the walls, and the bustling activity of prospective employees around you indicate that this is, in fact, the place you were looking for.

# Recruiters in the Rotunda

A steady stream of students bounces between each of the 12 tables representing a variety of companies. Praetorian's table flares red, a homage to their famous penetration testing positions. The table for the Florida state departments occupies three times the size of the others, giving enough space to represent the various agencies and their blue teaming positions. The orange and blue tables of local UF startups hiring cybersecurity leads can be found tucked away in the corners of the hall.

You work your way from table to table, introducing yourself to each of the recruiters. Even when the activity lulls and you're waiting in line, the networking doesn't stop. With your lock in hand, you strike up a conversation with those around you. Bonding over the art of lockpicking, you practice a new skill while familiarizing yourself with your fellow gators. Some of them are adorned in a three-piece suit while others dress in business casual. Regardless of their approach, they all share a passion for cyber which the recruiters desire. Since the event is specialized, the queues are short, allowing you to visit all the tables within 2-3 hours. This leaves ample time to explore the third and final hallway of the career fair.



Finding yourself in the central rotunda once again, you take another left and enter the back hallway. Similar to the first, you find yourself amidst the vast white architecture. However, this time it's complemented by a sleek white table running along the right wall. Sliding your hand along the cool white surface, you make your way to the virtual booths.

## Bonus: Virtual Booths



Arranged 4 in a row, these booths consist of a chair, laptop, and headphones. You rest yourself on the tall plastic swivel chair and cover your ears with the soft black headset. After a day on your feet, full of conversations, this new environment comforts your bottom and your top in its cushioned embrace. Ahead of you lies a glass plane, behind which lies blue machinery of mysterious purpose. But that doesn't matter now. What matters is the impression you're about to make. You lock in, lock down, and smile eagerly at the remote recruiter displayed on your laptop's screen. A few minutes of engaging conversation later, you wrap up and walk away just as the career fair comes to a close.

# Pizza After-Party

The stations disappear as tables are packed, chairs are stacked, and lockpicks are given back. Around you, bit by bit, the venue is cleared until nothing remains except a crowd of people: the connections you've formed. However, don't be fooled into thinking that your tour is over; there's one last session planned for the day. You join the crowd in their trek across campus to CSE 231, the site of the 6 PM UFSIT GBM. Eventually you make your way across the cobbled path of Turlington plaza, up the brick steps of the side entrance, through the glass doors of the student center, and into the side door of the meeting room.

Spaced evenly around the room, 16 large circular wooden tables blossom like a flower of technology; the anthers are LED lights that shine orange and blue, the petals are computer setups that lie untouched, and the sepals are cushioned chairs that roll where they please. Between two white columns lies an open space with the central podium. The TV displays mounted around the walls all face the same place. The white lights embedded in the ceilings all light the same site. The room itself gravitates towards the object adjacent to the central podium: a large black box, about the same height as the podium, atop which stacks upon stacks of Domino's pizza radiate their oven-baked warmth and cheesy aroma.



This is where every week UFSIT captivates audiences with the latest hacks, nurtures the passion for cybersecurity, and teaches the world's future line of digital defense. Today, it is a place for you to debrief from the recent event, chat with recruiters and students in a casual setting, and enjoy good food. Two hours later, empty pizza boxes are recycled, doors are locked, and everyone returns home for the night.

# Continuing your Connections

Through the UFSIT career fair, you furthered your career by practicing new skills, connecting with companies, and joining a community dedicated to seeing you succeed in cyber. Although it'll be a year until the next career fair, you can spend that time pursuing projects, certifications, and competitions with UFSIT. A wise professor once said:

***"There are about 100 important people in cybersecurity, and if you want to be good at your job, you need to know every one of them".***

Today marks the start of your career in cyber. The friends you make will determine its future.

**#UFSIT #CareerDevelopment #Cybersecurity**

