Reflective Essay: My Experience in the BSIS Program

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Evaluating Healthcare.gov: A Usability and Interface Analysis

Introduction

As I seek to complete my Bachelor of Science in Information Science (BSIS) at the University of South Florida, I find it useful to outline my experiences as a student in the program and how they have contributed to my career, knowledge, and skills. Through the study within the Information Science major, I have been exposed to a broad range of topics addressing cybersecurity, management of information systems, human-computer interaction, and ethical hacking. Every course added a level to my understanding of the topic and aided in determining my career aspirations in the technology and information security sector.

Reflections on the Program and Career Aspirations

During my stay in the BSIS program, I gained a well-rounded exposure to the numerous fields of study that constitute information science and technology. The course exposed me to technical material such as system architecture, cybersecurity procedures, and data storage, as well as promoting critical thinking and ethical thinking in technology. My greatest interest is in a career in cybersecurity, where I would specialize in defense security, threat analysis, or network protection. From my studies at the academic level—such as in courses like Ethical Hacking and Health Information Systems Security—I believe that the IS program has provided me with a solid foundational knowledge of how to secure computer environments and enforce the right security controls.

Program Strengths and Areas for Improvement

One of the program aspects that attracted me the most was the diversity of courses presented in the technical as well as theoretical fields. The lab sessions accompanied by hands-

on experience in concepts bridged the gap between the theoretical and practical aspects. I was impressed by the flexibility of learning online since it was an effective and time-saving approach, given that I am a self-motivated learner. But I think some of the technical courses, especially those that teach about cybersecurity tools or networking protocols, would be well-served by having hybrid or in-person labs to allow for more interactive learning.

Though the program did offer worthwhile core classes, I believe that more electives are necessary, especially in rising topics like cloud computing, digital forensics, and artificial intelligence from a cyber perspective. Adding these courses would make the program more applicable to current industry and enable students to better link education to trends. Additionally, adding more project courses or internships would provide students with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience prior to graduation.

Future Educational and Career Goals

Upon graduating from the BSIS program, I will seek certifications to gain additional credentials in cybersecurity. My short-term goals are to earn the CompTIA Security+, Network+, and Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH) certifications. Long term, I would also like to earn a master's degree in Information Security or Cybersecurity, depending on where my professional path leads. These additional certifications will make me more competitive and ready for high-level positions in the IT field.

Conclusion

The BSIS program has been a great start to my future in information security. It has allowed me to learn technical expertise, see technology issues in everyday life, and grasp the bigger picture of working with digital systems and sensitive information. Although there are a

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few places the program can be improved or enhanced, for the most part, my experience has been

enlightening and inspiring. I am ready to advance to the next stage of my career and sure that the

education that I have gained will serve me well in continuing my objectives in cybersecurity and

beyond.