

Top Five Issues Related to Cybersecurity Career Readiness

Written by Guardian Digital in Midland Park, NJ for Bergen Community College Students

Imagine a role where you protect everything from big fish, such as [personal accounts](#) and government databases, to the minute level of social media accounts and user data. In this job, you, as a cybersecurity professional, will stand between hackers and any damage they may be able to inflict on you. Sounds daunting? That's because it certainly is!

Well, good news: the world needs [students](#) like you. Cybersecurity expertise has never been in higher demand; that means *now* is your time. But getting into this field requires much more than earning just a degree. You need to be career-ready, and that means surmounting a few key challenges we will break down right here in this article!

1. The Skills Gap: What It Is and How to Close It

Here's the deal: Cybersecurity jobs are quite literally [everywhere](#); there just aren't enough people with the right skills to fill them. That's what we can go ahead and call the "skills gap." Companies these days are incredibly desperate for [skilled professionals](#), and yet there's a shortage of candidates who can actually step up to the plate. Crazy, right?

Now, the thing is that by 2025, *3.5 million* jobs are going to need to be filled in the cybersecurity industry, and they want people just like you to come forward. That's one humongous opportunity, just harnessed and waiting for candidates to take hold of it. Remember: people don't get these jobs unless they are equipped with the right skills.

Let's break down what it is you need to land them and build up your future.

2. What Skills Are Hot Right Now?

Can you [hunt down breaches](#), jump into action during a cyberattack, and lock down a network before things spiral out of control? Then BINGO, that is precisely what companies are looking for. They don't just want someone who can talk the talk—they need someone who can dive in when things go sideways and take charge. Learn about master threat hunting, incident response, and network security, and you won't just stand out—you'll become the person companies can't ignore. These skills show you're not just absorbing information; you're ready to jump in, solve problems, and take on real threats.

3. How Can You Close the Skills Gap?

The good thing is that you have options- colleges, online programs, and even boot camps offer courses to help you acquire those skills. And not to mention the power of mentorship; someone already in the field will help you find your way in the industry and take you on a route toward your desired place. Networking with pros in the industry can also lead to opportunities such as internships or jobs. The more and more experience you get with the real world, the closer you get to closing that skills gap and landing that dream job. However, securing that dream job is only part of the equation—personal and professional growth never stops.

You'll Never Stop Learning (And Why it's Awesome)

Think of cybersecurity like playing whack-a-mole. Every time you fix a threat, another one surfaces. Since cybersecurity is ever-evolving, learning new techniques never stops! That's part of what makes cybersecurity fascinating: there is always something new to deal with.

Certifications like CISSP, CEH, and CompTIA Security+ can be game-changers when it comes to showing that you're up-to-date. These will add credibility and prestige to your resume and demonstrate to employers that you can handle current threats effectively - be they ethical hacking (CEH) or mastering security (CISSP). Certification provides one an edge in the job market - so why wait? Give yourself an edge now.

4. Practical Experience: Why Hands-On Learning Is Key

Real-World Experience > Textbook Knowledge

So, how does one get experience? Well, a great place to start is with internships. Many companies do have cybersecurity internships where you work directly with security teams. If you can't get an internship, you can also volunteer at some local businesses or nonprofits that need help in the cybersecurity field.

Have you ever heard of Capture the Flag competitions? It's another exciting way to gain experience. These competitions bridge the gap between theory and practice, allowing you to test your skills in a safe, simulated environment while solving real-world cybersecurity problems. They're not just great learning experiences—they're fun and competitive and make your resume stand out. Plus, they prove to employers that you can think on your feet and handle pressure like a pro.

5. Soft Skills: Yes, They Matter!

Cybersecurity is not all about hacking into systems or debugging. You need to know how to communicate, how to actually think, and how to work in a team. You cannot be a real professional and neglect the legal side of cybersecurity. NIST, GDPR, and [ISO/IEC 27001](#) are not just technical mumbo jumbo but rather rulebooks that companies live by to stay secure and

compliant. Soft skills like problem-solving and teamwork become highly relevant in the context of handling security incidents or explaining technical details to non-technical colleagues.

Mastering [regulations](#) in this regard keeps you informed but soft skills wins you a spot among the best candidates. Why? Businesses need professionals who can not only fend off cyber threats but also bridge the gap between technical complexities and everyday operations. In other words, those with strong soft skills are the ones who truly shine in the “cyberfield”.

Take the First Step Toward Cybersecurity Career Readiness

All-in-all getting career-ready in cybersecurity requires more than hitting the books. You'll have to close skills gaps, commit to continuous learning, get your hands dirty, develop soft skills, and stay on top of trends. If you confront these five issues head-on, you are going to be in great shape to land that dream job.

So, what's next? Be it signing up for a certification course, finding an internship, or getting industry trends, now is a time for implementation. You got this!