

A Statewide Cyber Workforce Development Program

Maryland is facing a critical cybersecurity workforce shortage, with industry demand projected to grow by 40% over the next decade. Employers across the state are struggling to find qualified entry-level talent to fill essential roles that support both public and private sector needs. This gap represents more than just a challenge—it is a transformative opportunity to build a sustainable talent pipeline that prepares.

The Cyber Workforce Accelerator (CWA)[™] is a program developed by the Maryland Association of Community Colleges and BCR Cyber that provides all 16 of Maryland's community colleges with access to BCR Cyber Series 3000 Cyber Ranges. The BCR Cyber Series 3000 Cyber Range is an experiential training and education system that simulates cyber-attacks, demonstrating cybersecurity concepts and operations.

The CWA features a Workforce Development (WFD) component which consists of BCR Cyber's SOC Operations Analyst I (SOCOA I) training and certification. This program is currently funded to train 1,100 participants throughout the state of Maryland into successful cybersecurity employment—**at no cost to participants**.

BCR Cyber's SOCOA I Training & Certification

SOCOA I Certification is an Industry-Recognized Credential (IRC), recognized by the State of Maryland, and is designed to prepare individuals for entry-level Security Operations Center (SOC) roles. This training provides technical cybersecurity knowledge, including threat analysis, security operations, enterprise security, and hands-on incident response. The training and certification includes:

- **Part I – Asynchronous Training – 40 Hours:** Introductory cybersecurity training with an emphasis on enterprise governance and practical knowledge used day-to-day by SOC analysts, including networking, Linux command line, and cyber-attack details;
- **Part II – Experiential Range Training – 8 Hours:** Students work collaboratively to detect, mitigate, and remediate security incidents during live instruction on the BCR Cyber Series 3000 Cyber Range;
- **Certification Exam:** A 100 question, 90-minute exam.

CWA-WFD Program Benefits

- No-cost to qualified candidates
- Experiential training and education
- Technical knowledge and hands-on skills
- 48 hours of training, delivered in two parts
- Available virtually through all Maryland community colleges
- SOC Operations Analyst I Certification
- State of Maryland IRC
- Career and employment opportunities



The Workforce Development (WFD) program prepares students to hit the ground running. Through hands-on, experiential training, participants gain real-world skills that directly translate to today's cybersecurity workplace. Upon completion, students earn the SOC Operations Analyst I Certification, a credential aligned with federal standards, leading industry frameworks, and employer expectations. This means graduates walk into their first job fully equipped to contribute on day one—filling critical roles in Maryland's cybersecurity workforce.

All participants access the program virtually by enrolling through one of Maryland's 16 participating community colleges. Together with Maryland's community colleges, this program is building a stronger, more cyber-ready workforce—one student at a time.

Visit www.bcr cyber.com/cwa to see if you qualify and to locate the participating community college nearest you.

BCR Cyber training programs combine theoretical knowledge with real-world scenarios, preparing students to rapidly enter the cyber workforce. To ensure training programs are aligned with today's cybersecurity industry standards, BCR Cyber has cultivated a consortium of 40+ employers, such as Northrop Grumman, Booz Allen Hamilton, Accenture, and a host of small and medium size cybersecurity companies. These organizations provide direct input on BCR Cyber's training, ensuring it provides the most relevant and up-to-date content. They then monitor student progress and recruit from our program graduates.

CWA-WFD Participant Eligibility

- Must be enrolled at a Maryland Community College
- Must have or seeking an Associates Degree in IT/cyber OR have two of the following certifications: CompTIA A+, CompTIA Network+, CompTIA Security+
- Must be looking for employment in IT/cyber
- Must be a U.S. citizen
- Must be domiciled in Maryland
- Must have no criminal convictions
- Must be 17 and a half or older

ABOUT BCR CYBER

Established in 2017, BCR Cyber (formerly Baltimore Cyber Range) is dedicated to delivering exceptional training solutions to both government and commercial clients. BCR Cyber has trained thousands of individuals and successfully placed over 83 percent into employment. The BCR Cyber Range is the first such facility in the world specifically dedicated to workforce development in the cybersecurity sector. BCR Cyber provides trainees with the most advanced cybersecurity strategies and techniques in an environment that simulates real threats in real-time. The range's hands-on training encompasses cyber threat detection, compromise mitigation, and system remediation, and is complemented by placement services. For more information, visit www.bcr cyber.com.



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