

ICT Regional Workforce Advisory

Regional Workforce Advisory meetings help inform decisions on needed investments and enhancements for Career Education (CE) programs in the Capital Region. Here are the **key findings** from the Spring 2022 ICT meeting focused specifically on **cybersecurity career pathways**.

1 The Rise in Cybersecurity Jobs

EMSI/Burning Glass projected that from 2020 to 2025, the average job growth for cybersecurity is **5%**. About **2,700 job openings** are anticipated each year for the next 5 years.

Annual Median Wage for Cybersecurity Occupations

\$96,347

Fastest Growing Cybersecurity Occupations:

- Information Security Analysts (18%)
- Software Developers & Quality Assurance Analysts/Testers (12%)

Projected growth from 2020-2025.

2 Pathways to Cybersecurity Careers

Although 62% of positions require a bachelor's degree, certifications in combination with experience could allow applicants to attain jobs without needing baccalaureate education.

High Value Certifications

- CompTIA Security+
- SANS
- Python
- Microsoft Azure

3 Job Experience Required

35% of employers preferred applicants to have 3 to 5 years of prior experience.

Aside from work history/work-based learning, hands-on experience can be garnered through prior clubs, competitions, hack-a-thons, or other extracurricular activities.

4 Essential Skills

- Communication
- Critical thinking
- Teamwork/collaboration
- Curiosity
- Passion for work & continued learning

5 Keeping Pace with a Changing Industry

Educational programs are challenged with developing and maintaining relevant curriculum.

Employers shared that generalized cybersecurity programs can mitigate these challenges, with specialized training available on the job.