

Course: CSM: Ethical Hacking

Cyber Pathways Across Maryland SME Rubric

Reviewer Name: Cedric Persaud

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This course is offered by the College of Southern Maryland (<https://www.csmd.edu/programs-courses/cyber-center/index.html>). The goal for this review is to validate that the curriculum is complete, current, and relevant to industry cybersecurity needs. Please use the comments sections for each category to explain your overall impressions, whether positive or negative.

COURSE STRUCTURE AND SYLLABUS	Y	N	N/A
Course description is factually complete and accurate	Y		
Course structure includes major lessons and assignments	Y		
Prerequisite requirements are included and appropriate	Y		
Required facilities and equipment are included and appropriate	Y		
Required course texts are listed	Y		
Appropriate supplementary materials and resources are provided	Y		
Course organization and design is clear, coherent, and appropriately structured	Y		
Concepts and skills build logically, with appropriate transitions between course sections	Y		
Learning outcomes are clearly stated, measurable, and appropriate for the level of the course	Y		
Learning outcomes emphasize application of knowledge and skills	Y		

Comments about the course structure and syllabus:

Summarize your impressions of the syllabus and course structure including errors, suggestions for revisions, or gaps in the curriculum in regard to industry standards and needs:

Overall the syllabus is very good, clear, well structured, and easy to understand. No errors found or gaps in curriculum in terms of industry standards and needs.

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LECTURE MATERIALS: INSTRUCTOR SLIDES OR AUDIO/VIDEO PRESENTATIONS	Y	N	N/A
Content is accurate.	Y		
Materials accurately reflect course content.	Y		
Materials are presented in a logical order.	Y		
Materials reflect the major learning points and objectives for the related lesson.	Y		

<p>Comments about the instructor slides or video presentations: Summarize your impressions of the instructor slides including errors or suggestions for revisions:</p> <p>Very good use of youtube videos. Slides are very clear with good, detail instructions. I especially like the work and attention that went into inserting screenshots in many of the course materials.</p>

STUDENT ACTIVITIES: LABS/EXERCISES/HOMEWORK			
Activities as a whole:	Y	N	N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to the achievement of the stated course objectives. 	Y		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are comprehensive enough to reinforce course objectives. 	Y		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are current. 	Y		
Individual activities:	Y	N	N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have a clearly explained purpose and learning goals. 	Y		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the achievement of their stated learning goals. 	Y		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include access to all necessary resources. 	Y		

Comments about student activities:

Please summarize your impressions of the student activities including errors or suggestions for revisions:

Excellent step-by-step instructions on how to install and setup labs. The lab on SQL injection is very relevant to what's done in the real work environment and industry.

My only comment is that it would be better and easier for the lab environment such as the vm installation and configuration to be prebuilt (if feasible) so that student can get right into the labs associated with the core course subject. Also, it may be a good idea to have the student have some understanding of basic Linux commands and OS, especially as related to the section on creating TAR files using Linux commands. For me, it was easy to understand and follow because of my experience with the Linux OS. However, for a student with no Linux background, it may be hard to understand certain commands such as nslookup, ls, cd.

EXAMS AND ASSESSMENTS	Y	N	N/A
Assessments measure the stated learning objectives.	Y		
Assessments are consistent with module activities and resources.	Y		
Assessments are varied	Y		
Assessments are appropriate to the student work being assessed.	Y		

Comments about exams and assessments:

Please summarize your impressions of the assessments and any suggestions including errors or suggestions for revisions:

The assessments are very specific and well defined. All the assessments including netlab, written, and practical applications will certainly help the student learn about the course objectives and provide an opportunity for the student to demonstrate what they learned.

One comment is that in module 9 (final report submission), is to have a link in the document to show various samples of formal report. There is a sample penetration testing report that could be linked to the final report submission document. I also think there should be another sample report that's not so lengthy as the sample provided.

Overall Summary:

Based on your expertise and knowledge of the course, please write a summary of your overall impressions, the strengths of the material, and your recommendations for future iterations. Please keep in mind suggestions for revisions or gaps in the curriculum in regard to industry standards and needs. If your course is meant to prepare students for a certification exam, please indicate whether or not you feel the course will do so.

Great course with many good topics covered. The course is very relevant to what takes place in the real world and in my profession as an IT professional involved in cybersecurity. The hands on exercises and videos really demonstrate the course objectives. The information covered in the course exceeded my expectation as it was very comprehensive covering all aspects of IT security and hacking, etc. The topics covered are very much relevant to industry standards and needs. My only comment would be to break up some of the modules so that they can be more manageable for students. I would suggest breaking up module 6 into another module. It's a bit lengthy. Sometimes, lengthy labs or assessments can turn students off. If the modules were smaller, students may find them easier to manage and more appealing for their learning needs.