

Course: Howard: Digital Forensics 2

Cyber Pathways Across Maryland SME Rubric

Reviewer Name: John Knight

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This course is offered by Howard Community College (<https://www.howardcc.edu/programs-courses/programs/cyber-forensics-tech-aa/>). 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:

Please summarize your impressions of the course in regard to structure and curriculum. 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 as outlined will do so.

This course is a follow on from Digital Forensics 1, which is a prerequisite course, presented by the same author from Howard CC. DF2 is based on digital forensic standards supported and published by the DoD and EnCase. EnCase is an advanced industry commercial digital forensic tool of high regard from practitioners.

The course structure includes factually complete and accurate major lessons, labs, and assignments from two texts. The course revisits several chapters from the Digital Forensics 1 text and it would be expected that these chapters would be looked at a deeper level although such is not stated in the Suggested Syllabus. This review covers Lessons 1-6. Students are introduced to EnCase digital forensic software through the study of digital forensics from the EnCase perspective. A thorough explanation of concepts presented in the Sybex text EnCE: The Official EnCase Certified Examiner Study Guide are covered in Lessons 7 -12.

This is a F2F course and requires two hours of lab per chapter and two hours of lecture. The adopting college would have to have an assortment of digital forensic tools and equipment in place to teach this course. There is adequate reference to the additional supplementary materials available from both Cengage and Sybex publishers. The EnCase text states that it is a study guide for the EnCase certification however this course makes no mention that it is a certification preparation course. The text used is an outstanding concise source of required information.

Digital Forensics 2 builds concepts and skill through clear, coherent, and technical structure. Skills are reinforced by required labs each week. Two Unit exams and a Final Exam provide the necessary measurable and appropriate level testing.

This course reinforces both the necessary concepts and the skill needed to be digital forensicator.