

# Course: PGCC: Intro to Security Clearances

## Cyber Pathways Across Maryland SME Rubric

**Reviewer Name: Cedric Persaud**

**Date: 9/24/18**

This course is offered by Prince George's Community College ([http://www.pgcc.edu/Programs\\_and\\_Courses/Program\\_Detail.aspx?programID=6442462354](http://www.pgcc.edu/Programs_and_Courses/Program_Detail.aspx?programID=6442462354)). 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.

<b>COURSE STRUCTURE AND SYLLABUS</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N/A</b>
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:

Having been through the security clearance process myself, I know what it takes to obtain a clearance and maintain it. The course organization/structure is very structured and logical. The syllabus is clear, concise, easy to understand, and is not missing anything related to the lessons. No errors found. The syllabus clearly indicates to the student the information about exams and homework required as part of course. The topics and related lessons are very good in that they cover the main/key subjects in order to help a student understand and learn more about security clearances.

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<b>LECTURE MATERIALS: INSTRUCTOR SLIDES OR AUDIO/VIDEO PRESENTATIONS</b>	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><b>Comments about the instructor slides or video presentations:</b> Summarize your impressions of the instructor slides including errors or suggestions for revisions:</p> <p>No errors found with content or information in instructor slides. There were 1 or 2 formatting inconsistencies, but very minor.</p> <p>I really like the slides. They are very clear and easy to understand. Very simple to read and follow. I like the fact that key pieces of information are presented on each slide in nice, easy to read text. I also like the fact the slides are not too wordy, and the information is nicely organized and formatted for the student to understand the content.</p>
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<b>STUDENT ACTIVITIES: LABS/EXERCISES/HOMEWORK</b>			
Activities as a whole:	Y	N	N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to the achievement of the stated course objectives.</li> </ul>	Y		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are comprehensive enough to reinforce course</li> </ul>	Y		

objectives.			
• Are current.			
Individual activities:	Y	N	N/A
• Have a clearly explained purpose and learning goals.	Y		
• Promote the achievement of their stated learning goals.	Y		
• 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:

The homework assignments are very engaging and insightful. The activities, especially the many homework assignments, are very clear and concise. They are not too lengthy and very easy for a student to follow and understand while achieving the learning goals of the course lessons. The various case study exercises are very relevant with real life like examples. The case study exercises will surely keep the student engaged while learning more about specific examples related to security clearances.

<b>EXAMS AND ASSESSMENTS</b>	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:

No errors found with assessments and exams. The exam questions were very fair and relevant to the course in that exam questions effectively measured the stated learning activities. The questions were neither too difficult or trivial. They were just right, and the questions were very clear and easy to understand. In other words, the content of the two exams were not confusing at all.

**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.

My overall impression of the course is that it gives an excellent overview of the security clearance process, what key factors are considered and required for a clearance, and what you need to do in order to maintain your clearance. I especially thought the homework assignments, case studies, and short videos were very strong, effective tools for learning about security clearances. The mitigation steps or things to do to avoid hindering the clearance process was very helpful and will certainly benefit the student in the future if and when they decide to obtain a security clearance.