



NOTICE OF INTENT

Form No. BAAC-01

Section (s.) 1007.33(5)(d), Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Rule 6A-14.095, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), outline the requirements for Florida College System baccalaureate program proposals. The completed Notice of Intent form, incorporated in Rule 6A-14.095, F.A.C., Site Determined Baccalaureate Access, shall be submitted by the college president to the chancellor of the Florida College System at ChancellorFCS@fldoe.org.

CHECKLIST

The notice of intent requires completion of the following components:

- Program summary
- Program description
- Workforce demand, supply, and unmet need
- Planning process

FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM INSTITUTION INFORMATION

Institution Name:	Lake-Sumter State College
Institution President:	Mr. John Temple

PROGRAM SUMMARY

1.1	Program name.	Cybersecurity
1.2	Degree type.	<input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor of Science <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bachelor of Applied Science
1.3	How will the proposed degree program be delivered? (check all that apply).	<input type="checkbox"/> Face-to-face (F2F) (Entire degree program delivered via F2F courses only) <input type="checkbox"/> Completely online (Entire degree program delivered via online courses only) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Combination of face-to-face/online (Entire degree program delivered via a combination of F2F and online courses)
1.4	Degree Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) code (6-Digit). CIP code refers to the taxonomic scheme developed by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics .	11.1003
1.5	Anticipated program implementation date.	Fall 2027
1.6	What are the primary pathways for admission to the program? Check all that apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Associate in Arts (AA) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Associate in Science (AS) <input type="checkbox"/> Associate in Applied Science (AAS) If you selected AS/AAS, please specify the program: Cybersecurity Associate in Science
1.7	Is the degree program a STEM (science, technology, engineering or mathematics) focus area?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
1.8	List program concentration(s) or track(s) (if applicable).	N/A

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

2.1 This section is the **executive summary** of this notice of intent. We recommend providing an abbreviated program description including but not limited to: the program demand, current supply, and unmet need in the college's service district; primary pathways to program admission; overview of program curriculum; career path and potential employment opportunities; and average starting salary. We encourage approximately 300 words for a sufficient description.

Lake-Sumter State College (LSSC) proposes creating a cutting-edge Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) in Cybersecurity program. This program is designed to build on the strengths of our existing Associate in Science (AS) in Cybersecurity degree, providing a seamless pathway for students to develop greater expertise and pursue career opportunities in this critical field. Furthermore, by including a pathway for students with an Associate in Arts (AA) degree, the program opens the door to a high-demand, high-wage technology career for a broader group of students, retaining local talent in LSSC's service area to meet local labor market demand.

The demand for skilled cybersecurity professionals is skyrocketing as cyber threats grow in complexity and frequency. Local businesses, healthcare organizations, and public utilities struggle to find qualified individuals to protect their sensitive data and critical systems. The local area will see demand for more than 280 new cybersecurity experts in the next 7 years. The average salary for local cybersecurity experts with a bachelor's degree is approximately \$128,600, according to FloridaCommerce.org. No state institutions in our service area offer this degree pathway, so LSSC is poised to meet an unmet need of 35 annual job openings on average in its service area (Lake and Sumter Counties) and 1240 annual job openings on average in Career Source Central Florida Workforce Region 12. By establishing a BAS in Cybersecurity, LSSC will play a vital role in meeting this urgent workforce need within our community and beyond.

WORKFORCE DEMAND, SUPPLY, AND UNMET NEED

3.1 Describe the workforce demand, supply, and unmet need for graduates of the program that incorporates, at a minimum, the shaded information from Sections 3.1.1 to 3.1.4. The Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system is used to classify workers into occupational categories for the purpose of collecting, calculating, or disseminating data. For proposed programs without a listed SOC linkage, provide a rationale for the identified SOC code(s). If using a SOC that is not on the CIP to SOC crosswalk, please justify why the SOC aligns with the baccalaureate program.

According to the Florida Department of Commerce, in 2025, over 400 individuals were employed in the related occupations in the cybersecurity field across Lake and Sumter Counties (SOC 11-3021 Computer and Information Systems Managers, SOC 15-1212 Information Security Analysts, and SOC 15-1244 Network and Computer Systems Administrators), all requiring a bachelor's degree as the career entry point. By 2033, that

number is expected to increase by 17.6% on average. The local area will see demand for more than 280 new cybersecurity experts in the next 7 years. The average salary for local cybersecurity experts with a bachelor's degree is approximately \$128,600, according to FloridaCommerce.org. No state institutions in our service area offer this degree pathway, so LSSC is poised to meet an unmet need of 35 annual job openings on average in its service area (Lake and Sumter Counties) and 1240 annual job openings on average in Career Source Central Florida Workforce Region 12. By establishing a BAS in Cybersecurity, LSSC will play a vital role in meeting this urgent workforce need within our community and beyond

***Please note that the "Total Job Openings" column is preset to be divided by 8.

DEMAND: OTHER ENTITY INDEPENDENT OF THE COLLEGE – CareerSource Central Florida Workforce Region 12 Data

3.1.2 The Excel spreadsheet below is set up with predefined formulas. To activate the spreadsheet, right-click within the spreadsheet, go to “Worksheet Object”, and then “Open”. To exit, save any changes and exit out of the spreadsheet. Alternatively, double click anywhere on the table. To exit the spreadsheet, single click anywhere outside of the table.

ESTIMATES OF UNMET NEED

3.1.4 The Excel spreadsheet below is set up with predefined formulas. To activate the spreadsheet, right click within the spreadsheet, go to "Worksheet Object", and then "Open". To exit, save any changes and exit out of the spreadsheet. Alternatively, double click anywhere on the table. To exit the spreadsheet, single click anywhere outside of the table.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE ESTIMATES OF UNMET NEED SECTION: If institutions do not have data available for completers in the service district, please report statewide data. You may note these are statewide figures.

Florida Commerce Lake and Sumter Counties	35	0	0	35	35										
CareerSource Florida Region 12	1240	0	0	1240	1240										

3.2 Describe any other evidence of workforce demand and unmet need for graduates as selected by the institution, which may include qualitative or quantitative data and information not reflected in the data presented in Sections 3.1.1 to 3.1.4, such as local economic development initiatives, emerging industries in the area, or evidence of rapid growth.

According to Coursera (<https://www.coursera.org/articles/jobs-in-demand-in-florida>), at the state level, an Information Security Analysts (corresponding SOC 15-1212) is the sixth highest in-demand position in 2026, with an expected 33% growth rate between 2023 and 2033. The Orlando Economic Partnership Cybersecurity Talent Deep Dive (<https://orlando.org/l/an-orlando-cybersecurity-talent-deep-dive/>) was founded to address the drastic increase in need for cybersecurity talent. According to their 2022 study, there are roughly 4,300 cybersecurity job openings at any given time in the Orlando Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). The Orlando MSA has a supply-to-demand ratio of 71, meaning there is only enough cybersecurity talent to fill 71% of the current demand.

3.3 If the education level for the occupation identified by FloridaCommerce or the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) presented in Sections 3.1.1 to 3.1.2 is below or above the level of a baccalaureate degree, provide justification for the inclusion of that occupation in the analysis.

Not Applicable.

3.4 Describe the career path and potential employment opportunities for graduates of the program.

Graduates entering the BAS program are prepared to enter the field as a Computer and Information Systems Manager (SOC 11-3021) with a median hourly wage of approximately \$80, Information Security Analyst (SOC 15-1212) with a median hourly wage of approximately \$60, and Network and Computer Systems Administrator (SOC 15-1244) with a median hourly wage of approximately \$45 (FloridaCommerce.org). Lake and Sumter Counties are the fourth- and first-fastest-growing counties in Florida, respectively, leading to a greater need for cybersecurity experts. Local utilities, hospitals, doctors' offices, and government entities comprise the greatest need for new talent. (<https://sumterbusiness.com/data-centers-sumter-county/>) (<https://www.businessinlakefl.com/>) (<https://www.careersourcecentralflorida.com/businesses/labor-market-research/>).

PLANNING PROCESS

4.1 Summarize the internal planning process. In timeline format, please describe the steps your institution took in completing the internal review and approval of the baccalaureate program. For example, summarize actions taken by the academic department proposing the degree, any non-academic departments, the college-wide curriculum committee, the college president, the Board of Trustees and any other areas.

September 26, 2025 - New Program Request Form submitted by Dr. Christopher Sargent, the Dean of Workforce Programs, to LSSC's Curriculum committee who approved it to move it forward through committee for consideration. October 3, 2025 – The new program request was submitted to LSSC's Strategic Planning Council who approved it to move it forward to the President and Executive Cabinet for consideration. October 15, 2025 – New program development was approved by the LSSC District Board of Trustees.

4.2 Summarize the external planning process with the business and industry community. In timeline format, please describe your institution's interactions and engagements with external stakeholders, including but not limited to industry advisory boards meetings, discussions with advisory committees, briefings from local businesses, consultations with employers, and conducting paper and online surveys.

April 14, 2025 – The initial idea was presented to two LSSC workforce programs advisory committees: the Health Services Management AS Advisory Committee and the Technology AS Programs Advisory Committee. Membership in each committee consists of local employers as well as key LSSC staff. The entirety of the Health Services Management AS Advisory Committee meeting time was spent discussing the need for cybersecurity and artificial intelligence experts in the field, and ways the current Cybersecurity Associate in Science and proposed Cybersecurity baccalaureate degree could play a role in this. When presented with the idea of a baccalaureate degree in Cybersecurity, the advisory committee was ecstatic and extremely supportive. The Technology AS program advisory committee, which met later in the day, indicated equally strong support and expected that the cybersecurity path would eventually draw enrollment away from the Computer Information Technology AS degree, possibly replacing it altogether. November 3, 2025 - The Technology AS Programs Advisory Committee convened for the Fall meeting. We presented the LSSC Board of Trustees approved program request and development timeline, along with preliminary program core course listings, and received positive feedback to move forward with the planning process to request adding the baccalaureate degree in Cybersecurity. The committee remains supportive of the program addition, indicating that it is one of the most important technology fields and one of the hardest to recruit new talent due to a shortage of entry-level technicians. November 5, 2025 – The Health Services Management AS Advisory Committee convened, and once again, cybersecurity and artificial intelligence dominated the conversation.

Some discussions focused on a potential concentration in health services within the BAS degree to prepare students specifically for the field of healthcare information assurance.

<p>4.3 List external engagement activities with public and nonpublic postsecondary institutions. This list shall include meetings and other forms of communication among external postsecondary institutions regarding evidence of need, demand, and economic impact.</p>
<p>4.3.1 Public Universities in College’s Service District</p>
<p>Date(s): January 6, 2026</p> <p>Institution(s): University of Central Florida</p> <p>Activity Descriptions and Outcomes: November 20, 2025 a copy of the LSSC internal committee program request form to add a baccalaureate degree in Cybersecurity was sent to the DirectConnect to University of South Florida (UCF) Consortium Academic Coordinating Committee for feedback from the consortium members which includes UCF. Dr. Kimberly Hardy, the UCF Assistant Vice Provost, shared the program request form with UCF staff and program subject matter experts. She replied on January 6, 2026, indicating that the review team had no opposition to our plan and recommending that we move forward with the Notice of Intent.</p>
<p>4.3.2 Institutions in College’s Service District that are accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.</p>
<p>Date(s): N/A</p> <p>Institution(s): N/A</p> <p>Activity Descriptions and Outcomes: N/A</p>
<p>4.3.3 Institutions outside of College’s Service District (If applicable)</p>
<p>Date(s): N/A</p> <p>Institution(s): N/A</p> <p>Activity Descriptions and Outcomes: N/A</p>