

Appendix A

The proposed Ph.D. in Cyber Defense curriculum is mapped to the knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSA) as outlined in the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE) framework. Appendix A identifies the relevant KSA-ID numbers and statements that match our curriculum.

KSA-ID	Statement	DSU Course	NICE Competency Area
S0304	Skill to access information on current assets available, usage.	INFA713	Asset / Inventory Management
A0130	Ability to ensure that senior officials within the organization provide information security for the information and systems that support the operations and assets under their control.	INFA713	Asset / Inventory Management
S0186	Skill in applying crisis planning procedures.	INFA720	Business Continuity
K0032	Knowledge of resiliency and redundancy.	INFA720	Business Continuity
S0244	Skill in managing client relationships, including determining client needs/requirements, managing client expectations, and demonstrating commitment to delivering quality results.	INFA713	Client Relationship Management
K0433	Knowledge of forensic implications of operating system structure and operations.	INFA721	Computer Forensics
K0449	Knowledge of how to extract, analyze, and use metadata.	INFA721	Computer Forensics
K0573	Knowledge of the fundamentals of digital forensics to extract actionable intelligence.	INFA721	Computer Forensics
K0128	Knowledge of types and collection of persistent data.	INFA721	Computer Forensics
K0182	Knowledge of data carving tools and techniques (e.g., Foremost).	INFA721	Computer Forensics
K0017	Knowledge of concepts and practices of processing digital forensic data.	INFA721	Computer Forensics
K0184	Knowledge of anti-Forensics tactics, techniques, and procedures.	INFA721	Computer Forensics
K0185	Knowledge of forensics lab design configuration and support applications (e.g., VMWare, Wireshark).	INFA721	Computer Forensics
K0268	Knowledge of forensic footprint identification.	INFA721	Computer Forensics
K0304	Knowledge of concepts and practices of processing digital forensic data.	INFA721	Computer Forensics
S0047	Skill in preserving evidence integrity according to standard operating procedures or national standards.	INFA721	Computer Forensics
S0065	Skill in identifying and extracting data of forensic interest in diverse media (i.e., media forensics).	INFA721	Computer Forensics
S0068	Skill in collecting, processing, packaging, transporting, and storing electronic evidence to avoid alteration, loss, physical damage, or destruction of data.	INFA721	Computer Forensics
S0069	Skill in setting up a forensic workstation.	INFA721	Computer Forensics
S0071	Skill in using forensic tool suites (e.g., EnCase, Sleuthkit, FTK).	INFA721	Computer Forensics

S0075	Skill in conducting forensic analyses in multiple operating system environments (e.g., mobile device systems).	INFA721	Computer Forensics
S0120	Skill in reviewing logs to identify evidence of past intrusions.	INFA721	Computer Forensics
S0133	Skill in processing digital evidence, to include protecting and making legally sound copies of evidence.	INFA721	Computer Forensics
A0043	Ability to conduct forensic analyses in and for both Windows and Unix/Linux environments.	INFA721	Computer Forensics
K0118	Knowledge of processes for seizing and preserving digital evidence.	INFA721	Computer Forensics
K0122	Knowledge of investigative implications of hardware, Operating Systems, and network technologies.	INFA721	Computer Forensics
K0133	Knowledge of types of digital Forensics data and how to recognize them.	INFA721	Computer Forensics
K0134	Knowledge of deployable Forensics.	INFA721	Computer Forensics
K0447	Knowledge of how to collect, view, and identify essential information on targets of interest from metadata (e.g., email, http).	INFA721	Computer Forensics
K0132	Knowledge of which system files (e.g., log files, registry files, configuration files) contain relevant information and where to find those system files.	INFA721	Computer Forensics
A0005	Ability to decrypt digital data collections.	INFA721	Computer Forensics
S0090	Skill in analyzing anomalous code as malicious or benign.	INFA721	Computer Forensics
S0091	Skill in analyzing volatile data.	INFA721	Computer Forensics
A0175	Ability to examine digital media on multiple operating system platforms.	INFA721	Computer Forensics
K0157	Knowledge of cyber defense and information security policies, procedures, and regulations.	INFA754	Computer Network Defense
K0408	Knowledge of cyber actions (i.e. cyber defense, information gathering, environment preparation, cyber-attack) principles, capabilities, limitations, and effects.	INFA754	Computer Network Defense
S0124	Skill in troubleshooting and diagnosing cyber defense infrastructure anomalies and work through resolution.	INFA754	Computer Network Defense
K0110	Knowledge of adversarial tactics, techniques, and procedures.	INFA754	Computer Network Defense
K0424	Knowledge of denial and deception techniques.	INFA754	Computer Network Defense
K0587	Knowledge of the POC's, databases, tools and applications necessary to establish environment preparation and surveillance products.	INFA754	Computer Network Defense
K0191	Knowledge of signature implementation impact for viruses, malware, and attacks.	INFA754	Computer Network Defense
K0412	Knowledge of cyber lexicon/terminology	INFA754	Computer Network Defense
S0092	Skill in identifying obfuscation techniques.	INFA754	Computer Network Defense
S0096	Skill in reading and interpreting signatures (e.g., Suricata).	INFA754	Computer Network Defense
K0530	Knowledge of security hardware and software options, including the network artifacts they induce and their effects on exploitation.	INFA754	Computer Network Defense

S0129	Skill in using outlier identification and removal techniques.	INFA754	Computer Network Defense
K0493	Knowledge of obfuscation techniques (e.g., TOR/Onion/anonymizers, VPN/VPS, encryption).	INFA754	Computer Network Defense
S0020	Skill in developing and deploying signatures.	INFA754	Computer Network Defense
K0046	Knowledge of intrusion detection methodologies and techniques for detecting host and network-based intrusions.	INFA754	Computer Network Defense
K0160	Knowledge of the common attack vectors on the network layer.	INFA754	Computer Network Defense
K0507	Knowledge of organization or partner exploitation of digital networks.	INFA754	Computer Network Defense
S0025	Skill in detecting host and network based intrusions via intrusion detection technologies (e.g., Suricata).	INFA754	Computer Network Defense
S0079	Skill in protecting a network against malware. (e.g., NIPS, anti-malware, restrict/prevent external devices, spam filters).	INFA754	Computer Network Defense
S0023	Skill in designing security controls based on cybersecurity principles and tenets.	INFA754	Computer Network Defense
K0324	Knowledge of Intrusion Detection System (IDS)/Intrusion Prevention System (IPS) tools and applications.	INFA754	Computer Network Defense
K0369	Knowledge of basic malicious activity concepts (e.g., foot printing, scanning and enumeration).	INFA754	Computer Network Defense
K0405	Knowledge of current computer-based intrusion sets.	INFA754	Computer Network Defense
K0440	Knowledge of host-based security products and how those products affect exploitation and reduce vulnerability.	INFA754	Computer Network Defense
S0053	Skill in tuning sensors.	INFA754	Computer Network Defense
K0472	Knowledge of intrusion detection systems and signature development.	INFA754	Computer Network Defense
K0473	Knowledge of intrusion sets.	INFA754	Computer Network Defense
S0370	Skill to use cyber defense Service Provider reporting structure and processes within one's own organization.	INFA754	Computer Network Defense
A0128	Ability to apply techniques for detecting host and network-based intrusions using intrusion detection technologies.	INFA754	Computer Network Defense
S0258	Skill in recognizing and interpreting malicious network activity in traffic.	INFA754	Computer Network Defense
K0422	Knowledge of deconfliction processes and procedures.	INFA713	Conflict Management
K0423	Knowledge of deconfliction reporting to include external organization interaction.	INFA713	Conflict Management
K0126	Knowledge of Supply Chain Risk Management Practices (NIST SP 800-161)	INFA733	Contracting/Procurement
A0070	Ability to apply critical reading/thinking skills.	INFA713	Critical Thinking
A0085	Ability to exercise judgment when policies are not well-defined.	INFA713	Critical Thinking
S0017	Skill in creating and utilizing mathematical or statistical models.	INFA754	Data Analysis

S0125	Skill in using basic descriptive statistics and techniques (e.g., normality, model distribution, scatter plots).	INFA754	Data Analysis
K0083	Knowledge of sources, characteristics, and uses of the organization's data assets.	INFA713	Data Management
K0097	Knowledge of the characteristics of physical and virtual data storage media.	INFA713	Data Management
K0377	Knowledge of classification and control markings standards, policies and procedures.	INFA713	Data Management
K0260	Knowledge of Personally Identifiable Information (PII) data security standards.	INFA710	Data Privacy and Protection
K0066	Knowledge of Privacy Impact Assessments.	INFA710 INFA715	Data Privacy and Protection
K0262	Knowledge of Personal Health Information (PHI) data security standards.	INFA710	Data Privacy and Protection
K0261	Knowledge of Payment Card Industry (PCI) data security standards.	INFA710	Data Privacy and Protection
K0615	Knowledge of privacy disclosure statements based on current laws.	INFA715	Data Privacy and Protection
S0354	Skill in creating policies that reflect the business's core privacy objectives.	INFA715	Data Privacy and Protection
A0110	Ability to monitor advancements in information privacy laws to ensure organizational adaptation and compliance.	INFA715	Data Privacy and Protection
A0125	Ability to author a privacy disclosure statement based on current laws.	INFA715	Data Privacy and Protection
A0167	Ability to recognize the importance of auditing Communications Security (COMSEC) material and accounts.	INFA710	Data Privacy and Protection
K0018	Knowledge of encryption algorithms	INFA723	Encryption
K0019	Knowledge of cryptography and cryptographic key management concepts	INFA723	Encryption
K0190	Knowledge of encryption methodologies.	INFA723	Encryption
K0428	Knowledge of encryption algorithms and tools for wireless local area networks (WLANs).	INFA723	Encryption
K0277	Knowledge of current and emerging data encryption (e.g., Column and Tablespace Encryption, file and disk encryption) security features in databases (e.g. built-in cryptographic key management features).	INFA723	Encryption
K0305	Knowledge of data concealment (e.g. encryption algorithms and steganography).	INFA723	Encryption
K0308	Knowledge of cryptology.	INFA723	Encryption
K0403	Knowledge of cryptologic capabilities, limitations, and contributions to cyber operations.	INFA723	Encryption
S0164	Skill in assessing the application of cryptographic standards.	INFA723	Encryption
K0427	Knowledge of encryption algorithms and cyber capabilities/tools (e.g., SSL, PGP).	INFA723	Encryption
K0232	Knowledge of critical protocols (e.g., IPSEC, AES, GRE, IKE).	INFA723	Encryption
S0089	Skill in one-way hash functions (e.g., Secure Hash Algorithm [SHA], Message Digest Algorithm [MD5]).	INFA723	Encryption

S0298	Skill in verifying the integrity of all files. (e.g., checksums, Exclusive OR, secure hashes, check constraints, etc.).	INFA723	Encryption
K0025	Knowledge of digital rights management.	INFA723	Encryption
K0201	Knowledge of symmetric key rotation techniques and concepts.	INFA723	Encryption
S0138	Skill in using Public-Key Infrastructure (PKI) encryption and digital signature capabilities into applications (e.g., S/MIME email, SSL traffic).	INFA723	Encryption
K0104	Knowledge of Virtual Private Network (VPN) security.	INFA723	Encryption
S0059	Skill in using Virtual Private Network (VPN) devices and encryption.	INFA723	Encryption
K0285	Knowledge of implementing enterprise key escrow systems to support data-at-rest encryption.	INFA723	Encryption
K0200	Knowledge of service management concepts for networks and related standards (e.g., Information Technology Infrastructure Library, current version [ITIL]).	INFA710	Enterprise Architecture
K0282	Knowledge of service management concepts for networks and related standards (e.g., Information Technology Infrastructure Library, current version [ITIL]).	INFA710	Enterprise Architecture
A0037	Ability to leverage best practices and lessons learned of external organizations and academic institutions dealing with cyber issues.	INFA731	External Awareness
K0233	Knowledge of the National Cybersecurity Workforce Framework, work roles, and associated tasks, knowledge, skills, and abilities.	INFA731	External Awareness
K0288	Knowledge of industry standard security models.	INFA710	External Awareness
K0313	Knowledge of external organizations and academic institutions with cyber focus (e.g., cyber curriculum/training and Research & Development).	INFA731	External Awareness
K0336	Knowledge of access authentication methods.	INFA754	Identity Management
K0337	Knowledge of authentication, authorization, and access control methods.	INFA754	Identity Management
K0519	Knowledge of planning timelines adaptive, crisis action, and time-sensitive planning.	INFA720	Incident Management
S0175	Skill in performing root cause analysis.	INFA720	Incident Management
K0041	Knowledge of incident categories, incident responses, and timelines for responses.	INFA720	Incident Management
K0042	Knowledge of incident response and handling methodologies.	INFA720	Incident Management
K0150	Knowledge of enterprise incident response program, roles, and responsibilities.	INFA720	Incident Management
K0399	Knowledge of crisis action planning and time sensitive planning procedures.	INFA720	Incident Management
A0025	Ability to accurately define incidents, problems, and events in the trouble ticketing system.	INFA720	Incident Management
K0543	Knowledge of target estimated repair and recuperation times.	INFA720	Incident Management

K0343	Knowledge of root cause analysis techniques.	INFA720	Incident Management
K0231	Knowledge of crisis management protocols, processes, and techniques.	INFA720	Incident Management
K0037	Knowledge of Security Assessment and Authorization process.	INFA713	Information Assurance
K0044	Knowledge of cybersecurity and privacy principles and organizational requirements (relevant to confidentiality, integrity, availability, authentication, non-repudiation).	INFA713	Information Assurance
K0211	Knowledge of confidentiality, integrity, and availability requirements.	INFA713	Information Assurance
K0295	Knowledge of confidentiality, integrity, and availability principles.	INFA713	Information Assurance
S0006	Skill in applying confidentiality, integrity, and availability principles.	INFA713	Information Assurance
K0112	Knowledge of defense-in-depth principles and network security architecture.	INFA713	Information Systems/Network Security
S0238	Skill in information prioritization as it relates to operations.	INFA713	Information Management
S0170	Skill in configuring and utilizing computer protection components (e.g., hardware firewalls, servers, routers, as appropriate).	INFA754	Information Systems/Network Security
S0097	Skill in applying security controls.	INFA754	Information Systems/Network Security
K0004	Knowledge of cybersecurity and privacy principles.	INFA715	Information Systems/Network Security
K0276	Knowledge of security management.	INFA710 INFA715 INFA758	Information Systems/Network Security
K0488	Knowledge of network security implementations (e.g., host-based IDS, IPS, access control lists), including their function and placement in a network.	INFA754	Information Systems/Network Security
S0146	Skill in creating policies that enable systems to meet performance objectives (e.g. traffic routing, SLA's, CPU specifications).	INFA713 INFA758	Information Technology Assessment
S0038	Skill in identifying measures or indicators of system performance and the actions needed to improve or correct performance, relative to the goals of the system.	INFA758	Information Technology Assessment
S0066	Skill in identifying gaps in technical capabilities.	INFA713	Information Technology Assessment
K0053	Knowledge of measures or indicators of system performance and availability.	INFA758	Information Technology Assessment
S0085	Skill in conducting audits or reviews of technical systems.	INFA745	Information Technology Assessment
A0023	Ability to design valid and reliable assessments.	INFA713	Information Technology Assessment
K0331	Knowledge of network protocols (e.g., Transmission Critical Protocol (TCP), Internet Protocol (IP), Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP)), and directory services (e.g., Domain Name System (DNS)).	INFA754	Infrastructure Design
K0340	Knowledge of how traffic flows across the network (e.g., Transmission Control Protocol	INFA754	Infrastructure Design

	(TCP), Internet Protocol (IP), Open System Interconnection Model (OSI)).		
S0111	Skill in interfacing with customers.	INFA713	Interpersonal Skills
A0074	Ability to collaborate effectively with others.	INFA713 INFA721	Interpersonal Skills
S0356	Skill in communicating with all levels of management including Board members (e.g., interpersonal skills, approachability, effective listening skills, appropriate use of style and language for the audience).	INFA713	Interpersonal Skills
K0003	Knowledge of laws, regulations, policies, and ethics as they relate to cybersecurity and privacy.	INFA710 INFA715	Legal, Government, and Jurisprudence
K0123	Knowledge of legal governance related to admissibility (e.g. Rules of Evidence).	INFA721	Legal, Government, and Jurisprudence
K0125	Knowledge of processes for collecting, packaging, transporting, and storing electronic evidence while maintaining chain of custody.	INFA721	Legal, Government, and Jurisprudence
K0155	Knowledge of electronic evidence law.	INFA721	Legal, Government, and Jurisprudence
K0156	Knowledge of legal rules of evidence and court procedure.	INFA721	Legal, Government, and Jurisprudence
K0168	Knowledge of applicable laws, statutes (e.g., in Titles 10, 18, 32, 50 in U.S. Code), Presidential Directives, executive branch guidelines, and/or administrative/criminal legal guidelines and procedures.	INFA721	Legal, Government, and Jurisprudence
K0222	Knowledge of relevant laws, legal authorities, restrictions, and regulations pertaining to cyber defense activities.	INFA710	Legal, Government, and Jurisprudence
K0251	Knowledge of the judicial process, including the presentation of facts and evidence.	INFA721	Legal, Government, and Jurisprudence
K0267	Knowledge of laws, policies, procedures, or governance relevant to cybersecurity for critical infrastructures.	INFA710	Legal, Government, and Jurisprudence
K0410	Knowledge of cyber laws and their effect on Cyber planning.	INFA710	Legal, Government, and Jurisprudence
K0411	Knowledge of cyber laws and legal considerations and their effect on cyber planning.	INFA710	Legal, Government, and Jurisprudence
K0524	Knowledge of relevant laws, regulations, and policies.	INFA710	Legal, Government, and Jurisprudence
S0084	Skill in configuring and utilizing network protection components (e.g., Firewalls, VPNs, network intrusion detection systems).	INFA754	Network Management
S0192	Skill in auditing firewalls, perimeters, routers, and intrusion detection systems.	INFA754	Network Management
A0097	Ability to monitor system operations and react to events in response to triggers and/or observation of trends or unusual activity.	INFA754	Network Management
A0011	Ability to answer questions in a clear and concise manner.	INFA721	Oral Communication
K0146	Knowledge of the organization's core business/mission processes.	INFA710	Organizational Awareness

K0508	Knowledge of organization policies and planning concepts for partnering with internal and/or external organizations.	INFA733	Organizational Awareness
K0510	Knowledge of organizational and partner policies, tools, capabilities, and procedures.	INFA733	Organizational Awareness
A0034	Ability to develop, update, and/or maintain standard operating procedures (SOPs).	INFA710	Policy Management
S0344	Skill to prepare and deliver reports, presentations and briefings, to include using visual aids or presentation technology.	INFA713 INFA721	Presenting Effectively
K0258	Knowledge of test procedures, principles, and methodologies (e.g., Capabilities and Maturity Model Integration (CMMI)).	INFA710	Process Control
K0198	Knowledge of organizational process improvement concepts and process maturity models (e.g., Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI) for Development, CMMI for Services, and CMMI for Acquisitions).	INFA710	Process Control
K0121	Knowledge of information security program management and project management principles and techniques.	INFA710	Project Management
K0154	Knowledge of supply chain risk management standards, processes, and practices.	INFA733	Risk Management
K0169	Knowledge of information technology (IT) supply chain security and supply chain risk management policies, requirements, and procedures.	INFA733	Risk Management
K0263	Knowledge of information technology (IT) risk management policies, requirements, and procedures.	INFA710	Risk Management
K0002	Knowledge of risk management processes (e.g., methods for assessing and mitigating risk).	INFA713	Risk Management
K0048	Knowledge of Risk Management Framework (RMF) requirements.	INFA713	Risk Management
K0149	Knowledge of organization's risk tolerance and/or risk management approach.	INFA713	Risk Management
K0165	Knowledge of risk/threat assessment.	INFA713	Risk Management
K0214	Knowledge of the Risk Management Framework Assessment Methodology.	INFA713	Risk Management
K0527	Knowledge of risk management and mitigation strategies.	INFA713	Risk Management
S0171	Skill in performing impact/risk assessments.	INFA713	Risk Management
A0120	Ability to share meaningful insights about the context of an organization's threat environment that improve its risk management posture.	INFA713	Risk Management
K0242	Knowledge of organizational security policies.	INFA710	Policy Management
S0018	Skill in creating policies that reflect system security objectives.	INFA710	Policy Management
A0033	Ability to develop policy, plans, and strategy in compliance with laws, regulations, policies, and standards in support of organizational cyber activities.	INFA710	Policy Management
A0129	Ability to ensure information security management processes are integrated with strategic and operational planning processes.	INFA710	Strategic Planning

K0073	Knowledge of secure configuration management techniques. (e.g., Security Technical Implementation Guides (STIGs), cybersecurity best practices on cisecurity.org).	INFA754	System Administration
K0208	Knowledge of computer based training and e-learning services.	INFA731	Teaching Others
K0215	Knowledge of organizational training policies.	INFA731	Teaching Others
K0243	Knowledge of organizational training and education policies, processes, and procedures.	INFA731	Teaching Others
K0245	Knowledge of principles and processes for conducting training and education needs assessment.	INFA731	Teaching Others
A0171	Ability to conduct training and education needs assessment.	INFA731	Teaching Others
K0523	Knowledge of products and nomenclature of major vendors (e.g., security suites - Trend Micro, Symantec, McAfee, Outpost, and Panda) and how those products affect exploitation and reduce vulnerabilities.	INFA731	Technology Awareness
K0115	Knowledge that technology that can be exploited.	INFA731	Technology Awareness
K0148	Knowledge of import/export control regulations and responsible agencies for the purposes of reducing supply chain risk.	INFA733	TPO (Third Party Oversight)
K0164	Knowledge of functionality, quality, and security requirements and how these will apply to specific items of supply (i.e., elements and processes).	INFA733	TPO (Third Party Oversight)
K0266	Knowledge of how to evaluate the trustworthiness of the supplier and/or product.	INFA733	TPO (Third Party Oversight)
S0086	Skill in evaluating the trustworthiness of the supplier and/or product.	INFA733	TPO (Third Party Oversight)
A0039	Ability to oversee the development and update of the life cycle cost estimate.	INFA733	TPO (Third Party Oversight)
A0045	Ability to evaluate/ensure the trustworthiness of the supplier and/or product.	INFA733	TPO (Third Party Oversight)
K0596	Knowledge of the request for information process.	INFA733	TPO (Third Party Oversight)
S0355	Skill in negotiating vendor agreements and evaluating vendor privacy practices.	INFA733	TPO (Third Party Oversight)
K0147	Knowledge of emerging security issues, risks, and vulnerabilities.	INFA713	Vulnerabilities Assessment
A0042	Ability to develop career path opportunities.	INFA710	Workforce Management
A0014	Ability to communicate effectively when writing.	INFA710 INFA713	Written Communication
S0250	Skill in preparing plans and related correspondence.	INFA710 INFA720	Written Communication
S0301	Skill in writing about facts and ideas in a clear, convincing, and organized manner.	INFA713	Written Communication