

IDS 493 Class Reflection

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IDS 493: ePortfolio Project

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Introduction

Old Dominion University has not only provided me with knowledge and skills in my area of concentration, but it has also been a rewarding yet challenging experience. As someone who is majoring in cybersecurity and hoping to make a career in this field, Old Dominion University has equipped me with the necessary skills required in the field of technology. Besides the knowledge acquired from my studies, participation in the TRiO Student Support Services (SSS) program, which was an ambassador and mentor, helped me grow as a person and improve my communication skills.

The most important skill that I have acquired from the academic program is both the ability to use analytical skills and technical knowledge. Classes on topics such as cybersecurity, networking, and databases provided me with an essential base of knowledge about issues related to system security, risk management, and data handling. Specifically, using tools such as Linux, Cisco Packet Tracer, and SQL was essential for developing technical knowledge. Additionally, classes on cyber law and ethics allowed me to understand the wider context of cybersecurity.

Program Reflection

Among the most significant educational experiences that I have had at ODU has been practical exercises that have enabled me to put my theoretical knowledge into practice. For example, working on database design and cybersecurity lab assignments helped me understand the operational processes of these systems in the real world. Such activities were essential since they involved teamwork, problem-solving, and meticulousness all qualities necessary for being a successful cybersecurity specialist. Furthermore, serving as a TRiO SSS mentor provided me

with the chance to assist first-year students in managing their time effectively, developing proper study habits, and making an academic plan.

However, there were some hurdles on my path that I had to overcome. There have been instances where I found it difficult to grasp complex technical topics while working with unfamiliar technologies or resolving problems in lab experiments and coursework. For instance, handling errors in databases and networking took a lot of effort and determination on my part. Similarly, managing multiple tasks, including my academic work, along with taking up leadership roles like being a TRiO ambassador at orientation sessions, necessitated excellent time management skills.

In order to resolve these issues, I developed skills in time management and solving complicated problems. I became adept at dividing any problem into several smaller parts and testing potential solutions. Moreover, interaction with peers and frequent questioning allowed me to learn from their experiences and develop an understanding of challenging topics. Participation in TRiO programs contributed to my development as a communicator and supporter of others, thus enhancing my teamwork abilities in academic assignments.

Prior academic subjects and experience greatly aided my completion of the program. Classes provided necessary theoretical knowledge that would be used further in other subjects. Thus, preliminary learning about the basics of networking allowed me to comprehend advanced cyber security courses much easier. Furthermore, experience in implementing projects related to system designing and data management was helpful when tackling larger assignments. Many of such projects were incorporated into my portfolio.

IDS 493 Reflection

IDS 493 is a class dedicated to the development and presentation of an ePortfolio for professionals, which includes reflection on the experience gained and communication of it to other people. This class will teach me how to demonstrate all of my academic and practical experience, my skills, and my accomplishments during the years spent at Old Dominion University. In addition, the main goal of this course is preparation of the graduate in terms of his or her professional activities in the future. The most important thing that I learned in this course is how to present my experience in an appropriate way. I was able to find out how to show the results of my academic work and my professional activity. Moreover, thanks to IDS 493, I could clearly understand all my academic and practical accomplishments, especially in relation to TRiO programs that I was involved in.

I think that what makes my portfolio stand out among other things is the way in which it showcases my technical abilities as well as my development as a person and a leader. The projects which I am most proud of are the ones that showcase my ability to utilize my knowledge about cybersecurity in practice through system design, network labs, and databases. What else I am proud of is my ability to incorporate my experience within TRiO into my portfolio. In case only one part of my portfolio were allowed to be viewed, I would recommend paying special attention to my technical projects, which are associated with cybersecurity and systems implementation because they are also supported by my experience as a leader.

Some of the challenges that I encountered during IDS 493 were organizing my experiences into something that is not only professional but clear for the audience. Sometimes, it was challenging to determine what should be included and how the experience should be conveyed. To handle that, I tried to stick to clarity and structure by going through my work

several times and making sure that every section in my portfolio serves some purpose. Having more time to work on my portfolio, I would pay special attention to improving its visual appeal and organization. Although the portfolio already includes all the necessary information about my work and experience, there is always room for improvement. For instance, I would add more detail to my explanation regarding some of my projects. Past classes and experiences proved to be very valuable in IDS 493 course work. My project work done during my coursework program provided me with content needed to develop my portfolio. In absence of those past experiences, I wouldn't have been able to present my learning experience in such a way.

Conclusion

In conclusion, my time at ODU has been crucial in developing my understanding of cybersecurity along with my critical thinking, problem solving, and communication skills. The knowledge I gained from my academic studies along with my experiences working with the TRiO program has provided me with the necessary tools needed to succeed in the real world. The interdisciplinary nature of my educational background was quite crucial since cybersecurity relates to multiple disciplines including law, ethics, business, and psychology among others. It was valuable to be able to connect all these different ideas to solve the problems I faced. Thinking in terms of disciplines other than cybersecurity itself is extremely crucial for being successful in this field since modern day threats necessitate the ability of professionals to think outside the box when developing security strategies. Once I complete my studies at ODU, my next course of action will be to acquire a master's degree in cybersecurity with an emphasis in artificial intelligence for cybersecurity. My intention is to enhance my knowledge in both the offensive and defensive aspects of security and eventually secure a position in the government sector.