# Transcript: IT Podcast - Ep 35 - UG Cyber and Networking Programs with Jacqueline and Ora Denton

*The following transcript is a verbatim account of the video or audio file accompanying this transcript.*

Speaker #1 (Narrator):

WGU's IT audio series, flexible, portable, profound.

Speaker #2 (Jacqueline Carrau):

Thank you so much Ora for joining me today to talk about our undergrad programs for cybersecurity in network operation. My name is Jacqueline Carrau, I'm one of the faculty managers here in our undergrad cyber program. I've been with WGU for about five years as a faculty manager and I want to take some time to talk about the undergrad cyber program, and then I'll pass it on to my colleague Ora Denton who is one of the faculty managers for the Network Operation Security program.

Let me just give an overview of our undergrad cyber program. RBS CSIA program includes 14 top industry certs that it prepares students for exciting careers dedicated to fighting cyber-crime. About 70 percent of our graduates finish within 29 months. On average, students transfer in about 37 credits, so students are able to transfer in credits from other universities, whether you received an associate's degree or, took some higher level coursework in another college you can always see about transferring those credits in.

There are quite a few different career fields that you can get into within cybersecurity, so it's a very lucrative degree right now. It's probably one of our most highly sought-after programs within the college of IT. Being one of the first managers here in the program, I actually got to see the program launch. We started off with 60 students, and we have over 5000 students right now. We have quite a bit of students.

A lot of students ask why should they join WGU and why should they go into cybersecurity? There's a lot of different skills and credentials that employers look for when they're looking at students that are coming in from WGU. We do offer, as I mentioned, quite a bit of certifications that are industry certifications that most organizations want, so you don't only leave here with a WGU degree or an undergrad and a bachelor's degree, but you also come out of the program with a lot of certifications that are wanted in industry.

WGU also offers a very flexible schedule. You don't have to log in at a certain time. You don't have to have specific deadlines for submitting assignments or discussions. You are pretty much in charge of your education in the online cybersecurity degree program, so it allows you to move faster and graduate sooner. That's really helpful for students, especially if you're already working in the field, and you just want to get that degree, or you're trying to get a position within IT or within cybersecurity, and this type of degree program allows you to do that sooner than your most traditional universities. Addition to that, it's very affordable. WGU tuition is charged on six month terms, and it's not per credit. That means that if you want to move faster through the program, you'll pay less. It's pretty advantageous in that sense.

As far as the key subject that we go over within our undergrad cyber program, you'll definitely learn about information security, web development, network and security, scripting and programming, web security, cloud security, cryptography, data management, digital forensics, cyber law, emerging technologies, cyber defense and counter measures. There's IT project management, you have risk management, vulnerability assessment, and penetration testing as one of our certifications that we recently just added to our program. A lot of students are excited about that.

As I mentioned, there are 14 certs. Those certs include our Certified Cloud security Professional associate, our System Security Certified Practitioner associate, the A plus cert, our Cybersecurity Analysts certification, our Network class cert, Network Vulnerability and Assessment Professional, Network Security Professional, the Security Analytics Professional. Security Plus, Project Plus, Pentose Plus, IT Operations Specialists and Secure Infrastructure Specialists and also our ITIL Foundation certification. A lot of great certs in the program.

It's a really great degree program, I highly recommend it. As I mentioned, I have been with this program since it started, and I'm really excited to get more students involved to want to pursue this program, especially our female students. You can always reach out to me if you have any questions. My direct email address is Jacqueline, J-A-C-Q-U-E-L-I-N-E.carrau, C-A-R-R-A-U wgu.edu.

I'm going to go ahead and pass it on to my colleague Ora Denton, so she can talk about the Network Operation Security program.

Speaker #3 (Ora Denton):

Thank you so much, Jacqueline, for that introduction. My name is Ora Denton, and I'm manager, faculty for BS Network Operations and Security Program, known as the BS and OS program. I manage a team of 15 mentors, and I've been here at WGU for five years. I have worked professionally in Corporate America for over 14 years in various IT related positions. I would like to just take some time to talk about our BS and OS program.

The BS and OS program will help students develop network design and management skills to grow their knowledge to become security management professionals. Additional skills include excellent communication skills, problem-solving skills, analytical skills, interpersonal skills, be a good listener, have the ability to multitask, good communication skills, and the ability to work under pressure. Employers are looking for network administrators, security administrators, as well as network security analysts from the BS analysts degree. Many of our students cannot progress in their careers without a bachelor's degree. Some certifications do expire, but degrees do not expire. Successful students normally have great pacing and time management skills, and they plan to study 20 plus hours each week to complete their courses.

The BS and OS program focuses on protection of information and information systems form unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction in order to provide confidentiality, integrity, and availability to the company's systems.

The program teaches students how to manage network operations and security systems to secure the organization's functions. Also, students gain 11 certifications. This program also teaches students to design networks using industry recognized IT principles and frameworks. Evaluates emerging network and security technologies to access the impact of the organization.

Some of the courses that this particular program offer, are IT Fundamentals, there is a General Education course, General Science course, Scripting and Programming, Network and Security, Spreadsheets, Leadership and Management Specialty, Business of IT, Data Management, Web Development, Technical Writing, Networking, Web and Cloud Security, the Capstone as well as Information Assurance.

Some of the careers for the students that are in the BS and OS program include Network Security Administrator, Computer Systems Analyst, Network Infrastructure Administrator, Network and Computer System Administrator, Computer Support Specialist, Network Security Analyst, Computer and Information Systems Manager. Those are just some of the careers that a lot of our students get once they are completed with this particular program.

Some of the statistics for our students, are 70 percent of graduates, they finish within 35 months of starting the program. Graduates of the program, again pick up 11 industry certifications. There was a study that stated that there is a 4 percent projected growth in employment of network and computer systems administration between 2019 and 2029.

Some of the graduate statistics are, 86 percent of graduates are working full time, 72 of the graduates state that their BS and OS degree is worth the effort. That's really huge there. Seventy-seven percent of graduates said that the majority of their coursework was related to their actual job, so that's really great information.

We hope that today's broadcast provided good information on both of our BS and OS and BS CSIA programs with the intent of recruiting more female students into our programs. You may contact me Ora Denton at ora.denton@wgu.edu, for BS and OS related information or contact Jacqueline Carrau at jacqueline.carrau@wgu.edu for related information on the BS CSIA program. Thank you.

Speaker #1 (Narrator):

WGU, a new kind of you.