ASU Cyber 9/12
Student Challenge

A major cyberattack has occurred. How should your nation respond?

The Challenge

We frequently hear the terms “Cyber 9/11” and “Digital Pearl Harbor,” but what should policymakers do as a crisis occurs? The Cyber 9/12 Student Challenge is an annual event designed to give elite students an opportunity to compete in developing national security policy recommendations based upon a fictional cyber catastrophe.

In association with the Atlantic Council, Arizona State University hosts a campus-based Cyber 9/12 Student Challenge. It is modeled after the national competition. ASU will support competitors for the national event in Washington, DC.

Key dates:

Sept. 7: Info session
Sept. 8 - Oct. 20: Registration period.
Students participate as members of three or four-person teams; individuals should consult website if seeking to join a team.

Oct. 21: Team orientation sessions. Teams receive “Intelligence Report I” and begin preparing their policy papers. Participation fee due.

Nov. 13: Policy papers due.

Nov. 17-18: Competition (briefings) begins.

March 2018: National competition in Washington D.C.

publicservice.asu.edu/cyber9-12
What is the Cyber 9/12 Challenge?

ASU is proud to host its second Cyber 9/12 competition in partnership with the Atlantic Council. Now entering its eighth year, the Atlantic Council Cyber 9/12 Student Challenge is a one-of-a-kind competition designed to provide students with a deeper understanding of the policy challenges associated with cyber crises and conflict. ASU hosts our local competition prior to the national event in D.C. Part interactive learning experience and part competitive exercise, it challenges teams to respond to a realistic, evolving cyberattack and analyze the threat it poses to national, international and private sector interests.

Playing the role of National Security Council staff, students are confronted with a fictional cyber crisis. First, each team is asked to prepare a written policy response to the crisis. After the policy papers are submitted and graded, the teams gather on the first day of live competition and brief their policy proposals to a panel of judges. The brief will be limited to ten minutes, with a ten minute period for judges’ questions. The judges will also provide feedback on the team’s performance.

Teams advancing to the second round will be announced on Friday and will be given “Intelligence Report II,” which accelerates the crisis. Individual awards will be announced at that time.

The second round begins on Saturday morning and each surviving team, based on the new intelligence, will brief its modified policy proposal to another panel of judges. Selected teams advance to the final round, will brief a panel of judges, and a competition winner will be announced. Following the team awards ceremony, there will be another networking/social opportunity for all participants.

A small participation fee is charged ($15/student)

Benefits of participation

• Selected winners receive full travel support to national competition in Washington D.C.
• Direct professional interaction with industry leaders and other subject matter experts
• Focused professional networking opportunities
• Development of subject area knowledge and analytic skills in cybersecurity
• Breakfast and lunch are provided to competitors

How to participate

Competitor

Graduate and undergraduate students from any unit within Arizona State University are invited to apply. There are no requirements for team composition based on academic majors or education levels. Just register everyone on your team at publicservice.asu.edu/cyber9-12.

Coach

Each team may recruit a coach to assist in preparing for the competition. A coach may support more than one team. Teams may consult with their coaches to help develop and revise their policy ideas for the competition and confer with them during breaks between competition rounds.

Judge

Experts with significant policy and cybersecurity experience are invited to serve as judges. Judges evaluate the teams’ oral presentations based on the quality of their policy responses, their decision-making processes and their presentation skills. Practitioners from various sectors, including government, academic faculty and the private sector serve as judges.

Support a team, support the event

Your support helps make the competition possible and provides resources for students to travel to Washington, D.C. to compete in the national competition.

Contact: Matt Ingram
602-496-0407
matthew.ingram@asu.edu

Questions?

Dr. Brian Gerber, director
Emergency Management and Homeland Security program
College of Public Service and Community Solutions
Arizona State University
602-496-0566
brian.gerber@asu.edu