Two Tracks: Scholarship and Innovation

- Scholarship Track: provides funding to qualified institutions of higher education to award scholarships to students who commit to post-graduation employment in the AI or cybersecurity mission of a government organization for a period equal to at least the length of the scholarship. All scholarship recipients must be U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents. **Must clearly specify one of two focus areas.**
  - **Focus Area–Cyber**
  - **Focus Area–AI**

Scholarship Track

- **Scholarship Track**
  - **Focus Area–Cyber:** a formal cybersecurity program (major, minor, concentration, track, certificate etc.) with **at least four cybersecurity courses and a minimum of two AI courses**.

  - **Focus Area–AI:** a formal AI program (major, minor, concentration, track, certificate etc.) with **at least four AI courses and a minimum of two cybersecurity courses**.

- **A typical budget for a 3-year scholarship project is expected to be between $1.0 and $2.5 million.**

Innovation Track

Seek transformative education proposals in the areas of AI, cybersecurity, or the integration of AI and cybersecurity.

- **instructional materials and teaching methods** that reflect advancements in AI or its role in cybersecurity.
- **experiential learning** in AI, cybersecurity, or their intersection across STEM domains.
- **professional development** for researchers, educators, and practitioners in AI or cybersecurity at all levels.
- **multi-disciplinary initiatives** that integrate basic or advanced AI or cybersecurity training with other fields to address human interaction with AI systems.
- Build sustainable communities of practice providing access to sharable **datasets, models, and computational resources** through strategic **partnerships**.

A typical Innovation Track proposal can be **two to three years** in duration with a budget between **$300,000 and $500,000**.

Limit on Number of Proposals per Organization

- There is no restriction for the Innovation Track.
- For the Scholarship Track, limited to one (1) proposal per annual CyberAI SFS competition.
- Please contact your institutional office of research about their internal processes used to select proposals for submission to the Scholarship Track.

Additional Eligibility Info for the Scholarship Track

- Clearly documented evidence of a strong existing program in AI or cybersecurity.
  - may include ABET accreditation;
  - designation by the National Center of Academic Excellence (NCAE) in cybersecurity or CyberAI.
  - BS programs including BSCS, BSCE and BSSE that are accredited by ABET may describe AI-focused components used during the accreditation process. Proposers can provide equivalent evidence, within the project narrative, documenting a strong program in cybersecurity or AI.

Limit on Number of Proposals per PI or co-PI

- For the Scholarship Track, an individual must **not** participate as PI, Co-PI, or Senior Personnel on **more than one (1)** proposal submitted for the same competition date.

- For the Innovation Track, an individual must **not** participate as PI, Co-PI, or Senior Personnel on **more than two (2)** proposals submitted within any consecutive 12-month period.

Requirements for all CyberAI SFS Proposals

- **Project Title:**
  - begin with "**CyberAI SFS:**" for the Scholarship Track and
  - with "**CyberAI Innovation:**" for the Innovation Track
- **Evaluation Plan:** CyberAI SFS program goals, applicable success measures, expected project outcomes and corresponding metrics. The evaluator as personnel or consultant.
  - For the Scholarship Track, the evaluation plan may address scholars' employment and achievement, faculty development, curriculum, and institutional partnerships.
  - For the Innovation Track, the evaluation plan should include project progress, outcomes, and dissemination.
- **Results from Prior NSF Support**
- **Supplementary Documentation: mentoring plan, data management plan, letters of collaboration, IRB, certificates of program**

Requirements for Scholarship Track Proposals

- Project Summary: indicate either AI or Cyber as the focus area; the research, engagement, and scholarship activities; the expected number and degrees of CyberAI SFS scholarship recipients.

- Project Description:
    - Evidence of a Strong Program in AI or Cybersecurity
    - Recruitment and Selection of CyberAI SFS Scholars
    - SFS Scholar Mentoring and Cohort Activities
    - CyberAI SFS Scholarship Internship Requirements and Service Obligation
    - CyberAI SFS Institutional Responsibility and Project Management Plan

Requirements for Scholarship Track Proposals

- Project Description:
  - Renewal Proposals: Institutions with a current CyberAI SFS Scholarship Track project include.

    (1) **specific evidence of their current CyberAI SFS project's achievements.** employment statistics, faculty development activities, integration of research and education, mentoring of non-SFS institutions, partnerships with government and relevant employment sectors, community outreach with measurable impact, and curricular/program innovations.

    (2) **development of innovative and potentially transformative interdisciplinary approaches to cybersecurity or AI education and workforce development.**

Submission Due Dates

- **2026 Full Proposals**
- Scholarship Track Target Date: April 03, 2026
- Innovation Track Target Date: April 03, 2026
- Scholarship Track Deadline: 5pm July 21, 2026

- **2027 Full Proposals**
- Scholarship Track Deadlines: July 21, 2027
- Innovation Track Target Date: April 03, 2027