

## John Senegal: Professional Statement

I made the decision to become a computer science major because of a particular episode of '60 Minutes'. During the episode, the guest demonstrated how he could remotely control a car and it was terrifying how easily it could be done. That initial fear sparked a flame of initiative: to be able to fight cyber terrorism and insure a sense of professional and personal security in me and my loved one's everyday interactions with technology. I want our country to feel that the internet and their personal devices are a safe space. This determination to assist in securing the country's internet pathways led to my pursuit of a bachelor's degree in Computer Science with a concentration in Cybersecurity.

A majority of my independent study has been focused on learning Python3, JavaScript, and PowerShell. I hope to use what I learned independently as well as the skills I gained through my internship with IBM and the Science Gateways Community Institute (SGCI) 4-Week Coding Institute to supplement my education and future professional efforts... My time at IBM consisted of some programming, but primarily focused on learning about security compliance and reporting procedures as well as how to enforce them. This internship with IBM strengthened my time management and professionalism skills and gave a lot of insight into the non-technical functions of the cyber security world. However, my interests were still aligned with the programming and coding that is involved in cyber security.

My Eagle Scout determination pushed me to seek more opportunities related to my interests, which led me to the SGCI 4-Week Coding Institute. This program allowed me the opportunity to learn Jupyter Notebook, GitHub/GitLab, Ruby, and focus more on Python. At the institute, I learned more about architecture specifically of Science Gateways. The best thing about the institute is that we discussed the type of security related to gateways. It helped to connect the dots between what was covered with the professional security at IBM in terms of maintaining a standard and the technical skills required behind it. The further involvement I have in the cybersecurity field, the more of a difference I feel like I will make in the future, which is what both of these programs have provided. After completing my bachelor's degree, I hope to pursue a graduate degree in computer science or a related field.