Digital Forensics (GCDF)

Total: 18 credits

Courses

- CECS 6046 – Electronic Discovery & Digital Evidence
- CECS 6130 – Data Communication Networks
- CECS 7230 – Network Security
- CECS 7235 – Computer Forensics
- CECS 7237 – Advanced Computer Forensics
- CECS 7570 – Computer Security

Annual Offering

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Program Justification

As society at large becomes more dependent on technology, the vulnerability to data-driven theft and corruption is greater than ever. We operate in a world where cyber criminals constantly invent sophisticated techniques to threaten and defeat the security of organizations; making it important to track threats as they change and evolve. Organizations need to be informed and prepared to minimize current risks and increase their capacity to recover from incidents that threaten and affect information assets. Knowledge in IA fields such as cyber security, IT auditing, IT disaster recovery, and digital/computer forensics are becoming a critical need for IT management and IA professionals. The goal of computer forensics is to examine digital media in a forensically sound manner with the aim of identifying, preserving, recovering, analyzing and presenting facts and opinions about the information. The GCDF prepares IT professionals to master critical capabilities such as network infrastructure design, advanced digital investigative techniques, and state-of-the-art forensics strategies. Through formal education and certified training, organizations and IA professionals have the opportunity to learn about the many options for improving the cyber protection of intellectual property, and the recovery of customer data, services, and critical infrastructures; as well as the development of new computer forensics tools and practices.

The main objectives of the UPPR GCDF program are to:

1. Provide a thorough and rigorous introduction to computer forensics, and computer and network security.
2. Provide a quality educational experience that balances classroom theory with practical hands-on lab experience.
3. Enhance opportunities for professional growth and for career advancement for underrepresented groups, especially women and Hispanics.
4. Create a resource for industry and a forum for the free exchange of ideas.
5. Create an infrastructure that supports faculty and student research.
6. Attract more faculty members that specialize in this field of IA.
7. Create competent IA professionals that have a strong knowledge of the law and ethics that are critical for Digital Forensics Investigators.