Bachelor of Science in Security and Risk Analysis (SRA)
College of Information Sciences and Technology at Penn State

Are you ready to become a knowledge leader in online privacy, intelligence, and security? To work with government agencies such as the FBI, CIA, and NSA? To advise public-sector corporations on how to secure their data and operations and help evaluate risk associated with business decisions? If the answer is “yes,” then let’s talk about a bachelor of science in security and risk analysis (SRA).

In the SRA program, you’ll learn how to design systems that are secure, measure risk, and ensure that proper levels of privacy are maintained for individual technology users, businesses, government, and other organizations. In this major, you gain an understanding of operating system design and operation, and the legal and cultural issues surrounding privacy, intelligence, and security.

The possibilities for what you can study in SRA are many, but we can help you break it down. When you major in SRA, you’ll choose one of three program options based on your unique skills and interests:

**ANALYZE (Intelligence Analysis and Modeling)**

Are you intrigued by how today’s global environment and emerging technologies are shaping U.S. foreign policy? Do you keep up with the latest developments on U.S. security breaches that are making international news? Can you imagine yourself as a risk analysis leader, visualizing and mapping intelligence to determine the likelihood of terrorist attacks and advising key decision-makers of your analysis? If so, this option is for you! In this program, you’ll learn how to calculate, evaluate, and predict risk in a variety of fields, including business and national security, and work on projects like evaluating the risk of putting information on Facebook. To enter this option, you should be able to think critically and have an interest in learning how to protect vital infrastructure against subversive attacks.
Like what you’ve read so far? If you’re curious about the classes you’ll be taking, here’s a little more info on our core courses:

**IST 110: Information, People, and Technology**
From buying music online to posting photos on Facebook, you use technology every day to communicate. This is the world we live in—the information environment. This course introduces you to the landscape of IST—where information, people, and technology intersect. It addresses major questions such as: How can technology help people and organizations adapt rapidly and creatively? How do people perceive technology and those who work in the information technology field?

**SRA 111: Introduction to Security and Risk Analysis**
What kind of personal information is on your computer and how can you keep it safe? This course looks at social and legal issues, risk analysis and mitigation, crime intelligence and forensics, and information warfare and assurance. In the process, you’ll learn the basics of security and how to keep information safe from cyber threats.

**SRA 211: Threat of Terrorism and Crime**
This overview course will introduce you to the nature, scope, and seriousness of security threats arising from terrorist and criminal activity. Through your studies, you’ll complete class projects and case studies that introduce you to the relevance of terrorism and crime, and the methods and tools used to study them. You will learn to recognize the strengths and weaknesses of these methods in assessing information’s credibility, integrity, and accuracy as it relates to terrorism and crime.