CHRISTOPHER S. HOPE, DScIT

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & CYBERSECURITY EDUCATOR | RESEARCHER | PRACTITIONER

Digital Forensics • Cybercrime • Cybersecurity • AI in Criminal Justice

Lecturer of Information Technology | Middle Georgia State University

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ACADEMIC PROFILE

Information technology and cybersecurity educator, researcher, and practitioner whose scholarship focuses on the intersection of emerging technology, digital forensics, cybercrime investigation, law enforcement, and the criminal justice system. Experienced in undergraduate and graduate instruction, cybersecurity program development, institutional service, and industry IT/security leadership. Current research examines AI-assisted investigation, digital evidence, evidentiary reliability, algorithmic governance, and interagency policy effects.

CORE QUALIFICATIONS

- Digital Forensics & Digital Evidence
- Cybercrime Investigation
- Cybersecurity
- Artificial Intelligence in Law Enforcement
- AI Governance & Evidentiary Reliability
- Technology Policy in Criminal Justice

EDUCATION

Doctor of Science: Information Technology | 2024

Middle Georgia State University – Macon, Bibb County, Georgia

Master of Science: Information Systems | 2016

University of Phoenix – Tempe, Arizona

Master of Science: Criminal Justice and Criminology (Cybercrime) - In Progress

Georgia Southern University – Statesboro, Georgia

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Lecturer 08/2023 – Current

Middle Georgia State University – Macon, Georgia

- Work backward, with your current or most recent job first.
- Focus on major responsibilities and work achievements rather than daily tasks.

Program Coordinator 06/2015 – 05/2018

Southern Crescent Technical College – Griffin, Georgia

- Supported expansion of the Cybersecurity program to the Henry County Center; Southern Crescent minutes documented the program's January 2020 launch there.
- Led/coordinated a cybersecurity program recognized by EC-Council in 2021; Southern Crescent's program received academic cybersecurity recognition, with Hope identified publicly as Program Coordinator.
- Received the EC-Council Academia Instructor Circle of Excellence Award in 2022 for teaching impact, student experience, leadership, and cybersecurity-community engagement.
- Selected for AWS Cloud Computing Academy professional development to support instruction in AWS cloud-computing curriculum.

RESEARCH AGENDA

- Interdisciplinary research at the intersection of information technology, digital forensics, cybercrime, law enforcement, and criminal justice.

- Digital forensics, digital evidence reliability, validation, admissibility, and cross-jurisdiction investigative practice.
- AI-assisted cybercrime investigation, algorithmic transparency, human-in-the-loop oversight, and constitutional safeguards.
- Interagency interoperability and policy implications when AI and digital forensic systems cross jurisdictional boundaries.

PUBLICATIONS & SCHOLARLY WORK

Hope, C. S. (2024). *Using AI-Powered Systems for Identifying and Investigating Cybercrimes to Enhance Cybersecurity in Law Enforcement*. Issues in Information Systems, 25(1), 293–304. https://doi.org/10.48009/1_iis_2024_124

Hope, C. S. *Automating Authority: A Literature Review of AI in Criminal Justice*. Manuscript in revision for submission to a criminal justice–oriented peer-reviewed journal.

Current Research Project

Hope, C. S. (2025–Present). *Tuning In: The Impact of Podcasts on Student Learning*. Research in progress examining podcast-based educational content and student learning/engagement.

PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS

- Faculty Speaker, MGA DScIT Cohort 6 | July 2026
- Presenter, MGA STEMposium | 2026
- Presenter, Hacked by the Algorithm Series: “Tech Savvy for the Everyday User” | April 2026
- Presenter, AWITS: “Flipping the Script: A Pocket-sized Pandora’s Box” | October 2025

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & SCHOLARLY ENGAGEMENT

- International Association for Computer Information Systems (IACIS), member, 2024–Present
- CAE in Cybersecurity Conference — Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania | April 2026
  Attended professional development sessions focused on cybersecurity education, CAE initiatives, workforce development, and academic collaboration.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert (MIEE) | 2025-2026
- EC-Council Academia Circle of Excellence | 2022
- Alpha Iota Mu | 2025
- Epsilon Pi Tau International Honor Society | 2016
- The National Society of Leadership and Success | 2020

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- International Association for Computer Information Systems (IACIS) | 2024–Present
- International Association of Computer Investigative Specialists (ISACA)
- Information Systems Security Association (ISSA)
- Technology Association of Georgia (TAG); Association for Information Technology Professionals (AITP)
- Academy of Management (AOM); Epsilon Pi Tau; The National Society of Leadership and Success

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Peer Reviewer, International Association for Computer Information Systems (IACIS) | May 2026
- Judge, FIRST Tech Challenge Robotics Event | February 2026

CERTIFICATION AND LICENSES

- EC-Council Certified Secure Computer User (CSCU)
- Microsoft Technology Associate: Security Essentials

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Middle Georgia State University – Lecturer, Information Technology | 2023–Present

- Teaching areas include cybersecurity, network forensics and incident response, digital forensics, network security, project management, and information technology.
- Experienced with undergraduate and graduate instruction and multiple instructional delivery modalities.

Course Design & Continuous Improvement

AI-Assisted, API-Enabled Course Development

- Designed and implemented AI-assisted, API-enabled instructional resource workflows across most courses, using generative AI to assist with code generation and adapting the resulting integrations to automate scheduled refreshes of supplemental readings and resources.
- Configured recurring updates to help ensure students receive current, relevant material in rapidly changing areas of information technology and cybersecurity while also improving course organization, visual presentation, and usability.
- Shared a working implementation and code example with a faculty colleague interested in adapting the approach.

Digital Forensics Lab Development

- Led development of the Digital Forensics Lab, expanding instructional infrastructure and hands-on learning opportunities in forensic imaging, evidence analysis, incident response, and digital investigations.

ITEC 4341 redesign

- Redesigned ITEC 4341 Network Forensics and Incident Response for Fall 2026 around a competency-aligned, gated modular structure that allows students to progress as required discussions and hands-on labs are completed.
- Built a progressive forensic-learning sequence using Wireshark, FTK Imager, Autopsy, packet-capture analysis, malware analysis, memory capture, forensic imaging, log analysis, honeypots, and intrusion-detection/SNORT activities, culminating in a NIST- or SANS-aligned incident response capstone.
- Implemented student-feedback-driven revisions to course organization, pacing, expectations, resource navigation, APA/library support, AI-use guidance, and supplemental learning materials while maintaining required program-level course components.

Selected Teaching Effectiveness

- Summer 2026 instructor evaluation means: AI and Cybersecurity — 5.00/5.00; Electronic Commerce Systems — 4.86/5.00; Foundations of Information Security — 4.54/5.00 (course response rates ranged from 16.67% to 38.46%).
- Anonymous student feedback consistently highlighted accessibility, communication, helpful feedback, supportive learning environments, practical application, and supplemental multimedia resources, including podcasts, videos, and professional cybersecurity resources.

Decrypted Dialogues

Founder & Facilitator | 2025 - Present

- Established and facilitate a weekly one-hour evening student-engagement session open to online and face-to-face students, providing supplemental course-related Q&A, academic discussion, peer interaction, and student support beyond scheduled office hours.

Independent Professional & Digital Scholarship

Founder / Principal — Hope Cyber Group, LLC, DBA Cyber Education Networks | 2019–Present

- Independent cybersecurity education and digital-media initiative; developed and produced public-facing cybersecurity and information technology educational content since 2019.
- Produce and distribute cybersecurity educational podcasts to listeners in multiple countries across major podcast platforms; Apple Podcasts currently accounts for 36% of podcast downloads.
- Publish Cyber Nexus, an independent cybersecurity and IT publication, and currently leads the relaunch and expansion of the Cyber Education Networks content portfolio.

The enterprise and its content are independently developed and are not presented as programs or publications of Middle Georgia State University.

Southern Crescent Technical College – Cybersecurity Program Coordinator / Instructor

Mercer University – Adjunct Professor of Informatics

PROFESSIONAL RELEVANT SKILLS

- Digital forensics; cybercrime investigation; cybersecurity; AI in law enforcement; technology policy; academic research and writing.
- Learning management systems: Brightspace D2L, Canvas, Blackboard.
- Program development, student mentoring, committee service, technical instruction, and interdisciplinary research.

SERVICE

Middle Georgia State University

Institutional Initiatives & Leadership

- **Faculty & Staff Giving Campaign Team Lead | 2026**
  Selected to serve as a Team Lead for MGA's Faculty & Staff Giving Campaign, recruiting and coordinating campaign ambassadors and supporting faculty and staff participation in the university-wide initiative.
- Faculty Search Committee | 2025
- Student Fees Committee Member | 2025–Present
- Athletic Committee Member | 2025–Present

School of Computing

- **Technical College System of Georgia Articulation & Partnership Development | 2026–Present**
  Support articulation and partnership development at the request of academic leadership by leveraging established TCSG relationships to strengthen transfer pathways, recruitment opportunities, and institutional collaboration.
- **Cybersecurity Threat Map Display Initiative | 2026–Present**
  Designing and implementing a Raspberry Pi–based digital signage solution at the request of the Interim Dean to display cybersecurity threat-map information on campus hallway televisions and enhance cybersecurity awareness.
- Marketing Committee, Recorder/Member | 2024–2025 / 2026-Present
- Student Engagement Committee Member | 2025–2026

Student Mentorship

- Knights LEAD Mentor | 2024–Present

COMMUNITY & EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

- Drone Operator, Wesleyan College Mock Disaster | April 2026
- Drone Operations, Macon Cherry Blossom Festival Road Race | March 2026
- High School Outreach, Houston County High School and Veterans High School | March 2026
- Career Academy Mock Interviews, Houston County and Monroe County Career Academies | February 2026