

Benjamin Taylor

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EDUCATION

University of North Carolina at Charlotte

M.S. Cybersecurity

- GPA: 4.0 / 4.0

Charlotte, NC

Aug. 2025 – Dec. 2026

University of North Carolina at Charlotte

B.S. Computer Science, Cybersecurity Concentration

- GPA: 3.86 / 4.0 | Chancellor's List

Charlotte, NC

Aug. 2023 – May 2026

CERTIFICATIONS

CompTIA Security+

AWS Developer – Assoc.

AZ-900: Azure Fundamentals

AWS Solutions Architect – Assoc.

AWS Data Engineer – Assoc.

AWS AI Practitioner

AWS CloudOps Engineer – Assoc.

ISC2 Certified in Cybersecurity

AWS Cloud Practitioner

EXPERIENCE

Wells Fargo

Charlotte, NC

Cybersecurity Intern – Security Operations Center (SOC)

May 2026 – Aug. 2026

- Completed 15+ production security investigations using Splunk, CrowdStrike, Cortex XSOAR, and ExtraHop, analyzing SIEM, endpoint, and network telemetry to determine case disposition.
- Earned 100% QA on reviewed casework by documenting investigative findings following a 3-month onboarding period, validating supporting evidence, and maintaining clear rationale for security decisions.
- Escalated multiple suspicious cases for higher-tier analysis after correlating activity across logs, endpoint telemetry, and network evidence to identify potentially actionable threats.
- Advanced from guided casework to independently investigating production security events within a large-scale enterprise SOC environment.

PROJECTS & COMPETITIONS

Betta Phish: Hooked? – CCI Startup Hackathon 2025

- Led a 4-member team to earn the Most Creative Award among 40+ teams by designing a gamified phishing-awareness and financial-literacy platform.
- Delivered a working full-stack prototype in under 48 hours using Flask, HTMX, and React with interactive phishing missions, scoring, badges, and progression.
- Designed 2 integrated learning tracks for cybersecurity and financial literacy with modular lessons, progression tracking, and reusable backend components.

Hack The Box CTFs: National Guard, Holmes CTF & HackTheBoo 2025

- Placed 2nd out of 23 teams in a North Carolina National Guard Hack The Box CTF, capturing 40/46 flags across AI exploitation, reverse engineering, and web challenges.
- Solved 19/23 challenges across HackTheBoo 2025 and Hack The Box's first Blue CTF through forensic analysis, OSINT, reverse engineering, and threat investigation.
- Ranked Top 4% globally (120/2,893) and Top 8% globally (634/7,085) across competitive Hack The Box events representing UNC Charlotte's 49th Security Division.

Obscura: Real-Time Threat Detection Platform

- Processed 10K+ network packets per session through a full-stack SOC simulation platform with real-time PCAP analysis and threat investigation.
- Implemented 3 detection workflows for SYN scans, brute-force activity, and YARA rule matches using Python, Flask, PyShark, and YARA, with a React/Tailwind dashboard for live alert monitoring and attack visualization.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Security Operations: Incident Triage & Investigation, Threat Detection, Splunk, CrowdStrike, Cortex XSOAR, ExtraHop, Microsoft Sentinel, Microsoft Defender, MITRE ATT&CK

Network & Detection: Wireshark, Zeek, Nmap, Snort, Suricata, YARA, PyShark, Packet Analysis, Vulnerability Assessment

Cloud & Platforms: AWS (EC2, S3, IAM, CloudWatch, CloudTrail, CloudFront), Azure, Linux, Windows

Languages & Development: Python, C++, C, Java, JavaScript, SQL, Bash, C#, HTML, CSS, Node.js, MongoDB, GitHub

CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

AWS Cloud Club at UNC Charlotte — *Cloud Programs & Events Lead*

Feb. 2026 – Present

Lead AWS workshops, certification sessions, and hands-on labs covering cloud architecture, security, and DevOps.

49th Security Division Club — *Officer*

Dec. 2024 – Present

Organized and participated in weekly cybersecurity talks and workshops for 50+ students.

Charlotte AI Research — *Member*

Aug. 2025 – Present

Discussed AI/ML applications for cybersecurity and threat detection.