NCL Fall 2025 Individual Game Scouting Report

Dear Bryce Maxheimer,

Thank you for participating in the National Cyber League (NCL) Fall 2025 Season! Our goal is to prepare the next generation of cybersecurity professionals, and your participation is helping achieve that goal.

The NCL was founded in May 2011 to provide an ongoing virtual training ground for collegiate students to develop, practice, and validate their cybersecurity skills in preparation for further learning, industry certifications, and career readiness. The NCL scenario-based challenges were designed around performance-based exam objectives of CompTIA certifications and are aligned to the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE) Cybersecurity Workforce Framework published by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

As you look to a future career in cybersecurity, we hope you find this report to be valuable in both validating skills and identifying areas for improvement across the nine NCL skills categories. You can use this NCL Scouting Report to:

- Validate your skills to employers in any job application or professional portfolio;
- Show case your achievements and strengths by including the Score Card view of your performance as part of your résumé or simply sharing the validation link so that others may view the detailed version of this report.

The NCL Fall 2025 Season had 8,520 students/players and 538 faculty/coaches from more than 490 two- and four-year schools & 200 high schools across all 50 U.S. states registered to play. The Individual Game Capture the Flag (CTF) event took place from October 24 through October 26. The Team Game CTF event took place from November 7 through November 9. The games were conducted in real-time for students across the country. You were in the Experienced Students Bracket, consisting of students enrolled in advanced degrees or hold extensive industry working experience.

NCL is powered by Cyber Skyline's cloud-based skills evaluation platform. Cyber Skyline hosted the scenario-driven cybersecurity challenges for players to compete and track their progress in real-time.

To validate this report, please access: cyberskyline.com/report/QCBEMP8D263T

CompTIA

Based on the performance detailed in this NCL Scouting Report, you have earned 21 hours of Continuing Education Units (CEUs) as approved by CompTIA. You can learn more about the NCL - CompTIA alignment via nationalcyberleague.org/partners.

Congratulations for your participation in the NCL Fall 2025 Individual Game! We hope you will continue to develop your knowledge and skills and make meaningful contributions as part of the Information Security workforce!

Dr. David Zeichick
NCL Commissioner

POWERED BY CYBER SKYLINE

NATIONAL CYBER LEAGUE SCORE CARD

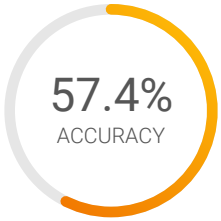
NCL FALL 2025 INDIVIDUAL GAME

EXPERIENCED STUDENTS RANK
30TH PLACE OUT OF 620

PERCENTILE
96TH

YOUR TOP CATEGORIES

OPEN SOURCE INTELLIGENCE	NETWORK TRAFFIC ANALYSIS	CRYPTOGRAPHY
96TH PERCENTILE	95TH PERCENTILE	92ND PERCENTILE



Average: 70.8%

cyberskyline.com/report
ID: QCBEMP8D263T

NCL Fall 2025 Individual Game

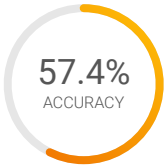
The NCL Individual Game is designed for student players nationwide to compete in realtime in the categories listed below. The Individual Game evaluates the technical cybersecurity skills of the individual, without the assistance of others.

30 TH PLACE OUT OF 620
EXPERIENCED STUDENTS RANK

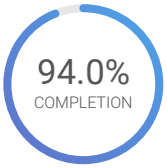
2680 POINTS OUT OF 3000
PERFORMANCE SCORE

96th Experienced Students Percentile

Average: 1394.2 Points



Average: 70.8%



Average: 53.8%

Cryptography

310 POINTS OUT OF 355

52.6% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Identify techniques used to encrypt or obfuscate messages and leverage tools to extract the plaintext.

Enumeration & Exploitation

260 POINTS OUT OF 300

53.8% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 87.5%

Identify actionable exploits and vulnerabilities and use them to bypass the security measures in code and compiled binaries.

Forensics

230 POINTS OUT OF 300

56.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 93.3%

Utilize the proper tools and techniques to analyze, process, recover, and/or investigate digital evidence in a computer-related incident.

Log Analysis

300 POINTS OUT OF 300

53.8% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Utilize the proper tools and techniques to establish a baseline for normal operation and identify malicious activities using log files from various services.

Network Traffic Analysis

300 POINTS OUT OF 300

66.7% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Identify malicious and benign network traffic to demonstrate an understanding of potential security breaches.

Open Source Intelligence

385 POINTS OUT OF 385

44.4% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Utilize publicly available information such as search engines, public repositories, social media, and more to gain in-depth knowledge on a topic or target.

Password Cracking

275 POINTS OUT OF 360

90.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 78.3%

Identify types of password hashes and apply various techniques to efficiently determine plaintext passwords.

Scanning & Reconnaissance

300 POINTS OUT OF 300

62.5% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Identify and use the proper tools to gain intelligence about a target including its services and potential vulnerabilities.

Web Application Exploitation

220 POINTS OUT OF 300

69.2% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 75.0%

Identify actionable exploits and vulnerabilities and use them to bypass the security measures in online services.

Note: Survey module (100 points) was excluded from this report.

Cryptography Module

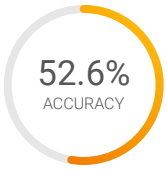
Identify techniques used to encrypt or obfuscate messages and leverage tools to extract the plaintext.

50 TH PLACE OUT OF 620
EXPERIENCED STUDENTS RANK

92nd Experienced Students Percentile

310 POINTS OUT OF 355
PERFORMANCE SCORE

Average: 201.2 Points



Average: 81.6%

Average: 70.1%

Baking Soda (Easy)

50 POINTS OUT OF 50

55.6% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Analyze and obtain the plaintext from text encoded with common number bases.

ROTten domains (Easy)

45 POINTS OUT OF 45

37.5% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Analyze and obtain plaintext for messages encrypted with a shift cipher.

Convenience (Easy)

40 POINTS OUT OF 60

25.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Analyze and obtain the plaintext from text encrypted with Vigenère cipher.

01101011 01100101 01111001 (Medium)

15 POINTS OUT OF 40

33.3% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Decrypt a message using an XOR key.

Squirtle (Medium)

60 POINTS OUT OF 60

83.3% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Analyze and exploit a DES encryption implementation using known weak keys.

Temet Nosce (Hard)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

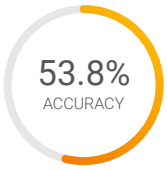
Exploit a flaw in AES encryption to decrypt text with an unknown secret key.

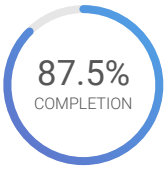
Enumeration & Exploitation Module

Identify actionable exploits and vulnerabilities and use them to bypass the security measures in code and compiled binaries.

58 TH PLACE OUT OF 620
EXPERIENCED STUDENTS RANK

260 POINTS OUT OF 300
PERFORMANCE SCORE





91 st Experienced Students Percentile

Average: 141.9 Points

Average: 72.1%

Average: 63.3%

Deno Finds a Way (Easy)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Review source code and exploit a command injection vulnerability to escalate privileges.

Stacked (Medium)

60 POINTS OUT OF 100

25.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 66.7%

Perform an HTTP-triggered stack overflow to retrieve critical information from the server.

Sewer System (Hard)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

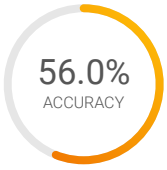
Exploit a race condition in software to return protected data.

Forensics Module

Utilize the proper tools and techniques to analyze, process, recover, and/or investigate digital evidence in a computer-related incident.

64 TH PLACE OUT OF 620
EXPERIENCED STUDENTS RANK

230 POINTS OUT OF 300
PERFORMANCE SCORE



90th Experienced Students Percentile

Average: 160.3 Points

Average: 58.7%

Average: 65.1%

Four & Six (Easy)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

66.7% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Use a forensics tool to examine unallocated space for files.

This Bytes (Medium)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

50.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Research JPEG specifications to repair an image.

Stage Left (Hard)

30 POINTS OUT OF 100

40.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 66.7%

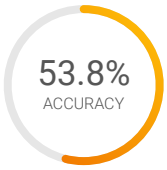
Fix a corrupted SQLite database file and analyze the tables.

Log Analysis Module

Utilize the proper tools and techniques to establish a baseline for normal operation and identify malicious activities using log files from various services.

64 TH PLACE OUT OF 620
EXPERIENCED STUDENTS RANK

300 POINTS OUT OF 300
PERFORMANCE SCORE



90th Experienced Students Percentile

Average: 204.1 Points

Average: 65.0%

Average: 74.9%

Process This (Easy)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Examine parsed Sysmon JSON process tree logs to determine a chain of events.

Brute Force (Medium)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

35.7% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Identify a brute force attack by analyzing patterns of malicious actor behavior in web server logs.

Stolen Swipe (Hard)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

50.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

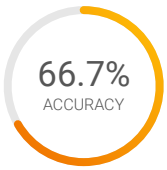
Parse and correlate ATM and EMV Field 55 logs (ISO 8583 standard) to identify a fraudulent transaction.

Network Traffic Analysis Module

Identify malicious and benign network traffic to demonstrate an understanding of potential security breaches.

36 TH PLACE OUT OF 620
EXPERIENCED STUDENTS RANK

300 POINTS OUT OF 300
PERFORMANCE SCORE



95th Experienced Students Percentile

Average: 160.6 Points

Average: 64.6%

Average: 62.8%

RMM Tool (Easy)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

62.5% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Analyze DNS packet requests and responses to identify a suspicious download.

Drive-by Download (Medium)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

60.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Identify details of a drive-by-download attack and de-obfuscate JavaScript.

The Insider (Hard)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Reconstruct a file from UDP packets and decode VBA script.

Open Source Intelligence Module

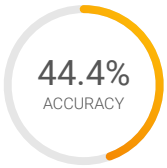
Utilize publicly available information such as search engines, public repositories, social media, and more to gain in-depth knowledge on a topic or target.

25 TH PLACE OUT OF 620
EXPERIENCED STUDENTS RANK

385 POINTS OUT OF 385
PERFORMANCE SCORE

96th Experienced Students Percentile

Average: 244.8 Points



Average: 66.7%

Average: 71.7%

Rules of Conduct (Easy)

30 POINTS OUT OF 30

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Introductory challenge on acceptable conduct during NCL.

Cooking Breakfast (Easy)

45 POINTS OUT OF 45

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Parse Chef (esolang) code to determine what input it requires.

NotPetya (Easy)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

47.1% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Gather key information on NotPetya malware.

Flamed (Medium)

55 POINTS OUT OF 55

25.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Use open source tools to find patterns between GPS locations.

Material (Medium)

80 POINTS OUT OF 80

31.3% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Use the EDGAR database to filter 8-K filings.

I Cee Stuff (Hard)

75 POINTS OUT OF 75

35.7% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Use ICS/OT OSINT tools do passive recon on infrastructure.

Password Cracking Module

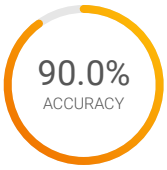
Identify types of password hashes and apply various techniques to efficiently determine plaintext passwords.

74 TH PLACE OUT OF 620
EXPERIENCED STUDENTS RANK

89th Experienced Students Percentile

275 POINTS OUT OF 360
PERFORMANCE SCORE

Average: 225.4 Points



Average: 92.4%

Average: 65.9%

Hashing (Easy)

40 POINTS OUT OF 40

80.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Generate hashes for passwords with the MD5, NTLM, and SHA256 hashing algorithms.

Crack You One More Time (Easy)

50 POINTS OUT OF 50

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Crack MD5 and SHA1 password hashes using password cracking tools.

Oph the Dome (Easy)

60 POINTS OUT OF 60

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Crack Windows NTLM password hashes using rainbow tables.

Redacted (Medium)

50 POINTS OUT OF 50

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Crack an insecure password for a protected PDF file and recover redacted information.

MasKquerade (Medium)

60 POINTS OUT OF 60

80.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Build a wordlist or pattern rule to crack password hashes of a known pattern.

Enterprise (Hard)

15 POINTS OUT OF 100

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 16.7%

Build a wordlist to crack passwords not found in common wordlists.

Scanning & Reconnaissance Module

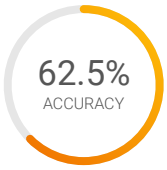
Identify and use the proper tools to gain intelligence about a target including its services and potential vulnerabilities.

85 TH PLACE OUT OF 620
EXPERIENCED STUDENTS RANK

300 POINTS OUT OF 300
PERFORMANCE SCORE

87th Experienced Students Percentile

Average: 204.8 Points



Average: 81.2%

Average: 75.4%

Portscan (Easy)	100 POINTS OUT OF 100	83.3% ACCURACY	COMPLETION: 100.0%
Use nmap to scan a machine and discover open ports.			
Chain (Medium)	100 POINTS OUT OF 100	83.3% ACCURACY	COMPLETION: 100.0%
Enumerate SMB to locate and retrieve a private SSH key.			
I'm TXT (Hard)	100 POINTS OUT OF 100	41.7% ACCURACY	COMPLETION: 100.0%
Enumerate a DNS service to discover hidden files in DNS TXT records.			

Web Application Exploitation Module

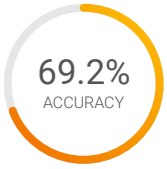
Identify actionable exploits and vulnerabilities and use them to bypass the security measures in online services.

68 TH PLACE OUT OF 620
EXPERIENCED STUDENTS RANK

220 POINTS OUT OF 300
PERFORMANCE SCORE

90th Experienced Students Percentile

Average: 151.5 Points



Average: 80.0%

Average: 44.2%

Browser (Easy)	100 POINTS OUT OF 100	66.7% ACCURACY	COMPLETION: 100.0%
Exploit a client-side validation weakness in a web application.			
Ersatz Motel (Medium)	100 POINTS OUT OF 100	71.4% ACCURACY	COMPLETION: 100.0%
Perform a SQL Injection Union attack to retrieve information.			
Micro Fail (Hard)	20 POINTS OUT OF 100	66.7% ACCURACY	COMPLETION: 40.0%
Access sensitive files on a webserver by chaining together a prototype pollution attack with an XML external entity injection attack.			