

Hiram F. Tostado

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EDUCATION

The University of Texas at El Paso

B.S. in Computer Science

Expected: May 2028

GPA: 4.0

- UTEP Academic Scholarship Recipient (Top 3%); Dean's List: Fall 2024 - Fall 2025; UTEP University Honors Program Member
- *Relevant Coursework:* Data Structures, Calculus III, Computer Architecture
- Bronze Medalist, National Math Olympiad. Aguascalientes, Mexico (II ONMB-RRR 2024)

Certifications: CompTIA Security+, CompTIA Network+, Google IT Support Professional Certificate

Other Courses: CodePath: CYB102 (Honors) and TIP102 (Advanced)

EXPERIENCE

Security Operations Intern

April 2026 - Present

UTEP Information Security Office

El Paso, TX

- Selected to join the Security Operations Center internship program to support enterprise monitoring and incident response efforts.
- Assisted SOC analysts with Microsoft Defender for Endpoint alert triage and threat validation.
- Developed and maintained VAMP for scalable vulnerability analysis and endpoint workflow automation.

Software Engineer - Business Application Development (Undergraduate Assistant II)

July 2025 – February 2026

UTEP College of Engineering Dean's Office

El Paso, TX

- Architected and developed enterprise-grade applications using the Power Platform, enabling large-scale automation to improve doctoral student-mentor interactions for over 300 users.
- Engineered and deployed custom PowerBI dashboards and reports for real-time data analysis and decision-making, giving leadership real-time business insights for 20+ faculty and staff members.

PROJECTS & EXTRACURRICULARS

Capture the Flag (CTF) Competitions

- **Placed 1st** in a university-wide Capture the Flag competition (Hack the Halls II, Fall 2025) in December 2025, outperforming 40+ cybersecurity students by analyzing and resolving challenges in cryptography, password cracking, and network forensics.
- **Earned 1st place** in the NMSU MurderBot CTF (November 2025), demonstrating strong incident-style problem-solving across web exploitation, OSINT, digital forensics, cryptography, and network traffic analysis.
- Achieved a **94th percentile national ranking** (487/7,010) in the Spring 2026 National Cyber League Individual Game, demonstrating technical skills in cryptography, log analysis, scanning, enumeration, web security, and open-source intelligence.
- Regularly participate in online CTF competitions as a solo competitor, tackling challenges on various events advertised on CTFTime.org, demonstrating a commitment to continuous learning and self-improvement.

Hack The Box – Red Team Cybersecurity Training

- Completed 10+ penetration testing modules through HTB Academy's Pentester Job Role Path, covering network enumeration, common exploitation techniques, SQLi, file uploads, and other real-world hacking techniques.
- Achieved competitive placements in Hack The Box CTFs —Hack The Boo 2025 (412/2892), Holmes CTF 2025 (1918/7084), Cyber Apocalypse 2025 (1918/8129) by completing blue-team operations involving packet analysis, threat hunting, and incident response.

TryHackMe – Blue Team Cybersecurity Training

- Ranked in the top 1% globally on TryHackMe, working through the SOC1 Path and mastering skills in log analysis, threat intelligence, and vulnerability management through comprehensive and hands-on labs.
- Completed 150+ labs and challenges platform-wide, developing a variety of skills including SOC analyst frameworks, SIEM triage, phishing investigations, malware classification, Windows/Linux threat detection, and IDS/Snort.

Hack the Border 3.0 Hackathon – Third Place | *El Paso Community College*

November 2024

- Presented a solution to judges, earning 3rd place out of 15+ teams and demonstrating strong technical and communication skills.
- Designed a proof-of-concept tool to combat misinformation, leveraging Python and API integrations to aggregate and analyze data.

LEADERSHIP & ORGANIZATIONS

Cyber Rapid Innovation Group (CyberRIG) – Research Member

January 2026 – Present

- Developed 5+ CTF challenges on reverse engineering and static analysis, engaging 110+ high school and college participants during a university-hosted semestral CTF event on April 2026.
- Designed a DNS exfiltration lab and produced a technical report examining data exfiltration techniques, targeting educational applications for students and IT professionals.
- Reviewed and synthesized peer independent research projects, primarily in AI applications in cybersecurity, contributing critical feedback and facilitating interdisciplinary discussion.

Free and Open-Source Software Club (FOSS) at UTEP – Community Chair Officer

January 2025 – Present

- Managed weekly social media publicity, increasing Instagram engagement to 8,000+ views per month and 1,000+ accounts reached.
- Delivered presentations on open-source resources and best practices, educating 10+ students per session.
- Organized and facilitated weekly club meetings and 15 workshops per semester, increasing member participation by 30%.

Other Organizations: Miners Cybersecurity Club at UTEP, Women in Cybersecurity (WiCyS): UTEP Chapter, Google Developer Group on Campus: UTEP (GDG UTEP), SHPE/MAES UTEP Joint Chapter, CodePath, ColorStack

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Blue Team / SOC Tools: Splunk, Wireshark, Windows Event Logs, Linux (Kali, Ubuntu), VirusTotal

Red Team Tools: Burp Suite, Nmap, John the Ripper, Hashcat, Gobuster

Programming & Automation: Python, Java, C/C++, Bash, PowerShell, SQL

Cybersecurity Frameworks: MITRE ATT&CK, OWASP Top 10, NIST & SANS Incident Response Frameworks

Languages: Spanish (native), English (fluent)