

**TO:** Megan Bratkovich, Academic Advisor, Science & Health

**FROM:** Kawsu Sillah

**DATE:** February 21, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Degree Progress Report: BS Information Technology, Cybersecurity

## 1. Status Report Content & Background

This report details my academic and professional progress toward a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology (Cybersecurity concentration) at William Paterson University (WPUNJ), with an anticipated graduation of **Summer 2028**.

As a returning student, I have had to balance full-time employment, family responsibilities, and thorough coursework. After immigrating to the United States, I pursued computer science at Tacoma Community College and the Borough of Manhattan Community College. Financial and family responsibilities necessitated a temporary pause in my education, during which I built an 18-year career in IT. To align my career trajectory with management opportunities and long-term financial stability, I resumed my studies in 2017, earning an AS/AA in Computer Science from Union County College before transferring to WPUNJ.

## 2. Work Completed

I currently maintain a **4.000 Overall GPA** and have completed 94 out of 120 required credits (78% of overall degree requirements).

### Academic Milestones:

- **Transferred Credits:** Successfully applied my completed NJ AA/AS degree to fulfill all Core and Program Pre-requisites.
- **WPUNJ Requirements:** Fulfilled Pioneer Success and Foundations requirements.

**Professional & Practical Application:** My coursework is directly supported by my ongoing, full-time role managing IT infrastructure at Founders Table Restaurant Group, where I have worked for 13 years to present.

- **Network Engineering:** Source, install, configure, and manage a Meraki network spanning 125+ locations (personally built 35+ locations; supervise vendor deployments for the remainder).
- **Systems Management:** Oversee deployment and end-user training for CCTV, digital menus, Kiosks, music systems, and Kitchen Display Systems (KDS).
- **Cybersecurity Operations:** Actively manage the company's centralized anti-virus portal to mitigate endpoint vulnerabilities.
- **Continuous Education:** Maintain active membership in cybersecurity communities, including *Simply Cyber*, and consume daily morning security briefings to stay current on threat landscapes.

**3. Work to be Completed** To reach my Summer 2028 graduation, I must complete a minimum of 26 additional credits in residency at WPUNJ (currently at 49% completion of specific program requirements).

- **Writing Intensive Requirement:** Currently enrolled in **ENG 3000 (Technical Writing)** (Spring 2026). This course is critical to my professional development; past performance reviews highlighted that while my technical skills are elite, advancing into senior management requires refined communication and technical writing capabilities.
- **World Languages Requirement:** Pending scheduling in an upcoming semester.
- **Program Requirements:** Remaining core cybersecurity courses will be paced evenly over the next two years.

**4. Overall Assessment of Progress** My academic and professional progress is highly satisfactory. Maintaining a 4.0 GPA while serving as a senior IT systems manager and raising a family demonstrates strong time-management and prioritization skills. By integrating my daily practical experience in network and endpoint security with my current coursework, specifically in Technical Writing, I have successfully bridged the gap between technical execution and leadership. I am fully on track to complete my remaining 26 credits by Summer 2028.

**5. Acknowledgments** *Please note: Generative AI (Google Gemini) was utilized during the drafting of this report strictly as an editing and formatting tool to help organize my personal data, ensure technical writing best practices, and refine clarity. All facts, experiences, and academic data presented are entirely my own.*