

Romance Scams and Social Engineering



According to the Federal Trade Commission, in the “past five years, people have reported losing a staggering \$1.3 billion to romance scams... 2021 was no exception – reported losses hit a record \$547 million for the year”. Social engineering plays an important role across the entire romance scams process, from creating a fake profile and initiating contact to grooming and depleting victims of their finances, emotions, and trust.

THEME: “The CARE Lab Fights Romance Scams”

Temple University’s Cybersecurity in Application, Research & Education (CARE) Lab is challenging full-time high school and college students (aged 14+) to gain first-hand cyberattack and cybersecurity experience by participating in a creative and unique social engineering event! NO TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE IS REQUIRED. Students from all disciplinary backgrounds are welcome!

The CARE Lab has been brought in to help with the skyrocketing numbers of romance scams hitting Americans. Your team will serve as a CARE Lab representative and engage with both victims and scammers as you work through real-time simulated romance scams.

APPLICATION

We want to see your creative side! You will create a 30 second Public Service Announcement on romance scams. Click [here](#) to see some sample PSAs.

LIVE COMPETITION

We want to see your defensive social engineering skills. Students will play the role of CARE Lab employees who are helping community members victimized by romance scams.

The competitions will be held **virtually** on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, from 9am to 4pm ET. There are three tracks. Graduate: May 19, 20, 21 | Undergraduate: June 2, 3, 4 | High schools: June 9, 10, 11

Orientation date: Saturday, May 13 (virtual) | Closing ceremonies: Wednesday, June 14, 3pm-4pm ET (virtual)

TEAM SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. Team Name
2. Institution Name
3. Team details: number of members, full names, email addresses, profile photos, short bios
4. Faculty advisor details: full name, email address
5. PSA video (see above)

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

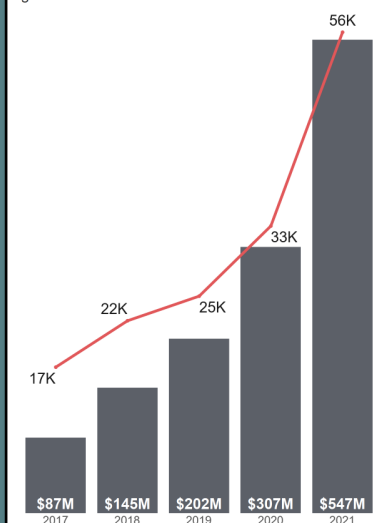
1. Parental permission (if under age 18)
2. Code of conduct waiver (agree not to cheat)
3. Media consent waiver (generated audio/visual content can be shared publicly)
4. Pre- and post-event survey

REGISTRATION

Register your team by Saturday, April 29th, 2023 at 12pm ET at: <https://sites.temple.edu/socialengineering/register/>

Reports about romance scams: Growth over five years

2021 total reported losses were more than 6 times what they were in 2017, and the number of reports grew to more than 3 times the 2017 number.



Figures based on fraud reports to the FTC's Consumer Sentinel Network that were classified as romance scams. Reports provided by the Internet Crimes Complaint Center are excluded.