About The Program

The National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity (NCAE-C) program is comprised of three sub-components: the Centers of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense (CAE-CD), the Centers of Academic Excellence in Cyber Operations (CAE-CO) and the Centers of Academic Excellence in Cyber Research (CAE-R).

The CAE-CD program focuses on educating a cybersecurity workforce to meet the needs of the nation, government, industry, and academia. Complementary in nature, the CAE-CO program focuses on technologies and techniques related to specialized cyber operations (e.g., collection, exploitation, and response) to enhance the national security posture of the Nation. The CAE-R program recognizes programs that integrate cyber research into curriculum, provide NSA and partner agencies with insight into advanced academic, research and development capabilities, and facilitate government-academia research exchanges.

Federal partners include the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)/National Initiative on Cybersecurity Education (NICE), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Defense Office of the Chief Information Officer (DoD-CIO), and U.S. Cyber Command (USCYBERCOM).

Program Highlights

• **Receive U.S. Government recognition** for the institution's cybersecurity programs and curricula.

• **Ensure student confidence** in your degree programs as a top choice to learn the necessary knowledge and skills to succeed in the cybersecurity workforce.

• **Serve** as a potential source and facilitator for government-academia researcher exchanges.

• **Join the CAE Community** of cybersecurity professionals, educators, researchers, and advocates to grow the cyber field.

• **Provide opportunities** for student scholarships and grants through the Department of Defense Cyber Scholarship Program (DoD CySP) and/or the CyberCorps® : Scholarship for Service (SFS).
Eligibility

All regionally accredited two-year, four-year and graduate level institutions in the United States are eligible to apply for the CAE-CD designation. The NCAE-C program designates institutions for specific programs of study resulting in Associates, Bachelors or Graduate degrees or certificates. The CAE-CO designation is available to regionally accredited four-year colleges and graduate-level universities with programs based in a computer science, electrical engineering or computer engineering department, have a technically deep degree program, or a collaboration between two or more of these departments. CAE-R applicants must be regionally accredited, and rated either an R1, R2, or R3 as determined by the Carnegie Foundation Basic Classification System.

NCAE-C Institutions

As of May 12, 2022

There are 380 NCAE-C institutions In 48 states, the District of Columbia & Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

More Information

Visit www.nsa.gov/Academics/Centers-of-Academic-Excellence for more details on the program.

Questions? Email caepmo@nsa.gov