About The Program

The increasing prevalence of cybersecurity attacks on both individuals and businesses emphasizes the need for cybersecurity professionals to protect and defend our Nation's critical infrastructure and systems. The **National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense (CAE-CD)** program, co-sponsored by the National Security Agency (NSA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), was established to meet this growing need for knowledgeable and skilled cybersecurity professionals within the Federal Government – and ultimately, within state and local governments and industry.

With the CAE designation, colleges and universities are formally recognized by the U.S. Government for their robust cybersecurity-related programs. These institutions have undergone an in-depth assessment and have met rigorous requirements in order to be designated. They are well postured to equip students with expert knowledge and skills to protect and defend against the cyber threat landscape.

Institutions designated as CAEs in Cyber Defense:

- **Are recognized by the U.S. Government** for their cyber defense programs and curricula.

- **Have curricula that is mapped to specified Knowledge Units,** which align with the NICE Cybersecurity Workforce Framework, a cybersecurity language employed nationwide by educators, industry workers, and government organizations.

- **Have degree programs that are a top choice** for students who want to learn the necessary knowledge and skills to succeed in the cybersecurity workforce.

- **Assist federal agencies** by providing academic insight into cyber-related programs at DHS, NSA, and other federal agencies.

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

- **Facilitate development** of faculty and research leaders.

- **Participate in a large network** of cybersecurity professionals, educators, researchers, and advocates to grow the cyber field.

- **Are privy to opportunities** for student scholarships and grants through the Department of Defense Cyber Scholarship Program and the Federal Cyber Service Scholarship for Service Program.
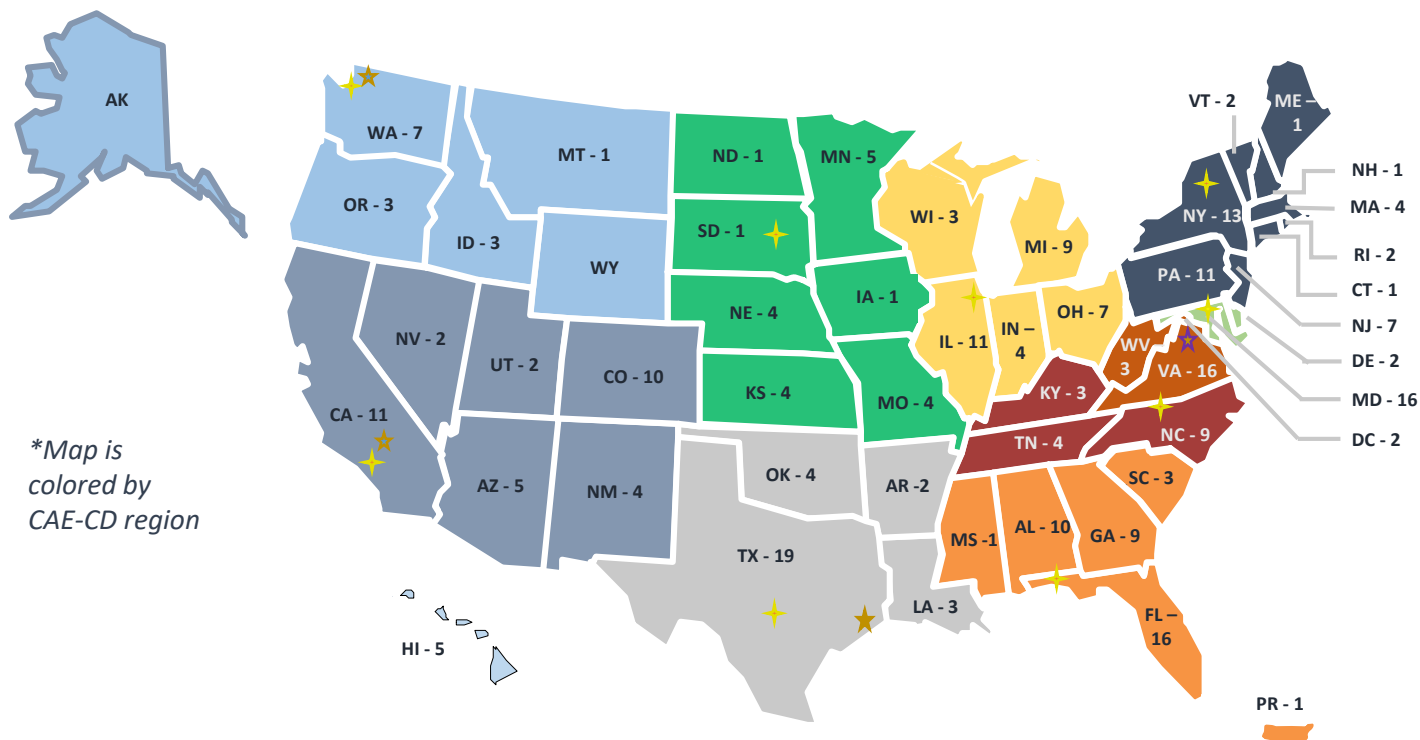
National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense

Eligibility

All regionally accredited two-year, four-year, and graduate-level institutions in the United States can apply for designation as a NSA/DHS CAE-CD. CAE designation is valid for five academic years, after which the school must successfully reapply in order to retain its CAE-CD designation.

CAE-CD Institutions

Map is colored by CAE-CD region

AK

WA - 7
OR - 3
MT - 1
ID - 3
WY
ND - 1
MN - 5
SD - 1
NE - 4
IA - 1
WI - 3
MI - 9
VT - 2
ME – 1
NY - 13
NH - 1
MA - 4
RI - 2
CT - 1
NJ - 7
DE - 2
MD - 16
DC - 2
PA - 11
NV - 2
UT - 2
CO - 10
CA - 11
AZ - 5
NM - 4
KS - 4
MO - 4
IL - 11
IN – 4
OH - 7
WV 3
VA - 16
KY - 3
TN - 4
NC - 9
SC - 3
OK - 4
AR -2
TX - 19
LA - 3
MS -1
AL - 10
GA - 9
FL – 16
HI - 5
PR - 1

272 Total Institutions
In 48 states + District of Columbia & Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

More Information

Visit www.iad.gov/NIETP for more details on how to apply, download the available tools, and submit your institution's application.

Questions? Email AskCAEIAE@nsa.gov

For a full list of schools, visit: https://www.iad.gov/NIETP/reports/cae_designated_institutions.cfm