

## **Center of Academic Excellence (CAE) in Cyber Operations (CO) Designation Program of Study / CAE Designation Summary**

NSA's CAE in Cyber Operations (CAE-CO) program supports the President's National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE): Building a Digital Nation, and furthers the goal to broaden the pool of skilled workers capable of supporting a cyber-secure nation.

The CAE-CO program is a deeply technical, inter-disciplinary, higher education program firmly grounded in the computer science, computer engineering, and/or electrical engineering disciplines, with extensive opportunities for hands-on applications via labs and exercises.

The CAE-CO program complements the existing CAE in Cyber Defense (CAE-CD) programs, providing a particular emphasis on technologies and techniques related to specialized cyber operations (e.g., collection, exploitation, and response), to enhance the national security posture of our Nation. These technologies and techniques are critical to intelligence, military and law enforcement organizations authorized to perform these specialized operations.

By completing the CAE-CO checklist you are affirming your institution's readiness to apply for the Program of Study (PoS) validation and the Center of Academic Excellence (CAE) designation. Completing the checklist is the first step in this process and does not guarantee your institution's final approval for the PoS validation or CAE designation.

Institutions wishing to earn the **Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Operations (CAE-CO) Designation** for a particular program of study will apply in two parts.

**Part 1: Program of Study (PoS) Review:** The process will begin with the submission of elements pertaining to the academic program of study, including curriculum, faculty profiles and qualifications, maturity of the program, and so on. Prospective CAE-CO Institutions must proceed to Part 2 after completing Part 1.

**Part 2: CAE Designation:** Once the program of study has been reviewed, the institution may pursue CAE designation. To be eligible for designation, the academic institutions must hold a current regional accreditation as outlined by the Department of Education (<https://www.ed.gov/accreditation>).

**CAE-Cyber Operations (CAE-CO)  
Program of Study (PoS) / Designation  
Checklist**

**Centers of Academic Excellence (CAE) Information:**

- Is your institution pursuing re-designation? *Yes/No*
  - If yes, please list the re-designating program name below:
    -
- Is your institution validating an additional program of study? *Yes/No*
  - If yes, please list all current PoS validations and CAE designations below:
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- Have you previously earned the Cyber Operations program of study validation / CAE designation for an institution? *Yes / No*

**College Information:**

Institution Name:

- Name of *Regional Accreditation Agency(required)*:
- Name of Program accreditation agency (optional)
  - Institution Street Address:
  - City, State, Zip:
- Name of chosen program of study (PoS):
- Department that houses the program of study:
- Program of Study type:
  - Doctoral:
  - Masters:
  - Bachelors:
  - other:

**Point of Contact (POC) Information:**

- Title:
- First:
- Last:
- POC Phone:
- Alt. Phone
- POC Email (must be .edu):
- POC Mailing Address:

**Secondary Point of Contact (POC) Information:**

- Title:
- First:

- Last:
- POC Phone:
- Alt. Phone
- POC Email (must be .edu):
- POC Mailing Address:

**President / Provost Information:**

- Title:
- First
- Last:
- Phone:
- Email:

**Please indicate ‘Yes’, ‘No’, or ‘Unknown’ to the questions below and submit the checklist; you will be contacted with information on how to continue.**

<b>Centers of Academic Excellence (CAE) in Cyber Operations (CO)</b>			
<b>Criteria Description</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
Has your institution previously earned the CAE-CO designation?			
Have you attended a CAE-CO workshop in the past six (6) months?			
Have you been approved by your institutions administration to pursue the CAE-CO?			
Has your selected Program of Study been in existence for three (3) years with one (1) year of graduates?			
Have you reviewed the Program of Study (PoS) validation and CAE designation requirement documents?			
CAE-CO Document: <a href="https://public.cyber.mil/ncae-c/documents-library/">https://public.cyber.mil/ncae-c/documents-library/</a>			

\*I certify that the information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge: *Yes/No*