



National Centers of
Academic Excellence
IN CYBERSECURITY



CAE
IN CYBERSECURITY
COMMUNITY

2025 Style Guide

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National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity



Mission

The National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity (NCAE-C) program creates and manages a collaborative cybersecurity educational program with community colleges, colleges, and universities that:

- Establishes standards for cybersecurity curriculum and academic excellence
- Includes competency development among students and faculty
- Values community outreach and leadership in professional development
- Integrates cybersecurity practice within the institution and across academic disciplines
- Actively engages in solutions to challenges facing cybersecurity education

Designations

Academic institutions may choose from three designations:

- ❖ **Cyber Defense (CAE-CD)** designation is awarded to regionally accredited academic institutions offering cybersecurity degrees and/or certificates at the Associate, Bachelors, and graduate levels.
- ❖ **Cyber Research (CAE-R)** designation is awarded to DoD schools, PhD-producing military academies, or regionally accredited, degree-granting four-year institutions rated by the Carnegie Foundation Basic Classification system as either a Doctoral University – Very high research activity (R1), Doctoral University – High Research Activity (R2), or Doctoral/Professional University (D/PU). Also included are research universities that are not R1 and R2 institutions that were approved by NSA to submit an application.
- ❖ **Cyber Operations (CAE-CO)** designation is a deeply technical, interdisciplinary 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 designation process is a combination of elements related to the institution, focused on outputs for determining academic achievement. This combination assures that the institution meets the desired characteristics of a CAE-C institution, and that the academic delivery to students is producing the qualified workforce needed by the nation.

National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity

Official and Abbreviated Titles

Accepted Editorial Uses and References

The below uses for the name of the National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity program should be used only in reference to the overarching program and the Program Management Office. Otherwise, reference the CAE-C Community. A good way to know whether to use 'NCAE-C' or 'CAE-C' is to determine if the name could be replaced with 'the program.' If it can, use NCAE-C, and if it cannot, use CAE-C. **NCAE-C refers only to the overall program and its administrative office, and not to any designation, institution, or publications in the broader Community.**

National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity

This is the most formal name for the program. It is important to highlight that the program is national, therefore, use the formal name in publications, press inquiries, or for formal occasions. It is also customary to use this full name for the first text reference in any formal communications materials. The formal name clearly identifies the program and establishes a reference point for the less formal names to follow. Typically, this name is only used once as the full formal reference.

NCAE

This is the most informal name for the program. This should never be used as the first text reference, but is acceptable for any subsequent references.

NCAE-C

This is an informal name for the program. This should never be used as the first text reference, but is acceptable for any subsequent references. This name is typically used to generally talk about the program.

Program Management Office, PMO

This is used colloquially in reference to the administrative staff of the NCAE-C program at the NSA, and is an informal name for the office. This should never be used as a substitute for the above accepted naming uses for the NCAE-C program in published materials.

Please follow all guidelines listed above when referencing the NCAE-C. If you need any assistance or clarification of the guidelines, please contact the NCAE PMO (caepmo_uwe@uwe.nsa.gov).

Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity Community



Mission and Vision

The Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity (CAE-C) Community is the organized group of community colleges, colleges, and universities that hold a designation from the National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity (NCAE-C) program. The mission of the CAE-C Community is to provide institutions designated by the NCAE-C with resources to aid in individual success through workshop facilitation, marketing efforts, and communication tools. The CAE-C Community actively engages with government representatives to provide educational workshops, opportunities for funding, conferences, and working groups. The Community also partners with industry to ensure that students entering the next generation cyber workforce have the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities for a successful career in cyber. The CAE Community is a grant funded national center.

Official and Abbreviated Titles

Accepted Editorial Uses and References

The below uses for the name of the Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity Community should be used in reference to the CAE-C Community. A good way to know whether to use 'NCAE-C' or 'CAE-C' is to determine if the name could be replaced with 'the program.' If it can, use NCAE-C, and if it cannot, use CAE-C. **NCAE-C refers only to the program office, and not to any designation, institution, or publication in the broader Community.**

Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity Community

This is the most formal name for the community. It is important to highlight the role as Centers of Academic Excellence. Therefore, use the formal name in publications, press inquiries, or for formal occasions. It is also customary to use this name for the first text reference in any formal written correspondence. The formal name clearly identifies who the community is and establishes a reference point for the less formal names to follow. Typically, this name is only used once as the full formal reference.

Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity Community

CAE in Cybersecurity Community™

This is the acceptable, alternate formal name for the community. It is acceptable as a first text reference as well as any subsequent references. It is best to use this name when speaking with individuals that are familiar with the Centers of Academic Excellence Program.

CAE-C Community

This is an informal name for the community. This should never be used as the first text reference, but it is acceptable for any subsequent references. This name is typically used to talk generally about the Community amongst the Community.

CAE

This is the most informal name for the community. This should never be used as the first text reference, but is acceptable for any subsequent references. This name is not only associated with the community, but other Center of Academic Excellence programs as well; therefore, this name should never be used as a first text reference and should always follow the formal naming conventions.

The Community™

This is an informal name for the community. This should never be used as the first text reference, but is acceptable for any subsequent references. This name is not only associated with the community; therefore, this name should never be used as a first text reference and should only follow the formal naming conventions.

Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity Community

Agency Grant Attributions Guidelines

When you reference your grant please use the program name (**examples:** NCAE-C, DoD CySP, or GenCyber) instead of saying “a NSA Grant.” Yes NSA issued the grant, but the funding was provided by various programs. If incorrect identification is found, the specific grant Program Manager may ask that you change it.

Acceptable reference including grant number examples:

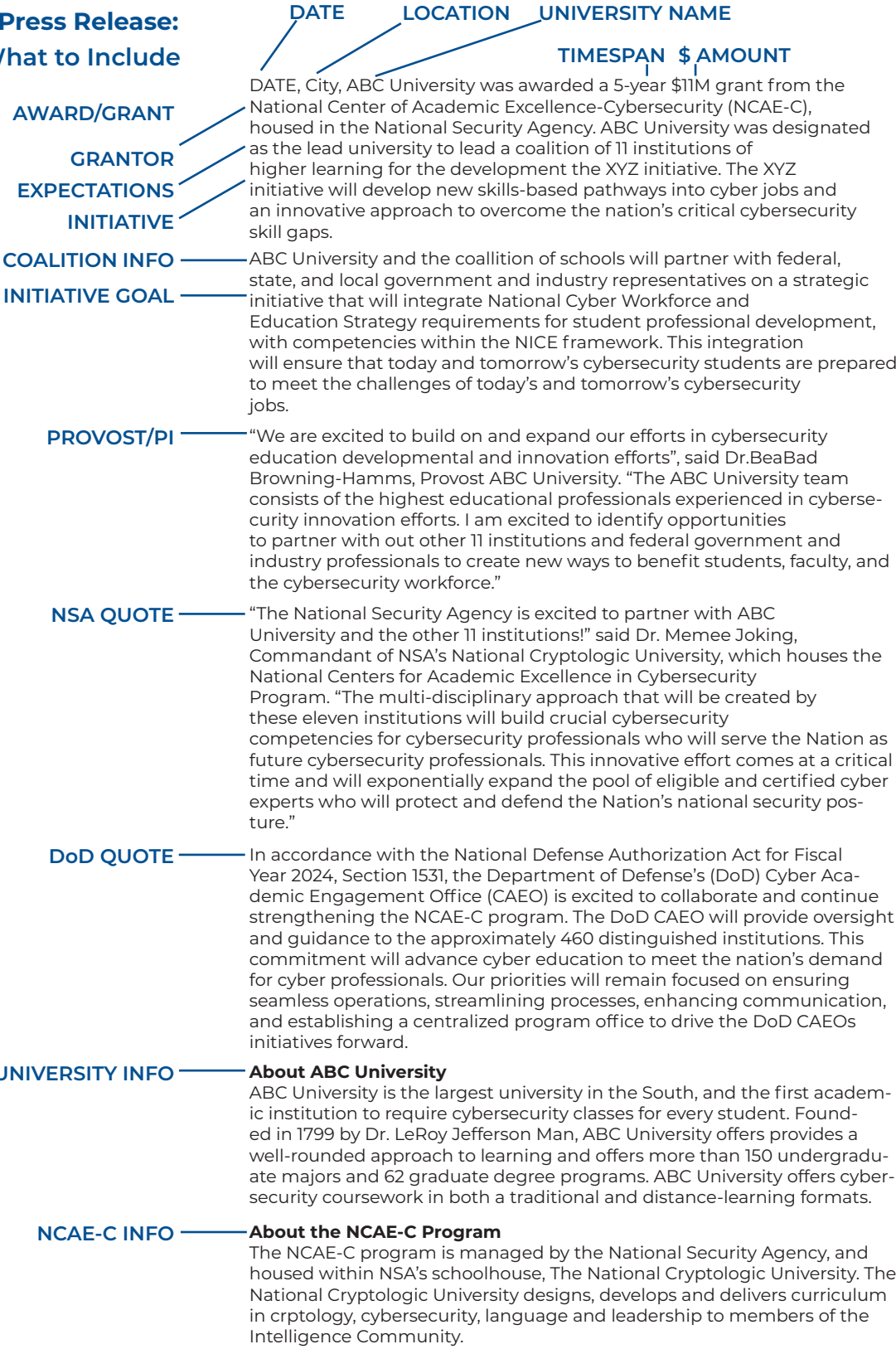
- XYZ University received a \$X00,000.00, National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity (located within the National Security Agency) grant (H98230-XX-1-0XXX) to fund ABC Project.
- A two-year, \$X00,000.00 grant (H98230-XX-1-0XXX) from the National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity, which is part of the National Security Agency, will support project ABC.
- This research was funded by a National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity grant (H98230-XX-1-0XXX), which is part of the National Security Agency.

Acceptable reference without grant number examples:

- Students supported through a grant from the DoD Cyber Service Academy.
- This research was funded by a grant from the DoD Cyber Service Academy, which is funded by the Department of Defense and managed by the National Security Agency.
- XYZ Camp was funded via a grant from the GenCyber Program housed at the National Security Agency.
- This activity was supported by a GenCyber Program grant in the amount of \$X00,000.00.

Press Release Format

Anatomy of a Press Release: What to Include



The NCAE in Cybersecurity Logo and Seal

The NCAE in Cybersecurity logo and seal are the graphical representation of our program and distinguishes us from other centers of excellence programs. It is designed to highlight our identity within cybersecurity education. The logo consists of two main parts, a stylized book and a shield. The book, which represents knowledge and education, opens up its pages to reveal a shield covered in cyber nodes. Cyber nodes are connection points in networks which this logo uses to represent cybersecurity. Together the book and shield create the NCAE-C banner logomark. **The seal/logo should appear only on print/web/marketing materials that are directly produced by or connected to the PMO, and not on general Community materials.**

Please follow all guidelines listed above for the logo and seal. If you need any assistance or clarification of the guidelines, please contact the NCAE Program Office (caepmo_uwe@uwe.nsa.gov).



Font

The fonts used for the National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity logo are Trade Gothic LT Std, Condensed No. 18 and Trade Gothic LT Std, Bold Condensed No. 20. The text size will depend upon the size of your logo.

Color Palette



Blue Rim with White Lettering
R0 | G40 | B86
C100 | M84 | Y36 | K38
Hex #002856



Red Inner Rim
R135 | G29 | B25
C28 | M98 | Y100 | K34
Hex #871D19

The NCAE in Cybersecurity Seal

Order of Precedence

When pairing these logos, the DoD Cyber Academic Engagement Office will be displayed in front of the NSA seal. Followed by the NCAE-C seal. Any NCAE-C affiliated logos (Community, Mentoring, etc.) should follow the NCAE-C program logo/seal in the order listed above.



Permitted Use of the DoD and NSA Logos

- Program webpage associated with your validation and CAE designation.
- Press release associated with your validated program(s)/ CAE designation.
- Marketing materials associated with your validated program and/or CAE designation.

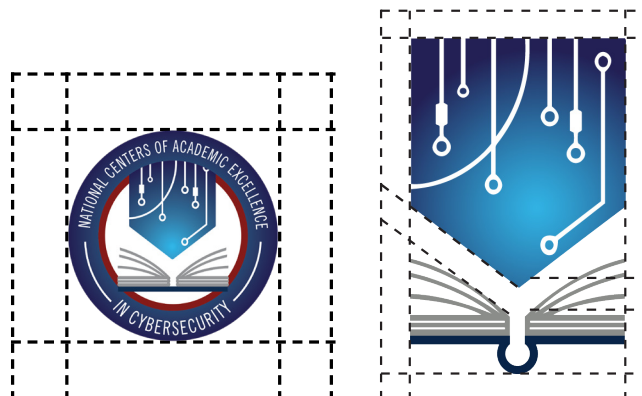
Non-Permitted Use of the DoD and NSA Logos

- Use that would convey impersonation, for example e-mail signatures
- Commercial use
- Advertisement outside of the validated program/ CAE designation
- Solicitation to convey that such use is approved, endorsed or authorized by the DoD and/or NSA/CSS

Spacing

When spacing the NCAE-C logo with other artifacts, there must be a buffer zone of at least one 'book spine.'

When spacing the NCAE-C seal, the buffer zone must be one fourth the size of the seal.

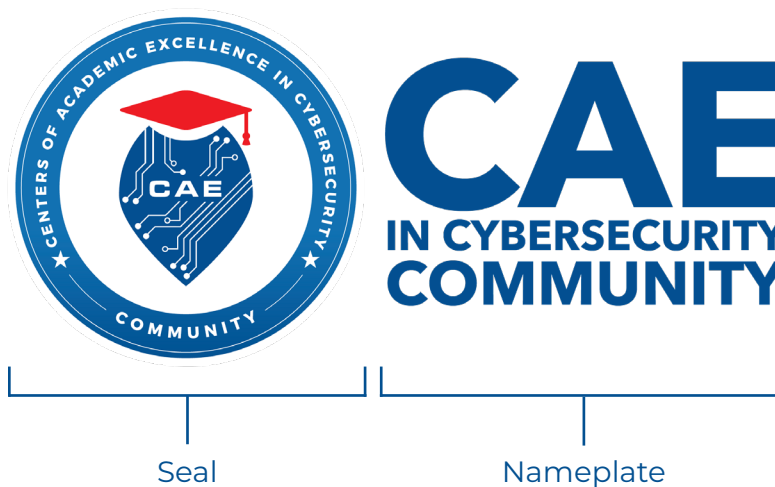


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The CAE in Cybersecurity Community Logo

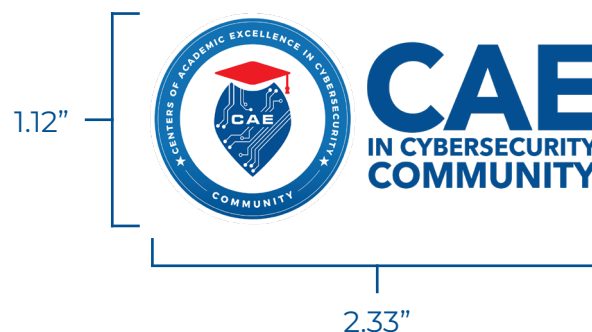
The CAE-C logo is a graphic representation of our community which distinguishes us from other centers of excellence programs. It is designed to highlight our identity as cybersecurity educators and professionals, as well as our commitment to produce qualified cybersecurity professionals that will protect and defend the nation's infrastructure. Our logos also highlight our role within the industry of cybersecurity by distinguishing us from other CAE programs.

The primary CAE in Cybersecurity Community logo consists of two pieces: the seal and the nameplate. While there are different versions of this logo (black and white, all white, full color), the full color logo is the formal and preferred version of the logo. The primary logo should be used on all official documents, publications, and websites.



Minimum Size

Minimum size for the primary CAE in Cybersecurity logo is 2.33(w)x1.12(h) inches (699x337 pixels). Using this as our minimum size requirement will help others see and distinguish our logo. Any use of the logo smaller than this is often deemed illegible.



The CAE in Cybersecurity Community Logo & Branding

Using CAE Seal and Nameplate Separately

CAE Seal

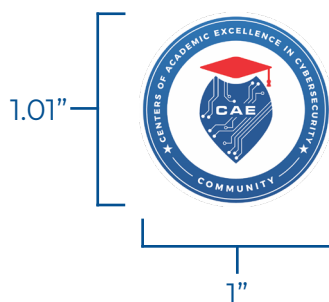
The CAE Seal can be used alone without the nameplate only if it is not the first or only instance of reference to the CAE. The formal name of the program must be used in the text first and follow editorial guidelines.

Minimum Seal Size

The minimum size for the primary CAE in Cybersecurity icon is 1"x1.01" or 300x304 pixels. Using this as our minimum size requirement will help others see and distinguish our logo. Any use of the logo smaller than this is often deemed illegible. The seal should appear no smaller than an US \$0.25 quarter.



Scaling Ref



CAE Nameplate

The CAE Nameplate can be used alone without the seal in instances that a readable simplified design is required. The formal name of the program must be used in the accompanying text and follow editorial guidelines.

Minimum Nameplate Size

The minimum size for the primary CAE in Cybersecurity nameplate is 1.21"x0.90" pixels. Using this as our minimum size requirement will help others see and distinguish our nameplate. Any use of the nameplate smaller than this is often deemed illegible. The formal name of the program must be used in the accompanying text and follow editorial guidelines.

The CAE in Cybersecurity Community Designations

Designation Nameplates

Designation nameplates have been created to help unify designations within the community while also providing a way to quickly identify and individuate each by associated color. Minimum sizing marked for both nameplates and submarks.



Designation Submarks

Designation submarks serve the same purpose of the designation nameplates, yet can function as a graphic and can be sized smaller. Submarks must be preceded by official title of each designation within the CAE-C.



The CAE-C Brand Identity Guidelines - Quick Guide

CAE in Cybersecurity Community

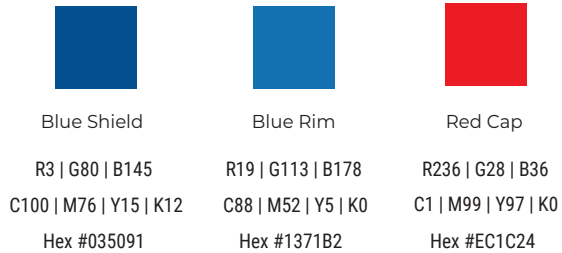
Brand Identity Guidelines | [Quick Guide](#)

Main Logo

MINIMUM SIZE
699 x 337 px



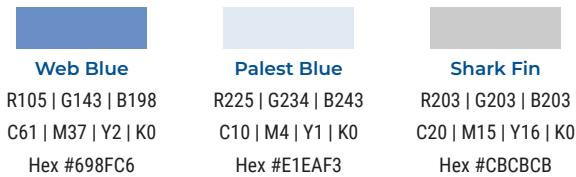
Logo Color Palette



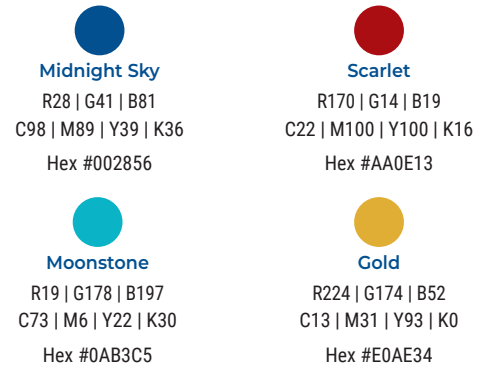
Logo Font

AVENIR NEXT BOLD

Color Palette - SECONDARY



TERTIARY/ACCENT COLORS



CAE Brand Typography

MONTERRAT
BLACK 24 PT

H1

ROBOTO CONDENSED
ALL CAPS BOLD 22 PT

H2

MONTERRAT
EXTRA BOLD 18 PT

H3

ROBOTO CONDENSED
BOLD 17 PT

H4

ROBOTO
REGULAR 10 PT

Body 1

ROBOTO
ITALIC 10 PT

Caption

ROBOTO
BLACK 9 PT

Button

Message From 2023 SYMPOSIUM

Welcome to our event 10th Anniversary Event

Cybersecurity educators are facing demands from government and industry to produce more graduates to fill the current and future workforce

Tony Coulson
Executive Director, CSUSB San Bernardino



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The CAE-C Community Color Palette ADA Compliance Guide

WCAG 2.0 AA Contrast Ratio Standards - 2024 CAE-C Color Palette

 Normal text (< 4.5:1) Large text (<3:1) Graphical Objects & UI Components (<3:1)	 Large text (<3:1) Graphical Objects & UI Components (<3:1) Large text is 14 pt and bold or larger or 18 pt or larger
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	AA0E13 Scarlet	EC1C24 Red Cap	002856 Midnight Sky	035091 Blue Shield	1371B2 Blue Rim	698FC6 Web Blue	E1EAF3 Palest Blue	CBCBCB Shark Fin	0AB3C5 Moonstone	E0AE34 Golden Seal
AA0E13 Scarlet	1:1	1.7:1:1	1.93:1	1.08:1	1.44:1	2.28:1	6.2:1	4.65:1	2.97:1	369:1
EC1C24 Red Cap	1.71:1	1:1	3.3:1	1.85:1	1.17:1	1.33:1	3.62:1	2.72:1	1.73:1	2.15:1
002856 Midnight Sky	1.93:1	3.3:1	1:1	1.78:1	2.8:1	4.41:1	12:1	9:1	5.74:1	7.14:1
035091 Blue Shield	1.08:1	1.85:1	1.78:1	1:1	1.57:1	2.47:1	6.74:1	5.05:1	3.22:1	4.01:1
1371B2 Blue Rim	1.44:1	1.17:1	2.8:1	1.57:1	1:1	1.57:1	4.28:1	3.2:1	2.05:1	2.54:1
698FC6 Web Blue	2.28:1	1.33:1	4.41:1	2.47:1	1.57:1	1:1	2.72:1	2.04:1	1.3:1	1.61:1
E1EAF3 Palest Blue	6.2:1	3.62:1	12:1	6.74:1	4.28:1	2.72:1	1:1	1.33:1	2.08:1	1.68:1
CBCBCB Shark Fin	4.65:1	2.72:1	9:1	5.05:1	3.2:1	2.04:1	1.33:1	1:1	1.56:1	1.25:1
0AB3C5 Moonstone	2.97:1	1.73:1	5.74:1	3.22:1	2.05:1	1.3:1	2.08:1	1.56:1	1:1	1.24:1
E0AE34 Golden Seal	3.69:1	2.15:1	7.14:1	4.01:1	2.54:1	1.61:1	1.68:1	1.25:1	1.24:1	1:1
FFFFFF White	7.55:1	4.41:1	14.6:1	8.2:1	5.2:1	3.3:1	1.21:1	1.62:1	2.54:1	2.04:1
000000 Black	2.78:1	4.75:1	1.43:1	2.56:1	4.03:1	6.34:1	17.26:1	12.94:1	2.54:1	10.27:1

The CAE in Cybersecurity Community Primary Logo Options

Other Primary Logo Options

White Nameplate Logo



We recognize that sometimes you may want to use a dark background for your marketing purposes.

The primary CAE logo is also available with a white nameplate (same color, font, and sizing restrictions apply).

Black on White Logo



We recognize that sometimes you may want to use a light background for your marketing purposes. The primary CAE logo is also available in black and white (same color, font and sizing restrictions apply).

Reverse White Logo



We recognize that sometimes you may want to use a dark background for your marketing purposes. The primary logos are also available in white (same color, font and sizing restrictions apply).

The CAE in Cybersecurity Community Logo Seal Options

Alternate Seal Usage and Color Options

We ask that you generally use the full logo with the nameplate. However, we recognize that sometimes you may only want to use the seal in your design. These icons cannot be altered without official approval from the CAE in Cybersecurity Community Program Manager (info@caecommunity.org).



The CAE in Cybersecurity logo can be used without the nameplate. Use this logo when space is limited or when the other logos present on the design are of a circular shape.



We recognize that some of the designs you will use for your marketing will need differing color schemes. The CAE in Cybersecurity Logo can also be used without the nameplate in black and white.



We recognize that some of the designs you will use for your marketing will need differing color schemes. The CAE in Cybersecurity Logo can also be used without the nameplate in all white.

The CAE in Cybersecurity Community Logo and Branding

Guidelines for Using the Primary Logo/Icon with Color and Picture Background

Using color or picture backgrounds can sometimes distort the logo/icon. Therefore, please follow these guidelines when using the primary logos/icons.



When using our all-white primary logo or seal, do not use the logo or seal against a background that does not have enough of a contrast between the colors. The white logo is not given out unless specifically requested.

When using our black and white primary logo or seal, do not use the logo or seal against a background that does not have enough of a contrast between the colors. The black and white logo is not given out unless specifically requested.



When using our logos/icons, do not use the logo/icon against a background picture that does not have enough contrast between the colors. This makes our logo appear illegible.



We recommend placing a dark contrasting background on the picture and using the all-white logo/icon or white text version of the primary logo. This is the best representation of the logo and clearly communicates who we are as a community.

The CAE in Cybersecurity Community Logo and Branding

However, there may be times when you can use the logo/icon on a picture without a contrasting backdrop. In the image below, you can clearly distinguish the CAE in Cybersecurity Community logo, which meets the minimum size requirement.



You can also use the black and white logo for any picture or background that is too light for our primary color logo.

The CAE in Cybersecurity Community Logo and Branding

Preset, Reflection, Glow, Soft Edges, Bevel, Rotation, Shadowing, and 3D

Using tools to distort the logo, such as preset, reflection, glow, soft edges, bevel, rotation, shadowing, and 3D are not acceptable uses of the logo/icon. These tools distort the logo and make our visual representation sloppy. In addition, adding borders, outlines, etc. can also distort the logo/icon. If in doubt, do not alter the logo/icon.

Blurry, Disfigured, and Distorted Logos

Sometimes you may want to enlarge or decrease the size of the CAE in Cybersecurity Community primary logo or seal. However, during this process the logo or seal can sometimes come out blurry, disfigured, or distorted. Therefore, we ask that if you manipulate the size of your logo or seal and it comes out blurry, disfigured, or distorted, please do not use it. At any time, you may request a logo or seal at any size above the minimum and we will be happy to make it for you.

Having a clear, sharp logo or seal will help us as a community communicate a clean, professional outward appearance.

The CAE in Cybersecurity Community Logo and Branding

Don't:



Blurry and Too Small



Enlargement Too Blurry



Not Enough Contrast

The CAE in Cybersecurity Community Logo and Branding

Do:



CAE

IN CYBERSECURITY
COMMUNITY



National Centers of
Academic Excellence
IN CYBERSECURITY



The CAE in Cybersecurity Community Logo and Branding

Values and Themes

The visual identity is the result of community feedback, research, and numerous sample designs. Concurrent with this project, the CAE-C team is also in the process of redesigning the Community website. The new website will meet the central themes of the CAE Community, and the logo accomplishes this goal by incorporating: 1) circuitry to represent the cybersecurity industry, 2) a graduation cap to represent our role as educators, 3) a shield and symbolic colors to represent our commitment to producing cybersecurity professionals that will protect the nation's infrastructure, and 4) the full name.

Graphic Standards Oversight

The visual identity program is administered by the CAE in Cybersecurity Community Program Manager and the Web Development Team, which oversee all CAE in Cybersecurity Community publications and graphic design. Visual identity assets will be available for Primary Investigators (PIs) and other approved administrators via the CAECommunity.org website. Policy questions about the rules outlined within this manual should be directed to the CAE in Cybersecurity Community at info@caecommunity.org.

Approval and Usage

This manual outlines the policies and guidelines for using the NCAE-C and CAE Community's visual identity. To ensure that all materials are in compliance with this manual, all communication materials using the visual identity must be approved by the CAE Community Program Manager. To get the CAE in Cybersecurity Logo, you must either be a PI or approved administrator with granted access to the visual identity section of the website. For information about obtaining a CAE in Cybersecurity Community primary logo or icon, please contact info@caecommunity.org. You can also contact us at 909-537-7535 for assistance. Please allow at least 48-72 hours to process this request.

The CAE in Cybersecurity Community

Terminology, Definitions, and Usage

Accreditation vs Designation

When a cybersecurity program applies and meets the CAE-C requirements, it is NOT accredited, but designated. Accreditation is a review of the quality of a higher education institutions and programs, ensuring they meet minimum quality standards. Accreditation reviews in the U.S. are carried out by independent entities, not the government.

CAE Candidates Program National Center and Peer Review - Whatcom

Acts as the entry point for all colleges and universities that plan to apply for either academic validation or designation. It provides mentoring, resources, advice, and other support to colleges and universities that want to earn a designation, or to have their academic program validated as a first step in the process. Whatcom Community College is the lead institution.

NCAE Competition

An initiative that aims to increase student and faculty engagement with cybersecurity competitions through an intuitive sequence of tools, tutorials, and activities that simplify and focus preparation activities within student clubs. The lead institutions are Mohawk Valley Community College and University of South Florida-Cyber Florida.

CAE Cybersecurity Workforce Development Initiative

An initiative through which certificate-based workforce development programs will be developed. This initiative involves pilot programs from the University of Louisville, Purdue University Northwest, and the University of West Florida, along with a number of coalition partners.

CAE in Cyber Defense

This is the most formal name for the designation. It is customary to use this name for the first text reference in any formal written correspondence.

CAE in Cyber Operations

This is the most formal name for the designation. It is customary to use this name for the first text reference in any formal written correspondence.

CAE in Cyber Research

This is the most formal name for the designation. It is customary to use this name for the first text reference in any formal written correspondence.

CAE-CD

This is the acceptable abbreviated name for the designation. This should never be used as the first text reference, but is acceptable for any subsequent references.

CAE-CO

This is the acceptable abbreviated name for the designation. This should never be used as the first text reference, but is acceptable for any subsequent references.

CAE-R

This is the acceptable abbreviated name for the designation. This should never be used as the first text reference, but is acceptable for any subsequent references.

The CAE in Cybersecurity Community

CAE in Cybersecurity Community National Center (CNC)

Offers three primary functions to all CAE institutions: 1) provide technical and logistical support for CAE events, activities, and curriculum; 2) provide a portal for CAE Community resources, geographic regions, and the nation as a whole; 3) engage and facilitate strategic initiatives for the nation in the areas of research, student and faculty development, diversity, and other workforce development activities. Administered through California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB).

CAE Initiatives

Efforts aimed to advance the functioning of the CAE-C Community and to organize and consolidate efforts to improve cybersecurity educational opportunities across the country.

CAE Peer Review National Center

Works with NCAE-C to train reviewers and execute peer reviews of applications for academic endorsement and/or designation. The lead institution is Eastern New Mexico University-Ruidoso Branch Community College.

Community of Practice, CoP

The CAE-C Communities of Practice are groupings of designated institutions by designation type. Each CoP is led by an institution or pairs of institutions selected competitively bi-annually. The CoP provides recommendations to the CAE-C Program Office as to strategic planning and programs to facilitate continuous improvement of the program and the participating institutions.

Competency

The ability to perform a task in the context of a work role, as defined by the NICE Framework. These work roles use Blooms Taxonomy for the writing of tasks, knowledge, and skill statements.

Consolidated CAE-C Professional Development Resources

An initiative that will work to provide students with insight into careers in cybersecurity, professional behavior and ethics, and other soft skills in demand in the workplace.

Curriculum

Courses or a set of courses offered by an educational institution. In the context of the NCAE-C program, "curriculum" includes all course materials included in a program of study, such as texts, labs, exercises, or other educational activities.

Cybersecurity

Should always be written as one word. Colloquially, the term "cyber" is also acceptable. The Department of Defense uses "cyber" interchangeably with "cybersecurity;" however, cyber encompasses more operational and security functions than just cybersecurity.

Cybersecurity Faculty Development Initiative

An initiative aimed to coordinate a unified program to: 1) expand the knowledge and teaching qualifications of existing faculty; 2) recruit and provide pedagogical preparation for professors of practice; 3) recruit graduate students, particularly PhD candidates to teach cybersecurity; and 4) recruit transitioning military and civil service personnel from government to cybersecurity work roles.

Designation vs. Validation

When an institution wishes to become a CAE, the process begins with validating the program of study, with the submission of items such as the curriculum, faculty profiles and qualifications, and the maturity of the program. Once the program of study has been validated, the institution may decide to pursue a designation from the NCAE, but it isn't required. A validation does **not** denote a designation.

The CAE in Cybersecurity Community

Evidencing Competency Oversight initiative

An initiative involving three efforts: 1) regional cybersecurity exercises; 2) a security situation center for evidencing competency; and 3) an evidencing competency working group. The lead institution is Norwich University.

Framework

Often used to refer to a set of guidelines (in lieu of “standards”) for preparation of curriculum, labs, or other educational materials or program elements. A framework used in the context of CAE-C is established using collaboration among the designated institutions in coordination with the CAE-C program office and federal partners, and finally adopted by CAE-C program office policy. See also “NICE Framework.”

Knowledge Units, KUs

A coherent defined block of knowledge related to cybersecurity, used to describe academic requirements for designation and are used to frame the description of a program of study. Matching an institution's program of study academic outcomes to the collective outcomes of a set of KUs results in validation of NCAE-C academic requirements as the first of two steps to designation in cyber defense, cyber operations, or cyber research.

NCAE-Designated vs. CAE-Designated

While these terms are often interchangeable (and either is acceptable), they have slightly different connotations. If you are speaking about your school's designation as a way of showing that your school has a CAE-CD, CAE-R, or CAE-CO designation, use CAE-designated. If you want to show that the NCAE-C program has designated your school as part of the national program, use NCAE-designated.

NICE Framework

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publication 800-181 revision 1, the Workforce Framework for Cybersecurity (NICE Framework), provides a set of building blocks for describing the tasks, knowledge, and skills that are needed to perform cybersecurity work performed by individuals and teams. Often referred to as “the Framework,” the NICE Framework is used in the context of the NCAE-C program to map programs of study to competency objectives for students pursuing cybersecurity careers.

Partners (Federal)

NSA's National Cryptologic University manages the NCAE-C program. The National Security Agency's federal partners for NCAE-C program are the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). The NCAE-C program office regularly collaborates with other federal agencies, such as: National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), National Initiative on Cybersecurity Education (NICE), National Science Foundation (NSF), Department of Defense Office of the Chief Information Officer (DoD-CIO), Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) and other agencies to actively engage in solutions to challenges in cybersecurity education, de-conflict investments and opportunities and ensure harmony of strategic objectives.

Regions Investing in the Next Generation (RING), CAE K-12 Pipeline Program

An initiative aimed to establish a CAE K-12 pipeline that will provide an online cybersecurity fundamentals course, which will target rural, under-resourced school systems, homeschool students, and schools without an established cybersecurity program. The lead institutions are the University of Alabama in Huntsville and Moraine Valley Community College, along with several coalition partners.

Senior Military College Cyber Institutes

An initiative aimed at create a deliberate pathway, enabling talent development in cyber and cyber-related competencies at senior military colleges (SMC) to meet Department of Defense (DoD) workforce needs for the near term and future emerging cyber challenges. This will be done by: 1) creating cyber institutes within senior military colleges; 2) expanding and sustaining cyber experiential programs; 3) recruiting, training, and deploying RC SMC deputy directors; 4) Extending persistent cyber training environment to SMCs; and 5) Building governance and assessment framework/processes. The lead institution is Norwich University.

Contact Information

For information about obtaining a CAE in Cybersecurity Community primary logo or icon, please contact info@caecommunity.org. All requests will usually be met within 72 hours. You can also contact us at 909-537-7535 for assistance.

The CAE in Cybersecurity Community is under the stewardship of California State University, San Bernardino. Therefore, some of the correspondence between you and the CAE in Cybersecurity Community may come from a @csusb.edu email address.