Estrella Mountain Community College (EMCC) was designated a CAE-2Y institution in 2014. This Hispanic Serving Institution offers the Information Technology Security Certificate as well as the Information Technology and Power Systems Security Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S) degree.

This program is uniquely positioned to help combat the shortage of highly trained cybersecurity technicians. The program teaches students essential cybersecurity concepts and allows them to specialize in an area. Students are able to select from one or more of the following specializations: Network Security, Linux Systems Security, Microsoft Systems Security, and Power Systems Security. The Power Systems specialization focuses exclusively on the power and energy sector and has been described as a one-of-a-kind by various industry representatives.

EMCC’s cybersecurity curriculum was developed through a close working relationship with an industry advisory board that is composed of representatives from the public and private sectors. Furthermore, the curriculum went through a rigorous vetting during the spring of 2017 by local cybersecurity industry members. The relationships and information gleaned from the vetting process has been used to improve EMCC’s curriculum and to help guide students towards internships and/or employment.

As students’ progress through the program, their coursework will provide them the required skills necessary to make them sought after job candidates. Additionally, the curriculum prepares them for the rigors of IT security industry certification exams.