Established in 2012 as one of the first academic units in the nation of its kind, the Computing Security Department at RIT consists of 16 full-time faculty members and six extended faculty members. The department has approximately 400 students pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Computing Security, 60 students pursuing a Master of Science in Computing Security, and 10 Ph.D. students with a research focus in cybersecurity. RIT has been designated as a CAE-CDE since 2006 and a CAE-R since 2017. CAE designations have propelled the rapid growth of computing security research and education programs at RIT. Student teams at RIT have won the Northeast Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition a total of seven times, and in 2013 they won the national title. RIT is one of the primary universities that offer the NSF CyberCorps® Scholarship.

In 2015, RIT established the first National Collegiate Pentesting Competition. The competition has rapidly grown to comprise three regional, involving teams from more than 30 colleges and universities nationwide, and will expand to international regions.

In 2016, RIT designated cybersecurity as one of four signature multidisciplinary research areas with a strategic investment of $2 million. Today, with support from a historic donation from alumnus Austin McChord, and a New York State HeCap grant, RIT is building a state-of-the-art facility to host Computing Security degree programs and the Center for Cybersecurity. Experts at RIT are devoted to educating the next generation of highly skilled cybersecurity professionals who will protect our nation’s vast cyber infrastructures and digital assets from constant attacks conducted by our adversaries.

**DESIGNATIONS**
- CAE - Cyber Defense Education
- CAE - Cyber Defense Research

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