The Department of Computer Science at Southern Methodist University (SMU) offers academic programs related to security. The B.S. degree in Computer Science offers a security track option, which facilitates a more in-depth study of computer and network security issues. Students in this track cover core computer science topics, then take advanced courses that focus on security-related topics.

The M.S. Security Engineering degree covers the design and development of secure systems and applications, including security of computer networks and systems as well as physical security. In addition to the technical aspects such as cryptography, protocols and access control, the curriculum deals with the policy and management issues, integration and logistics, and budgeting. Centering on the problems of working professionals in the critical field of security, the program in security engineering serves the needs of both full-time and part-time students.

In addition to academic programs in security, SMU also houses the Darwin Deason Institute for Cyber Security. The mission of the Institute is to advance the science, policy, application, and education of cybersecurity through basic and problem-driven, interdisciplinary research. The Institute is committed to the goal of emerging as a world-class cybersecurity research center that innovates, develops, and delivers solutions to the nation’s most challenging cybersecurity problems. The underlying philosophy guiding Institute activities is based on establishing a foundational science of cybersecurity through adoption of a broad, interdisciplinary approach for solving cybersecurity problems.