The Department of Computer Science of College of Engineering and Computer Science (ECS) at California State University, Sacramento (Sacramento State) established a Center for Information Assurance and Security (CIAS) in 2005. The mission of the center is to advance knowledge of information assurance and security practices through:

- Education, training, and awareness programs in information assurance and security issues and practices
- Applied research in information assurance and security
- Developing interdisciplinary programs in information assurance and security
- Outreach to assist our community, including community colleges, K-12 schools, industry, and government in information assurance and security issues
- Forming collaborations with other education, research, industry, and government institutions

CIAS has been designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence (CAE) in Information Assurance Education (CAE-IA) since 2007. This designation is jointly sponsored by the National Security Agency (NSA) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The designation has to be renewed every five years to ensure the designated institution meets stringent criteria with respect to curriculum, faculty, research, and institution-wide commitment to information assurance practices and education. CIAS has recently been awarded its re-designation as a CAE in Cyber Defense (CAE-CD) for the academic years 2017-2022. The CAE designation was one of the key factors for the National Science Foundation (NSF) to award Sacramento State over $4 million in funding as part of the CyberCorps® Scholarship for Service (SFS) program to support students in computer science or computer engineering to become cybersecurity specialists for the academic years 2010-2020.