Cybersecurity has been a major focus of research and education at Northeastern University since the turn of the century. The University has been recognized as a CAE-CD since 2002, as a CAE-R since 2008, and as a CAE-CO since 2012.

Cybersecurity is treated as a cross-disciplinary field involving computer science, electrical engineering, criminal justice, political science, and law school. Interdisciplinary teams of researchers have been working on projects and challenges in cryptography, cloud security, malware analysis and detection, and privacy, among others. To integrate the cross disciplinary collaborations, the Cybersecurity and Privacy Institute was formed in 2016, allowing visiting researchers to work collaboratively with faculty members and students.

Northeastern University is active in expanding its cybersecurity education programs. At the undergraduate level, students are encouraged to participate in cybersecurity activities such as Capture the Flag and Hack Beanpot. Since 2008, students have participated in the National Collegiate Competition in Cyber Defense, placing second in the national championship in 2010. Strong student interest in the field prompted the creation of a new BS degree program in cybersecurity, introduced in 2017. The availability of NSF/SFS and DoD/CYSP scholarships has been a strong recruiting tool for the University.

Realizing that cybersecurity problems cannot be solved by technology alone, computer science faculty led the effort in designing an interdisciplinary MS program in cybersecurity to provide students a holistic view of cybersecurity, from both technical and social/economical standpoints. To further expand the graduate offerings, the University introduced an innovative interdisciplinary doctoral degree program in cybersecurity.

As one of the first CAEs in New England, Northeastern University has been frequently invited to serve on panels to discuss and to present cybersecurity education and research.