California State University, San Marcos’s (CSUSM) Master of Science in Cybersecurity is a fully online program that prepares students for advancement in the cyber industry by providing real-world experience in management skills, ethics and governance, and leading-edge technologies in security management, risk analysis, network protocols, incident response, encryption algorithms, ethical hacking, intrusion detection and much more. CSUSM was designated a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education in 2019.

Responding to demand from industry, CSUSM’s MS in Cybersecurity develops graduates who are knowledgeable in both cybersecurity and organizational skills. As a Professional Science Master’s (PSM) degree, this program uniquely combines advanced study of technical science skills, MBA-level business courses and professional experience through 38 semester hours of coursework and a culminating project intended to provide practical industry experience.

Nationally, there is increased focus on graduate degree programs that combine both technical and management skills. Reflected in the emergence of the PSM, this degree program adeptly addresses the documented need for management-trained professionals “for technology-based companies, governmental agencies, and non-profit organizations” (NPSMA.org).

As an interdisciplinary program, CSUSM’s MS in Cybersecurity incorporates multiple fields of study, emphasizes the development of critical thinking skills, and uses current case studies and hands-on labs to expose students to the emerging and evolving needs of the industry. The program also introduces students to the cybersecurity corporate world by developing the communication skills and the technical and problem-solving expertise needed to address cybersecurity issues in industry settings and to position graduates to become the next generation of industry leaders.