Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), through the Information Networking Institute (INI) and Carnegie Mellon CyLab, has attained three federal designations as a National Center of Academic Excellence: Cyber Defense (CAE-CD), Cyber Operations (CAE-CO) and Cyber Research (CAE-R). These designations, the INI’s M.S. in Information Security (MSIS) program has been validated by the National Security Agency (NSA) and a committee of academic peers. Carnegie Mellon is a longstanding leader in cybersecurity education and research.

In 2003, CMU launched CyLab, a university-wide institute representing over 300 researchers in security and privacy. That year, the INI established one of the nation’s first security degrees: the MSIS (formerly the M.S. in Information Security Technology and Management). The INI has since produced over 525 graduates who are well equipped to defend our nation’s cyberspace.

Through its CAE designations, Carnegie Mellon participates in scholarship programs that strengthen the pipeline of cybersecurity professionals who protect critical infrastructures and national defense. Since 2001, CMU has graduated over 250 students through the National Science Foundation (NSF) CyberCorps® Scholarship for Service (SFS) and 12 students through the Department of Defense Cyber Scholarship Program (DoD CySP). In 2022, CMU launched the nation’s first artificial intelligence security graduate program. Through the M.S. in Artificial Intelligence Engineering - Information Security (MSAIE-IS), students learn how to integrate AI with cybersecurity practices while building solutions for the evolving security threats of AI.

CMU offers several opportunities for specialized learning through the INI. The Cyber Forensics and Incident Response (CyFIR) track equips security students to perform complex digital forensic investigations, culminating in a certification from the Software Engineering Institute’s CERT Division. The Cyber Operations (Cyber Ops) certificate focuses on a range of Knowledge Units (KUs) representing important areas of study in cyber operations. Following guidelines from the NSA, the Cyber Defense Concentration prepares MSIS students with skills that are highly relevant to cybersecurity careers.