Eastern New Mexico University – Ruidoso Branch Community College (ENMU-Ruidoso) currently serves as a Title V institution for Hispanics, has a strong dual credit program with nineteen high school students enrolled in cybersecurity certificate program for the Mescalero Apache Tribe, Mescalero High School, and is planning to expand to the local high schools in Lincoln County, New Mexico.

The A.A.S. in Information Systems (IS) Cybersecurity is designed to introduce students to contemporary information systems security and information assurance and to demonstrate how these systems are used throughout global organizations. The focus of this program will be on the key components of information systems assurance and cybersecurity; people, software, hardware, data, security, and communication technologies, and how these components can be integrated and managed to create competitive advantage. The National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security have designated ENMU-Ruidoso as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense (CAE-CD).

This program is specifically designed to prepare students in the National Initiative in Cybersecurity Education (NICE) framework for Operate and Maintain and Protect and Defend, and the DoD Cyber Workforce Framework in IT/(Cyberspace) and Cybersecurity or to provide current information systems professionals with an Information Systems Security certificate to meet the needs of current and future employer requirements.

The program maps to a Cyber Defense Infrastructure Support Specialist job position based on NICE and DoD DCWF framework. Upon completion of this program, students will receive a university certification of completion, the CompTIA Security+ and ECCouncil Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH)™ industry certification in addition to their degree.

The program aligns with the Cyber Defense Infrastructure Support Specialist role, meeting NICE and DoD DCWF standards. Graduates receive a university certificate, CompTIA Security+, and ECCouncil Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH)™ certifications with their degree. ENMU-Ruidoso’s IT and Cyber Security Department offers various programs, including the CAE/CD Program for an Information Systems Cybersecurity Associate of Applied Science degree, alongside non-validated programs like the Computer & Network Security Certification and Apprenticeship Programs.