Considered an innovator in cyber security education, Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, boasts a keen eye for delivering programs that enhance its students’ marketability in the ever-changing world of cyber security.

As one of the original seven charter schools honored to join the Center of Academic Excellence program, Iowa State has developed one of the nation’s largest educational and research programs. Students were attracted to Iowa State more than 20 years ago for a graduate degree in the field. Today, the ISU offers over 20 courses in cyber security and created an ABET accredited bachelor’s degree in cyber security engineering in the fall of 2019. The ISU Center for Cybersecurity Innovation and Outreach was created in 2000 and is recognized for its multidisciplinary research, teaching, and outreach.

Iowa State University pioneered a style of cyber defense competitions where students design, build, and then defend cyber systems. Today, students from high schools and colleges nationwide use university facilities for competitions held five times yearly. Since its start in 2005, more than 8,000 participants have attended the 85 CDCs. In 2022, ISU created the Internal Cybersecurity Exercise, where student teams from Kosovo competed with teams from the US.

Fulfilling our mission as a land-grant university, ISU has created security literacy opportunities for all Iowa citizens through the Iowa Cyber Hub and the Cybersecurity Ambassador Program.

**DESIGNATIONS**

- CAE-Cyber Defense
- CAE-Research

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