Northern Kentucky University (NKU) is a public regional university of nearly 16,000 students and is in Highland Heights, Kentucky (KY), which is a few miles southeast of the major metropolitan area of Cincinnati. Since 2014, NKU has been an NSA accredited Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education (CAE-CD).

The School of Computing & Analytics (SCA) within the NKU College of Informatics (COI) hosts 2 undergrad degrees plus 1 grad degree in cybersecurity, that are among the fastest growing NKU programs, and together have a growing population with currently 450 students. The first of these degrees is the cyber track within B.S. in IT, that is currently a validated program of study under the NKU CAE designation. The second undergrad cyber degree is the B.S. in Cybersecurity. The third cyber degree is an online grad program - M.S. in Cybersecurity. Additionally, the NKU SCA has 2 minors in Computer Forensics and Info Security, 1 undergrad certificate in Cybersecurity, and an Info Security Management track within its Business Info Systems undergrad major, with altogether 130 students enrolled in the minors & certificate programs. The NKU COI also houses 2 active cyber student clubs - NKCyber and NKU WiCyS (Women in Cyber). The NKCyber club houses the NKU CyberDefense team, which is a top regional team, and regularly competes in the regional & national level cyber competitions. The NKU WiCyS club is the only WiCyS chapter within the state of KY.

Since 2007, NKU has been a proud host of the NKU Cyber Symposium, which is held every year during October to celebrate the national cyber awareness month. NKU is a regional leader in cyber outreach, and regularly hosts professional development & training programs, including summer camps, and year-round workshops for local/regional K-12 students & teachers. In fact, NKU is the only KY CAE institution that has hosted NSA GenCyber programs since 2021. NKU has been collaborating with other KY CAE institutions for planning and co-hosting the annual KY CAE conference (KY Cyber & Forensics Conference) every year.

NKU is also part of a current CAE coalition, that is contributing towards cyber educational innovation as part of an NSA workforce development grant project.

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