Pikes Peak State College’s cybersecurity degree program prepares people for multiple industry certification exams like the Computing Technology Industry Association Security+ (CompTIA Security+) certification and over ten more. Students can then pursue careers as cybersecurity analysts, information systems security engineers, systems design engineers, and more. With a large defense sector within the region, there is easier student job placements. A typical local starting salary of $50-60,000 a year make cybersecurity a solid career path. With a planned brand new cyber labs at the Centennial Campuses in addition to two other cyber/computer networking labs PPSC has the capacity to provide affordable, hands-on training to 75 qualified students at a time.

In addition, PPSC’s hands-on, credit or non-credit cybersecurity courses are designed to upskill and/or teach experienced hobbyists and IT professionals all they need to know to pass the Network+, Security+, CySA+, Linux+, PenTest+, and Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH) exams, the industry standards for anyone wanting to work in cybersecurity. Using a brand new cybersecurity lab, students work through realistic scenarios in the lab. With costs far less than most test-prep boot camps. Students also have an opportunity to compete in national and local cybersecurity competitions as part of the very active student led cyber club.

Toward the end of 2023 PPSC proudly renewed its Center of Academic Excellence for Cyber Defense designation. PPSC is now an active member of the National CyberWatch Center and MWCC (Mountain West Cyber Consortium), a group of universities and colleges interested in cyber defense and cybersecurity and a consortium of higher education institutions, businesses, and government agencies focused on collaborative efforts to advance information security education and research and strengthen the national cybersecurity workforce.

In the fall of 2024 PPSC is planning to launch an online BAS in cybersecurity as a partner with other Colorado Community Colleges across the state, further offering students an opportunity to advance their careers through in-demand education and learning.