Riverside City College (RCC) is honored to be the first California community college in the Inland Empire / Desert region to be designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense. RCC was established in 1916 and today serves a diverse population of 30,000 students annually through both in-person and online programs. The College is designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution. RCC offers more than 100 degree and certificate programs through eight instructional pathways. The Information Systems and Computer Science programs are accredited through the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) School of Business.

The Cybersecurity/Cyber Defense program is well-established with courses that lead students to gainful employment in the cyber defense workforce. Courses and programs are evaluated and guided by a Business and Industry Leadership Team and are strategically aligned with industry certifications from CompTIA, Cisco Networking Academy, and EC-Council. To facilitate obtaining these industry certifications, there is an on-campus Pearson Vue testing center.

The NSA-validated certificate program in Information Security and Cyber Defense can be used as a foundation for obtaining an Associate Degree in Cyber Defense. The Cisco/Cyber programs have one of the largest deployments of a virtual learning NETLAB environment that provides students 24/7 365-day access to real networking equipment and virtual machines for labs and practice.

A unique program at RCC is the NSF-ATE grant-funded Cyberpreneurship program that combines cyber education with entrepreneurship education for individuals who desire to establish their own cybersecurity business to serve small to mid-sized organizations who do not have dedicated IT/Cyber employees.

RCC is proud to be one of the first institutions to have a state-registered apprenticeship program in cybersecurity with students working with employer partners. This program allows students to attend college (tuition-free) and earn while they learn in class and on the job. The mission of the Cyber Defense program is to train and move students into the workforce who are professionally trained and prepared to defend small to large organizations and the nation from the ever-growing cyber threat and employment gap that exists.