Established in 2012 as one of the first academic units of its kind in the nation, the Department of Cybersecurity at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) features 16 full-time faculty members and over 40 associated researchers through its partnership with the ESL Global Cybersecurity Institute. With over 500 students enrolled across Bachelor’s, Master’s, and PhD programs, the department has been designated as a CAE-CD program since 2006 and a CAE-R program since 2017.

Additionally, RIT is one of the primary universities offering both the Department of Defense Cyber Scholarship Program (CySP), and the NSF CyberCorps Scholarship for Service (SFS) program. These designations and scholarships have propelled the rapid growth of cybersecurity research and education programs at RIT.

RIT offers students unparalleled opportunities for hands-on learning and real-world experience. Through our innovative curriculum, covering topics such as network security, cryptography, digital forensics, and ethical hacking, students engage in practical exercises and simulations that mirror real-world scenarios, preparing them to tackle the challenges of today and tomorrow. From securing connected cars to defending wireless communications in the Internet of Things, our faculty and students are at the forefront of groundbreaking research shaping the future of cybersecurity.

In addition to engaging coursework, the program emphasizes experiential learning, offering extensive co-op opportunities with industry leaders and government agencies. Students work alongside seasoned professionals, gaining invaluable insights and experience in their field.

Additionally, RIT hosts the global finals of the Collegiate Penetration Testing Competition (CPTC) and regularly hosts the Northeast regionals of the Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (CCDC), providing students with the opportunity to participate in these prestigious cybersecurity competitions. RIT’s student teams have consistently excelled, including winning the CPTC global finals in 2021, the CCDC national finals in 2013, and the Northeast regionals of the CCDC 10 times. At RIT, students are empowered to become leaders, innovators, and agents of change in a rapidly evolving digital landscape.