



PAC Cyber Students

**Palo Alto College** offers an Associate of Applied Science in Cyber Defense and Operations, designed to equip students with the necessary skills to design, implement, and secure computer networks, setting them on the path to rewarding careers in this essential sector. The program has earned the prestigious designation as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense (CAE-CD) through 2028, highlighting the institution's dedication to excellence in this field. The curriculum, developed in collaboration with industry experts, is aligned with current workplace demands, ensuring that students are well-prepared for the challenges they will face in the cybersecurity industry.

Students at Palo Alto College benefit from a hands-on approach to learning, with practical skills development emphasized through courses in Python programming and penetration testing, along with

experiences in labs such as the Cyber Range. This practical training prepares students for real-world challenges they will encounter in the cybersecurity field. Additionally, the competitive edge of students is sharpened through participation in the National Cyber League competition, where they have achieved impressive rankings, placing in the top 50 in Spring 2023 and top 80 in Fall 2023.

The College not only provides valuable real-world experience through partnerships with internship providers to enhance job placement prospects but also offers the certification advantage by covering the cost of industry certifications. Students have successfully passed notable certifications like CompTIA Security+ and PenTest+. Furthermore, the program prepares graduates for seamless transitions into entry-level cybersecurity positions or further education, with many choosing to continue their studies at institutions such as Texas A&M San Antonio.

Palo Alto College's program goes beyond technical training to emphasize the ethical and legal aspects of cybersecurity, empowering graduates to navigate complex situations with integrity. The collaborative learning environment fosters a community where students learn to analyze, troubleshoot, and solve problems effectively, equipping them with a comprehensive skill set for success in the cybersecurity field.

## DESIGNATIONS

- CAE-Cyber Defense

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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