



Westgate Building, Penn State University Park

Penn State and the College of Information Sciences and Technology (IST) were recognized as a National Center of Academic Excellence (CAE) in Cyber Defense by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security. This prestigious designation was first awarded in 2008, with subsequent recertifications in 2014 and 2023. The CAE program’s inception aimed to address the urgent demand for proficient cybersecurity professionals in the federal sector, which has also extended to state and local governments as well as the private sector.

The College of IST earned this distinction through its comprehensive cybersecurity-related academic offerings, positioning it as a prime institution for students aspiring to excel in the cybersecurity field. Additionally, this designation enables the College of IST to bestow a certificate of achievement and a letter of recognition upon graduates who fulfill

specific criteria.

Students enrolled in select programs have the opportunity to receive a certificate of achievement from the NSA. Eligible programs include the B.S. in Cybersecurity Analytics and Operations available at numerous campuses including Altoona, Beaver, Berks, Brandywine, Greater Allegheny, Harrisburg, Lehigh Valley, Shenango, Schuylkill, University Park, World Campus, and York. Also eligible are students in the B.S. in Information Sciences and Technology program, offered at campuses such as Abington, Beaver, Berks, Brandywine, Greater Allegheny, Harrisburg, Hazleton, Lehigh Valley, Mont Alto, New Kensington, Scranton, University Park, Wilkes-Barre, World Campus, and York, as well as those in the B.S. in Security and Risk Analysis program, available at Altoona, Berks, Harrisburg, University Park, and World Campus.

To qualify for the certificate, a student must be admitted into one of the aforementioned programs and, prior to submitting their intent to graduate, they need to add the NSA certificate to their academic record through the LionPATH system’s Update Academics feature. Meeting all the certificate’s requirements ensures its notation on the student’s transcript and the issuance of a physical certificate alongside their diploma upon graduation.

DESIGNATIONS

- CAE-Cyber Defense

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