



Cathedral of Learning, University of Pittsburgh

The **University of Pittsburgh** has established itself as a beacon of excellence through its Department of Informatics and Networked Systems (DINS), especially in the domains of education and research related to cybersecurity, network security and resiliency, and privacy. Since 2004, the university has proudly held the title of National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education and Research.

The university offers a comprehensive suite of programs in this field, including the Bachelor of Science in Information Science (BSIS) with a pathway in Cybersecurity, the Master of Science in Information Science (MSIS) with a specialization in Information Security, the Master of Science in Telecommunications (MST), Graduate Certificates in Cyber Security, Policy and Law, and PhD degrees in Information Science and Telecommunications.

DESIGNATIONS

- CAE-Cyber Defense
- CAE-Research

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Functioning as a vital center for research, education, and innovation, DINS occupies a unique position at the intersection of information, networks, and the study of human cognition, perception, and behavior. The curriculum and research projects within the department are specifically designed to tackle cybersecurity challenges through a multifaceted approach that includes networks, human behavior, and information. Moreover, students have the opportunity to apply their classroom learning in real-world scenarios by participating in numerous cybersecurity competitions, such as CyberForce, the Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition, and Hivestorm.

Over the last five years, the Pitt Cyber Institute has been instrumental in nurturing future talent through its annual free week-long CyberCamp for high school students, catering to a variety of technical skill levels from basic digital literacy to cyber ethics and systems security. Looking ahead to 2024, the school is set to host its second annual GenCyber event, this time for high school teachers, with the aim of integrating cybersecurity concepts and theories into their curricula.

DINS' research efforts are dedicated to pioneering innovations in cybersecurity, ranging from enhancing infrastructure resiliency to developing advanced access control measures, ensuring location privacy protection, and creating trusted systems. This research is crucial for devising solutions that will safeguard industries and individuals alike for many generations to come.