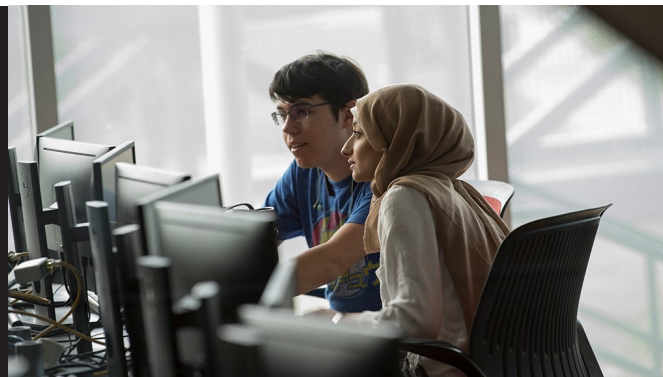# CYBERSECURITY AT NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY



- **A Center of Excellence**: NKU has had the NSA NCAE-C designation since 2014 (see reverse).
- **Multiple cybersecurity degrees and programs**: BS, Accelerated Online BS, and MS in Cybersecurity; Cybersecurity tracks in IT & Business Info Systems majors; Computer Forensics & Info Security minors; Undergraduate certificate in cybersecurity.
- **Large enrollment**: NKU currently has 201 enrolled MS Cybersecurity students, 160 BS cybersecurity students, and 160 students in the cybersecurity track of the BS in IT degree.
- The programs **include security certificate content** (e.g. CCNA, Security+, OCSP) designed to meet workforce needs.
- Cybersecurity outreach, research and innovation work is coordinated through the **NKU Center for Info Security**, housed in College of Informatics.
- The donor-funded **JRG Cyber Threat Intelligence Lab** in NKU's Griffin Hall is a state-of-the-art learning space replicating key Security Operations Center functionality.
- **Large cybersecurity faculty**: 6 professors (PhD), 3 lecturers, plus faculty in other areas who teach security-allied subjects such as cryptography, privacy/misinformation, risk management, digital forensics.
- **K-12 teacher outreach**: NKU is the only CAE institution within Kentucky to receive NSA/NSF GenCyber grant funding from 2021-24 to train HS teachers in cybersecurity - 50 teacher cohorts across 30 different schools have participated in NKU GenCyber programs since 2021.
- **K-12 student outreach**: NKU has been hosting CINSAM Summer Cyber Academies for HS students since 2021. These summer camps are co-led by NKU faculty and HS teachers from NKU's GenCyber program - has served HS students from 20 schools.
- **ABET-accredited BS in Data Science program** (the first ABET-accredited DS program in the world) in the College of Informatics facilitates easy collaboration on cyber data analysis, AI, etc.
- **17 years of hosting the NKY Cybersecurity Symposium** for IT and legal professionals, co-organized with NKU Chase College of Law. With an average annual attendance being 400, it attracts local and national corporate sponsorships.
- **Active student cyber defense team** - NKCyber Club has placed in the top 2 regionally for past 12 years in the Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition in a nine-state region which includes KY and OH.
- **NKU's location enables collaboration** with companies in nearby states and with the Ohio Cyber Range at the University of Cincinnati.
- NKU is part of an **NSA cyber workforce development grant-based coalition project** since 2023 and is contributing towards cybersecurity educational innovation within Kentucky in partnership with the University of Louisville, and several other CAE institutions.
- NKU has an active **Women in Cyber (WiCyS)** chapter, the only university in KY to have one.
- NKU works with **INTERalliance, a partnership of major Cincinnati/NKY corporations** with programs to attract & retain regional IT talent, and to manage intern opportunities for HS students.
- NKU is part of the **Kentucky Cybersecurity Board/KCFC Alliance**, which includes other CAE institutions within the commonwealth
- NKU hosted the **2024 Kentucky Cyber & Forensics Conference (KCFC)**, a unique and exclusive academic cyber conference within KY.
- NKU is contributing to and participating in the new **NSA pilot accreditation program involving Cyber AI.**

REAL AMBITION
REAL SUCCESS

NKU NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

## AN INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP ON CYBERSECURITY EDUCATION

With the support of the US State Department, St. Andrews Georgian University (SANGU), a university founded by the Patriarchate of Georgia, selected Northern Kentucky University as a partner in cybersecurity education. As a former Soviet republic with 20% of its territory occupied by Russia, Georgia knows it needs a strong cyber defense. NKU is only the second US university to partner with a university there.

In 2022 SANGU and NKU launched a joint hybrid Masters degree program in Cybersecurity, with 60 students a year enrolling. The initial cohorts are professionals employed in the public sector. They complete 30 graduate credit hours  of NKU online cybersecurity courses, followed by 30 credit hours at SANGU. NKU faculty give two-week in-person workshops in Tbilisi each summer. Each fall SANGU students visit the Cincinnati/NKY area for more workshops, the NKU Cybersecurity Symposium, and visits to local companies.

During their trips to Georgia, NKU College of Informatics leaders appeared on national television multiple times sharing the importance of the program and partnership. They also met with the Minister of Education and Science, and the Cultural Attaché of the US Embassy. More joint programs will follow next year.

## THE NSA NCAE-C DESIGNATION

The National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity (NCAE-C) program is managed by the National Security Agency's National Cryptologic School. The program:



- Establishes standards for cybersecurity curriculum and academic excellence,
- Includes competency development among students and faculty,
- Values community outreach and leadership in professional development,
- Integrates cybersecurity practice within the institution across academic disciplines,
- Actively engages in solutions to challenges facing cybersecurity education.

NKU has had this designation since 2014, the second-longest of any university in Kentucky or Ohio. See nsa.gov/academics for more information.