

Building equitable pathways to cybersecurity jobs



Partnering to prepare students with skills for high-wage, high-growth careers

The challenge

Cyberattacks threaten our privacy, national security, and our daily lives. But we're not training or certifying enough students in cybersecurity to meet growing demands.

Annually, only 3% of US students are attaining a credential in computer and information sciences, and far fewer are specializing in cybersecurity.

Urgent action is needed to address the cybersecurity gap and protect critical public and private infrastructure.

The opportunity

With more than 700,000 open cybersecurity roles in the US, skills in cybersecurity can help launch students into high-paying careers.

Community colleges play a critical role in preparing students for in-demand technical roles.

Together, we can build an inclusive pipeline of cybersecurity professionals that can quickly enter and succeed in today's rapidly evolving cyber workforce.

Our commitment

Microsoft will help skill 250,000 people in cybersecurity by 2025—starting with new community college and nonprofit partnerships.

Supporting your community college with cybersecurity resources

With the increasing demand for cybersecurity talent, Microsoft is committed to supporting community colleges, their faculty, and students to develop and grow cybersecurity programs and help build an inclusive cybersecurity workforce.



Faculty professional development and support for earning Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Designation

Microsoft has partnered with the National Cybersecurity Training & Education Center (NCyTE) to provide resources, mentorship, and partnership in support of cybersecurity program development. This includes faculty professional development and support in attaining the Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense (CAE-CD) Designation. Learn more and explore professional development opportunities at ncyte.net/acce.



Community of practice to support expanding cybersecurity programs

Microsoft has partnered with the American Association of Community Colleges to launch a community of practice for institutions offering cybersecurity education. Grants will provide funding and technical assistance to selected community colleges who are accelerating their cybersecurity programs. Submit request for proposals at aka.ms/CyberSkillsForAll.



Scholarships for low-income students pursuing cybersecurity career pathways

To address the diversity and talent shortages in the cyber workforce, we partnered with the Last Mile Education Fund to launch the Microsoft Cybersecurity Scholarship Program. We are committed to supporting 10,000 low-income students - including Veterans - pursuing cybersecurity career pathways and certifications at 2-year institutions. Students will also receive free LinkedIn Premium accounts to help close the networking gap and connect them to jobs as well as access to GitHub Education benefits, including the Student Developer Pack and access to local GitHub sponsored events. Applications are open on a rolling basis. Students can apply at lastmile-ed.org/MicrosoftCybersecurityScholarship.



Ready-to-teach curriculum and teaching materials aligned to industry needs

Microsoft Learn for Educators provides faculty with access to Official Microsoft Learning Products for Microsoft Azure, Azure data, Azure AI, Power Platform and Security, Compliance and Identity (SCI). As a part of the program, faculty receive training and tools to prepare them to deliver cutting-edge technical instruction to their students. Each curriculum covers Microsoft Certification exam objectives through lessons based on real-world scenarios and practice exercises. Faculty members are provided access to free teaching materials, training, and tools for delivering Microsoft-based technical courses at aka.ms/MSLE.



Cyber instructor recruitment and training

To help address the shortage of cybersecurity instructors, Microsoft is piloting the TEALS in Community Colleges program to recruit and train industry experts on pedagogy fundamentals and help build a qualified pipeline of potential community college adjunct instructors. To learn more or express interest in participating in the pilot, TEALSCC@microsoft.com.

Our partners

