

# DoD Cyber Scholarship Program (CySP)

## Information for Applicants



**Background & Purpose:** Department of Defense (DoD) Cyber Scholarship Program (CySP) is authorized by Chapter 112 of U.S.C., Section 2200, designed to encourage the recruitment of the nation's top cyber talent and the retention of DoD personnel who have skills necessary to meet DoD's cyber requirements and help secure our nation against threats of information systems and networks. Provide scholarships to students in pursuit of cyber-related degree at National Centers of Academic Excellence (CAE) in Cyber Education: Cyber Defense (CAE-CD), Cyber Defense Research (CAE-R) or Cyber Operations (CAE-CO).

**Recruitment Scholarships:** For students who are not DoD or Federal employees and who are enrolled at designated CAEs. Pursuing an associates, undergraduate and graduate degree in cyber disciplines. Attend a CAE-CD or CAE-CO institution or a partner schools. Students selected typically receive two years of financial support to complete degree. Students must reapply for each year of funding; funding returning students is first priority of program. Students will typically complete a funded internship with the Component in the summer between academic years.

- **Service Obligation:** Upon graduation, scholarship recipients commence their payback period with Component. Recruitment payback is one year for every year or partial year of scholarship.
- **Application process:** Students must be U.S. citizens, and must qualify for security clearance. Student must apply through the CAE they attend, student must be endorsed and nominated by the CAE they attend.
- **Student Selection:** DoD Agencies participate in a review panel and select students based on the mission needs and goals of their agency. Students are selected for the scholarship when a DoD Agency agrees to hire upon graduation.
- **Highlights for recruitment:** Student nominated by CAE. Student selected by DoD Agency. Student receives scholarship & job in the selection letter. Student will be hired by DoD Agency after graduation.

**Retention Scholarships:** For Military (*Active & Reserve officer/enlisted*) and Civilian DoD personnel for Master's and PhD programs. Provides cyber professional development opportunities for current DoD employees. Open to Attend Air Force Institute of Technology or Naval Postgraduate School. Additionally, prior graduates of the Joint Cyber Awareness Course are eligible to apply their credits toward cyber degree programs at pre-approved CAEs.

- **Service Obligation:** Service payback required in exchange for scholarship. Military retention payback: Master's is 3 years and PhD is 5 years. Civilian retention payback: three (3) times the length of the scholarship period.
- **Application process:** Student must apply through the agency or component, Student must be endorsed and nominated by the agency or component they work.
- **Student Selection:** The DoD CySP Steering Committee to include representatives from NPS and AFIT.
- **Highlights for retention:** Student nominated by DoD Agency. Student receives scholarship. Student will continue employment with DoD Agency and receive pay.

### Scholarship Provides:

- Full cost of tuition, books, and required fees.
- Full cost for health care & stipend to cover room & board (**recruitment only**).
- Potential travel for degree specific degree events.
- Receive support from CAE.

### Scholarship Limitations:

- No cap on per year tuition amount.
- Recruitment - 5 year max on tuition support.
- Retention - Length of degree.

\*Links for institutions designated as CAEs:

For a current list of NSA/DHS CAE-CD institutions, [https://www.iad.gov/NIETP/reports/cae\\_designated\\_institutions.cfm](https://www.iad.gov/NIETP/reports/cae_designated_institutions.cfm)

For a current list of NSA CAE-CO institutions: <https://www.nsa.gov/resources/students-educators/centers-academic-excellence/cae-co-centers/>

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