Advanced Cybersecurity Experience for Students

THE NATION’S FIRST UNDERGRADUATE HONORS PROGRAM IN CYBERSECURITY

- Starting in the fall of 2013, with unique and sustained involvement from the Northrop Grumman Corporation, the University of Maryland’s Advanced Cybersecurity Experience for Students (ACES) will be the nation’s first undergraduate honors program in cybersecurity, representing a new model for cybersecurity education.
- 45 students will enroll each year in this living-learning program, which will offer an intensive, interdisciplinary, accelerated curriculum in key technical, policy, behavioral and social science components of cybersecurity.
- A year-long capstone project, which will address a foundational challenge in cybersecurity, will be required of all ACES seniors.
- To meet the need of a cyber-enabled workforce, this interdisciplinary living-learning program will allow ACES students to live together, use embedded, state-of-the-art laboratories and require students to work closely and collaboratively together inside and beyond the classroom.

A UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP

- Northrop Grumman is the leading provider of cybersecurity services to the federal government and UMD is the largest provider of cybersecurity-related degrees in the national capital region.
- Northrop Grumman’s financial support of $1.1M will provide the foundational elements to ensure this historic collaboration will produce talented cybersecurity leaders of the future.
- ACES will have a unique cadre of advisory experts and organizations who will continue to refine and augment the curriculum and capstone projects.
- The ACES program will benefit from intensive and sustained involvement from Northrop Grumman, transcending the traditional model for university-industry partnerships, to include in-depth, ongoing industrial participation in this unique undergraduate honors program.
- ACES students will have opportunities to participate in a continuation of their coursework via internship programs at Northrop Grumman.

THE HONORS COLLEGE AT UMD: HIGHLY ACCLAIMED PROGRAMS

- ACES will be the seventh living-learning program in UMD’s highly acclaimed Honors College.
- The Honors College features outstanding faculty, including 3 Nobel Prize winners.
- Honors College courses have smaller enrollments, which enables students to cover more sophisticated material and proceed at a faster pace.
- Each year, approximately 1,000 undergraduates are invited into the prestigious Honors College.

A NATIONAL WORKFORCE NEED

- As a national model, ACES addresses existing shortfalls in cybersecurity education and helps reverse national trends by increasing the number of students in STEM fields.
- ACES will serve as a new prototype for preparing students in an emerging, interdisciplinary field that requires practical application and real world experience.

WHAT LEADERS ARE SAYING ABOUT ACES

“The ACES program at the University of Maryland will help make our country safer and Maryland’s economy stronger. Right now, Maryland is the global epicenter of cyber security. And we are national leaders in developing the cyber workforce of today to fill cyber jobs that are available now. Graduates with credentials in cyber security are in demand to fill the jobs of today and the jobs of tomorrow - jobs that will never leave the United States.” - Sen. Barbara Mikulski (MD)

“The ACES program represents Maryland at its best. This unique partnership between Northrop Grumman and our flagship campus demonstrates Maryland’s leadership role as the epicenter of cybersecurity.” - Gov. Martin O’Malley (MD)

“It is critical to our nation’s security that we build a competitive workforce that can take on the cyber security issues our military, businesses, financial institutions, and others face. I commend the University of Maryland and Northrop Grumman for developing a program that will give our students the skills and real world experience necessary to address these cyber threats.” - Congressman Steny Hoyer (MD)

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