



Alabama Commission on Higher Education

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New Program Proposal

The following must be submitted to complete a new program request:

Submission Checklist:

- ☒ New Program Proposal
- ☒ Business Plan (<https://www.ache.edu/index.php/forms/>)
- ☒ Undergraduate or Graduate Curriculum Plan (<https://www.ache.edu/index.php/forms/>)

Primary Contact Information

Institution: Central Alabama Community College

Contact: Slade Young

Title: CIS Instructor

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Program Information

Date of Proposal Submission: 8/27/2026

Award Level: Associate's Degree

Award Nomenclature (e.g., BS, MBA): AAS

Field of Study/Program Title: CyberAI

CIP Code (6-digit): 11.1003

Administration of the Program

Name of Dean: Michael Barnette

Name of College/School: Central Alabama Community College

Name of Chairperson: Robert Davis

Name of Department/Division: Business & Computer Information Systems

Implementation Information

Proposed Program Implementation Date: 5/10/2027

Anticipated Date of Approval from Institutional Governing Board: 12/9/2026

Anticipated Date of ACHE Meeting to Vote on Proposal: 12/11/2026

SACSCOC Sub Change Requirement (Notification, Approval, or NA): Notification

Other Considerations for Timing and Approval (e.g., upcoming SACSCOC review): N/A



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I. Program Description

A. Concise Program Summary (one paragraph) to be included in ACHE Agenda:

The Associate in Applied Science (AAS) in CyberAI at Central Alabama Community College prepares students for high-demand careers at the intersection of cybersecurity and artificial intelligence. This workforce-focused program combines foundational knowledge in network security, ethical hacking, threat analysis, data analytics, and AI-driven security technologies with hands-on learning experiences that reflect real-world industry environments. Students develop the technical, analytical, and problem-solving skills needed to protect digital systems, identify and respond to cyber threats, and leverage emerging AI tools to strengthen organizational security. Graduates will be equipped for entry-level employment, industry certifications, and continued advancement in the rapidly evolving fields of cybersecurity and artificial intelligence.

B. Specific Rationale (Strengths) for the Program

List three (3) to five (5) strengths of the proposed program as specific rationale for recommending approval of this proposal.

1. Addressing the Growing Convergence of Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence - Cybersecurity and artificial intelligence are no longer separate disciplines. Organizations increasingly use AI to detect threats, automate security operations, analyze cyber risks, and respond to attacks in real time. At the same time, AI systems themselves require protection from cyber threats. An AAS in CyberAI would prepare students with integrated skills that employers increasingly demand, positioning graduates to fill emerging roles at the intersection of cybersecurity, machine learning, data analytics, and digital risk management.
2. Supporting Regional Workforce and Economic Development - CACC's mission emphasizes workforce advancement and economic growth through career-focused education. The proposed CyberAI degree aligns directly with high-demand technology occupations and provides employers with a pipeline of skilled professionals who can help secure digital infrastructure, support advanced manufacturing technologies, and leverage AI-driven business solutions. This program would strengthen the region's competitiveness by attracting and retaining talent in a rapidly expanding technology sector.



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3. Building on CACC's Existing Technology and AI Initiatives - CACC already offers technology-focused programs and has demonstrated a commitment to expanding AI-related workforce training through initiatives such as its AI microcredential program. A CyberAI degree represents a natural progression from these offerings, creating a clear educational pathway from introductory AI training to a comprehensive applied degree. The program would provide students with hands-on, industry-relevant skills while positioning CACC as a leader in innovative technology education within the Alabama Community College System.

C. External Support (Recommended)

List external entities (more may be added) that may have supplied letters of support attesting to the program's strengths and attach letters with the proposal at the end of this document.

1. Chris Bell, Vice President of Technical Services at Jackson Thornton Technologies
2. Caleb Whorton, Director of Technology at Coosa County Schools
3. Jimmy Stubbs, Chief Executive Officer at River Bank & Trust
4. Richard Dennis, Superintendent at Elmore County Schools

D. Student Learning Outcomes

List four (4) to seven (7) of the student learning outcomes of the program.

1. Apply cybersecurity principles, tools, and best practices to secure networks, systems, and data against cyber threats.
2. Develop and implement artificial intelligence and machine learning solutions to enhance cybersecurity operations and threat detection.
3. Analyze security incidents, vulnerabilities, and threat intelligence using industry-standard methodologies and AI-driven analytics.
4. Evaluate and apply ethical, legal, and regulatory requirements governing cybersecurity and artificial intelligence technologies.
5. Collaborate effectively in technical teams to design, deploy, and maintain secure and intelligent technology solutions that meet organizational needs.



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E. Similar Programs at Other Alabama Public Institutions

List programs at other Alabama public institutions of the same degree level and the same (or similar) CIP codes. If no similar programs exist within Alabama, list similar programs offered within the 16 SREB states. If the proposed program duplicates, closely resembles, or is similar to any other offerings in the state, provide justification for any potential duplication.

CIP Code	Degree Title	Institution with Similar Program	Justification for Duplication
11.0101	AAS in Cybersecurity & Networking Technology	Calhoun Community College	CACC CyberAI program is adding an AI element
11.0101	AAS in Cybersecurity	Coastal Alabama Community College	CACC CyberAI program is adding an AI element
11.0101	AAS in CIS (Cybersecurity)	Jefferson State Community College	CACC CyberAI program is adding an AI element

F. Relationship to Existing Programs within the Institution

Nearly all new programs have some relationship to existing offerings through shared courses, faculty, facilities, etc. Is the proposed program associated with any existing offerings within the institution, including options within current degree programs? **Yes** ☒ **No** ☐

If **yes**, please describe these relationships including whether or not the program will replace or compete with existing offerings: (**Note:** If this is a graduate program, list any existing undergraduate programs which are directly or indirectly related. If this is a doctoral program, also list related master's programs.)

The new Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree in CyberAI at Central Alabama Community College builds upon the strong cybersecurity foundation already established within Alabama Community College System (ACCS) cybersecurity programs by integrating artificial intelligence concepts and applications into the curriculum. While traditional ACCS cybersecurity degrees focus on protecting networks, systems, and data through areas such as network security, ethical hacking, server administration, and cybersecurity operations, the CyberAI program expands this model by preparing students to understand how AI is transforming both cyber defense and cyber threats. Students gain knowledge of cybersecurity principles while also learning how AI can be used to automate threat detection, analyze large volumes of security data, improve incident response, and support decision-making in security environments. This combination of cybersecurity and artificial intelligence equips graduates with skills that align with the evolving workforce demands of industries increasingly leveraging AI-driven technologies.

If **not**, please describe how the institution plans to support a program unrelated to existing offerings.

G. Collaboration



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Have any collaborations **within your institution** (i.e., research centers, across academic divisions, etc.) been explored? Yes ☐ No ☒

If **yes**, provide a brief explanation of the proposed collaboration plan(s) for the program:

Have collaborations with **other institutions or external entities** (i.e., local business, industries, etc.) been explored? Yes ☒ No ☐

If **yes**, provide a brief explanation of the proposed collaboration plan(s) for the program:

The Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree in CyberAI at Central Alabama Community College will foster strong partnerships with local school systems, career and technical education centers, universities, workforce development organizations, and industry leaders to create a seamless talent pipeline in cybersecurity and artificial intelligence. Through collaborative initiatives such as dual enrollment opportunities, career awareness programs, internships, apprenticeships, guest lectures, and hands-on learning experiences, students will gain exposure to real-world applications of CyberAI technologies. Industry partners will provide valuable input on curriculum development to ensure alignment with current workforce needs, while educational partners will support pathways for student recruitment, transfer opportunities, and continued learning. These collaborations will help prepare graduates with the technical skills, professional competencies, and practical experience needed to meet the growing demand for CyberAI professionals in Alabama and beyond.

H. Programmatic Accreditation

Select the appropriate program accreditor from the drop-down menu below:

None

Provide a detailed timeline for gaining accreditation (i.e., when will full candidacy be reached?):

N/A

I. Professional Licensure

Will the program be considered a Professional Licensure Program based on the following definition: Yes ☐ No ☒

Professional Licensure Program: As defined in federal regulations, an instructional program that is designed to meet educational requirements for a specific professional license or certification that is required for employment in an occupation or is advertised as meeting such requirements.

If **yes**, please explain:

Select the appropriate licensure body from the table below:



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Choose an item.

Select the appropriate license from the table below:

Choose an item.

J. Professional Certification

Will students earn industry certifications while completing the degree or be prepared for industry certifications upon graduation? Yes ☒ No ☐

If **yes**, please explain:

The Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree in CyberAI at Central Alabama Community College is designed to prepare students for success in today's rapidly evolving cybersecurity and artificial intelligence workforce while providing a strong foundation for industry-recognized certifications. Through hands-on instruction in computer hardware, operating systems, networking, cybersecurity, cloud technologies, ethical hacking, threat detection, and AI-enhanced security tools, students will develop the technical knowledge and practical skills needed to pursue certifications such as CompTIA A+, CompTIA Security+, CompTIA Cloud+, CompTIA PenTest+, and CompTIA CySA+. The curriculum emphasizes real-world applications, cybersecurity best practices, risk management, vulnerability assessment, cloud infrastructure security, penetration testing methodologies, and security operations analysis, ensuring graduates are prepared to meet industry demands and advance into entry-level and emerging roles in cybersecurity, cloud computing, and AI-driven security environments.

K. Admissions

Provide any additional admissions requirements beyond the institution's standard admissions process/policies for this degree level. Include prerequisites, prior degrees earned, etc.
N/A



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L. Mode of Delivery

Provide the planned delivery format(s) of the program as defined in policy (i.e., in-person, online, hybrid). Please also note whether any program requirements can be completed through competency-based assessment.

The Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree in CyberAI at Central Alabama Community College will be offered in multiple delivery modalities to provide flexibility and accessibility for a diverse range of students. Students may choose to complete the program through traditional in-person instruction, a hybrid format that combines face-to-face and online learning experiences, or a fully online option. These delivery methods are designed to accommodate varying schedules, learning preferences, and geographic locations while maintaining the same high-quality curriculum and learning outcomes. Importantly, all CyberAI major requirements can be completed 100% online, enabling students to earn the degree and develop critical cybersecurity and artificial intelligence skills without the need to attend courses on campus. This flexible approach supports both traditional students and working professionals seeking to advance their education and careers in the rapidly evolving CyberAI field.

Can students complete the entire degree program through distance education (100% online) based on the following definition? Yes ☒ No ☐

Distance Education: An academic program for which required instructional activities can be completed entirely through distance education modalities. A distance education program may have in-person requirements that are non-instructional (e.g., orientation, practicum).

M. Instructional Site(s)

Provide the planned location(s) where the program will be delivered (i.e., main campus, satellite campus, off-campus site.) If the program will be offered at an off-campus site, provide the existing site name or submit an **Off-Campus Site Request** if new.

Alexander City, Childersburg, Prattville, Talladega campuses.

Will more than 50% of this program be offered at an off-campus site(s) Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, which sites?

N. Industry Need

Using the federal **Standard Occupational Code (SOC) System**, indicate the top three occupational codes related to post-graduation employment from the program. A full list of SOC codes can be found at <https://www.onetcodeconnector.org/find/family/title#17>.

SOC 1 (required): 15-1212

SOC 2 (optional): 15-1299



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SOC 3 (optional):

Briefly describe how the program fulfills a specific industry or employment need for the State of Alabama. As appropriate, discuss alignment with Alabama's Statewide or Regional Lists of In-Demand Occupations (<https://www.ache.edu/index.php/policy-guidance/>) or with emerging industries as identified by [Innovate Alabama](#) or the [Economic Development Partnership of Alabama](#) (EDPA).

The proposed Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree in CyberAI at Central Alabama Community College will address a critical and growing workforce need in both Alabama and the Central Alabama region by preparing graduates with skills in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, data analytics, and emerging technologies. According to CyberSeek, Alabama employs more than 18,000 cybersecurity professionals and is expected to generate approximately 8,000 new cybersecurity-related job openings annually, reflecting strong employer demand across government, defense, healthcare, manufacturing, and technology sectors. Additionally, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects employment for Information Security Analysts to grow by 33% from 2023 to 2033, making it one of the fastest-growing occupations in the nation. Central Alabama is uniquely positioned to benefit from this program due to its proximity to major defense, aerospace, manufacturing, and public-sector employers that increasingly rely on AI-enabled systems and robust cybersecurity protections. As digital transformation accelerates across these industries, employers require technicians and analysts who can secure networks, manage AI technologies, and protect critical infrastructure from evolving cyber threats. By providing industry-relevant training and pathways to high-demand careers, the CyberAI degree will help close the regional talent gap, strengthen Alabama's workforce competitiveness, and support economic growth throughout Central Alabama.

O. Additional Education/Training

Please explain whether further education/training is required for graduates of the proposed program to gain entry-level employment in the SOC occupations selected above.

The Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree in CyberAI at Central Alabama Community College will prepare students for entry-level cybersecurity and information technology careers by combining foundational IT knowledge with emerging artificial intelligence and cybersecurity skills. Through hands-on learning experiences, students will develop competencies in network administration, systems security, cloud technologies, digital forensics, and the ethical application of AI tools to identify and respond to cyber threats. The program emphasizes practical problem-solving, industry-relevant technologies, and workforce readiness, enabling graduates to pursue roles such as cybersecurity technician, IT support specialist, network administrator, security analyst, and other technology-focused positions. By integrating technical training with real-world applications, the CyberAI degree equips students with the skills needed to meet the growing demand for qualified professionals in today's rapidly evolving digital landscape.



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P. Student Demand

Please explain how you projected the student enrollment numbers in the **Business Plan, Lines 24-27** and provide evidence to substantiate student demand (i.e., surveys, enrollments in related courses, etc.).

Projected student enrollment numbers were based on current enrollment trends in related Computer Information Systems (CIS) courses and viability requirements. Enrollment data from current CIS courses, including Intro to Cybersecurity, AI & Machine Learning and other CIS courses, indicates sustained interest in information technology career pathways. Additionally, communications from external stakeholders indicates employer demand for graduates with cybersecurity knowledge and skills. These factors were used to develop conservative enrollment projections with anticipated growth as program awareness, marketing, and recruitment efforts increase.

Course	Fall 2025	Spring 2026	Summer 2026	Fall 2026
CIS 263	43	31	10	24
CIS 244	9	17	3	17
CIS 146	252	204	107	294



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II. Program Resources and Expenses

A. All Proposed Program Personnel

Provide all personnel counts for the proposed program.

Employment Status of Program Personnel		Personnel Information		
		Count from Proposed Program Department	Count from Other Departments	Subtotal of Personnel
Current	Full-Time Faculty	2	0	2
	Part-Time Faculty	4	0	4
	Administration	0	0	0
	Support Staff	0	0	0
**New To Be Hired	Full-Time Faculty	1	0	1
	Part-Time Faculty	1	0	1
	Administration	0	0	0
	Support Staff	0	0	0
Personnel Total				8

Provide justification that the institution has proposed a sufficient number of faculty (full-time and part-time) for the proposed program to ensure curriculum and program quality, integrity, and review:

The proposed Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree in CyberAI at Central Alabama Community College will be delivered primarily through the expertise of existing faculty within the College's Information Technology, Computer Science, and related technical programs. Current faculty members possess the foundational knowledge and instructional experience necessary to teach many of the core courses in cybersecurity, networking, programming, data analytics, and emerging technologies, allowing the College to efficiently leverage existing personnel and resources during program implementation. However, the interdisciplinary nature of CyberAI and the anticipated growth in student enrollment will significantly increase faculty teaching loads, advising responsibilities, curriculum development demands, and laboratory supervision requirements. To ensure high-quality instruction, maintain appropriate class sizes, and support specialized coursework in artificial intelligence, machine learning, cybersecurity operations, and ethical AI applications, the College requests funding for one additional full-time instructor and one part-time instructor. The full-time instructor will provide leadership in program delivery, curriculum enhancement, student mentoring, and industry engagement, while the part-time instructor will offer scheduling flexibility and additional instructional capacity to meet enrollment demands. Together, these positions will help sustain program quality, support student success, and ensure that Central Alabama Community College can effectively respond to workforce needs in the rapidly evolving fields of cybersecurity and artificial intelligence.



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Note: Include *any new funds* designated for compensation costs (faculty, administration, and/or support staff to be hired) in the **Business Plan, Line 7 - Personnel Salaries and Benefits**. Current personnel salary/benefits *should not be included* in the Business Plan.



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B. Proposed Faculty Roster*

Complete the following **Faculty Roster** to provide a brief summary and qualifications of current faculty and potential new hires specific to the program.

***Note:** Institutions must maintain and have current as well as additional faculty curriculum vitae available upon ACHE request for as long as the program is active, but CVs are **not** to be submitted with this proposal.

Current Faculty			
1	2	3	4
CURRENT FACULTY NAME (FT, PT)	COURSES TAUGHT including Term, Course Number, Course Title, & Credit Hours (D, UN, UT, G, DU)	ACADEMIC DEGREES and COURSEWORK Relevant to Courses Taught, including Institution and Major; List Specific Graduate Coursework, if needed	OTHER QUALIFICATIONS and COMMENTS Related to Courses Taught and Modality(ies) (IP, OL, HY, OCIS)
Dr. Robert Davis (FT)	CIS 214 Security Analysis CIS 244 Intro to Cybersecurity CIS 245 Cyber Defense CIS 246 Ethical Hacking CIS 282 Computer Forensics 3 credit hours each / U Fall/Spring/Summer	Master of Science in Information Systems – Florida Institute of Technology Doctor of Philosophy – University of Alabama	
Dr. Slade Young (FT)	CIS 202 Python Programming CIS 214 Security Analysis CIS 225 SQL Programming CIS 234 Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning CIS 238 Cloud Computing CIS 244 Intro to Cybersecurity CIS 245 Cyber Defense CIS 246 Ethical Hacking CIS 263 Computer Maintenance CIS 282 Computer Forensics 3 credit hours each / U Fall/Spring/Summer	Master of Science in Information Systems Management – Auburn University Graduate Certificate in Cybersecurity Management – Auburn University Educational Specialist – Columbia Southern University Doctor of Religious Education – Louisiana Baptist University	7+ years of IT industry experience as a DoD IT Engineer, B2B Technology Consultant, and IT/Cybersecurity Manager
Tony Cobb (PT)	CIS 263 (Computer Maintenance), CIS 199 (Network Communications), CIS 244 (Intro to Cybersecurity) – 3 hours each / U Fall/Spring/Summer	Master of Science – Jacksonville State University CIS Graduate Studies – Jacksonville State University	
William Gray (PT)	CIS 263 (Computer Maintenance), CIS 199 (Network Communications), CIS 244 (Intro to Cybersecurity) – 3 hours each / U Fall/Spring/Summer	Master of Science in Information Technology Management – Western Governors University	20+ years of IT and Cybersecurity experience with the United States Air Force
Melissa Pickett (PT)	CIS 146 (Computer Applications) 3 hours / UT – Fall/Spring/Summer	Master of Science – Troy University CIS Graduate Studies – Auburn University Montgomery	
Brooklyn Davis (PT)	CIS 146 (Computer Applications) & CIS 244 (Intro to Cybersecurity) 3 hours each / UT & U – Fall/Spring/Summer	Master of Science in Cybersecurity – Athens State University	
Additional Faculty (To Be Hired)			
1	2	3	4
FACULTY POSITION (FT, PT)	COURSES TO BE TAUGHT including Term, Course Number, Course Title, & Credit Hours (D, UN, UT, G, DU)	ACADEMIC DEGREES and COURSEWORK Relevant to Courses Taught, including Institution and Major; List Specific Graduate Coursework, if needed	OTHER QUALIFICATIONS and COMMENTS Related to Courses Taught and Modality(ies) (IP, OL, HY, OCIS)



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Current Faculty			
1	2	3	4
CURRENT FACULTY NAME (FT, PT)	COURSES TAUGHT including Term, Course Number, Course Title, & Credit Hours (D, UN, UT, G, DU)	ACADEMIC DEGREES and COURSEWORK Relevant to Courses Taught, including Institution and Major; List Specific Graduate Coursework, if needed	OTHER QUALIFICATIONS and COMMENTS Related to Courses Taught and Modality(ies) (IP, OL, HY, OCIS)
FT	CIS 202 Python Programming..... 3 CIS 214 Security Analysis (CompTIA PenTest+)..... 3 CIS 225 SQL Programming..... 3 CIS 234 Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning..... 3 CIS 238 Cloud Computing (CompTIA Cloud+)..... 3 CIS 240 Data Engineering..... 3 CIS 244 Intro to Cybersecurity (CompTIA Security+)..... 3 CIS 245 Cyber Defense (CompTIA CySA+)..... 3 CIS 246 Ethical Hacking..... 3 CIS 263 Computer Maintenance (CompTIA A+)..... 3 CIS 282 Computer Forensics..... 3 CIS 291 Case Study in Computer Science (Capstone)..... 3	Master's degree with 18 hours towards teaching focus	Industry experience



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Current Faculty			
1	2	3	4
CURRENT FACULTY NAME (FT, PT)	COURSES TAUGHT including Term, Course Number, Course Title, & Credit Hours (D, UN, UT, G, DU)	ACADEMIC DEGREES and COURSEWORK Relevant to Courses Taught, including Institution and Major; List Specific Graduate Coursework, if needed	OTHER QUALIFICATIONS and COMMENTS Related to Courses Taught and Modality(ies) (IP, OL, HY, OCIS)
PT	CIS 202 Python Programming..... 3 CIS 214 Security Analysis (CompTIA PenTest+)..... 3 CIS 225 SQL Programming..... 3 CIS 234 Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning..... 3 CIS 238 Cloud Computing (CompTIA Cloud+)..... 3 CIS 240 Data Engineering..... 3 CIS 244 Intro to Cybersecurity (CompTIA Security+)..... 3 CIS 245 Cyber Defense (CompTIA CySA+)..... 3 CIS 246 Ethical Hacking..... 3 CIS 263 Computer Maintenance (CompTIA A+)..... 3 CIS 282 Computer Forensics..... 3 CIS 291 Case Study in Computer Science (Capstone)..... 3	Master's degree with 18 hours towards teaching focus	Industry experience

Abbreviations: (FT, PT): Full-Time, Part-Time; (D, UN, UT, G, DU): Developmental, Undergraduate Nontransferable, Undergraduate Transferable, Graduate, Dual: High School Dual Enrollment
 Course Modality: (IP, OL, HY, OCIS): In-Person, Online, Hybrid, Off-Campus Instructional Site



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C. Equipment

Will any special equipment be needed specifically for this program? Yes ☐ No ☒

If **yes**, list the special equipment and include all special equipment costs in the **Business Plan, Line 8**:

D. Facilities

Will new facilities or renovations to existing infrastructure be required specifically for the program? Yes ☐ No ☒

If **yes**, describe the new facilities or renovations and include all *new* facilities and/or *renovation* costs in the **Business Plan, Line 9**:

E. Assistantships/Fellowships

Will the institution offer any assistantships specifically for this program? Yes ☐ No ☒

If **yes**, provide the number of assistantships to be offered and include all *new* costs for assistantships in the **Business Plan, Line 10**.

Explain the function of the Assistantships (i.e., teaching, research, etc.):

F. Library

Will any **additional** library resources be purchased to support the program? Yes ☐ No ☒

If **yes**, briefly describe new resources to be purchased and include the cost of new library resources in the **Business Plan, Line 11**:

G. Accreditation Expenses

If programmatic accreditation was indicated above, please include all accreditation costs in the **Business Plan, Line 12** and itemize and explain below:

H. Other Costs

Please include all other costs incurred with program implementation, such as marketing or recruitment, in the **Business Plan, Line 13** and explain below:



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III. Program Revenue and Funding

- A. Tuition Revenue:** Please describe how you calculated the tuition revenue that appears in the **Business Plan, Line 17**. Specifically, did you calculate using cost per credit hour or per term? Did you factor in differences between resident and non-resident tuition rates?

Note: Tuition Revenue should be proportional to total enrollment.

Tuition revenue reported in the Business Plan (Line 17) was calculated using a cost-per-credit-hour methodology, rather than a flat cost per term. A tuition rate of \$196 per credit hour was applied uniformly across projected enrollment.

Revenue calculations are based on projected total enrollment headcount by year, differentiated by full-time and part-time student status. For calculation purposes, full-time enrollment was defined as 15 credit hours for fall and spring terms, and 12 credit hours in summer term (42 credit hours per academic year), while part-time enrollment was defined as 6 credit hours per term (18 credit hours per academic year). Annual tuition revenue was calculated by multiplying the applicable credit-hour load by the per-credit tuition rate and the projected number of students in each enrollment category.

Tuition revenue projections do not differentiate between resident and non-resident tuition rates. All calculations assume the standard resident tuition rate, resulting in a conservative estimate of total revenue. This approach is consistent with the College's predominantly in-district student population and avoids overstating revenue.

Projected tuition revenues increase proportionally with total enrollment growth over the seven-year period, reflecting anticipated expansion of traditional, workforce, and dual-enrollment-informed student pipelines.

- B. External Funding:** Will the proposed program require external funding (e.g., Perkins, Foundation, Federal Grants, Sponsored Research, etc.)? Yes ☐ No ☒

If **yes**, please include all external funding in the **Business Plan, Line 18** and explain specific sources and funding below:

- C. Reallocations:** For each year will tuition revenue and/or external funding cover projected expenses? Yes ☒ No ☐

If **not**, budget reallocation may be required. Please include all reallocations in the **Business Plan, Line 19** and describe below how your institution will cover any shortfalls in any given year.

1	ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM BUSINESS PLAN								
2	INSTITUTION:	Central Alabama Community College							
3	PROGRAM NAME:	CyberAI					CIP CODE:	11.1003	
4	SELECT LEVEL:	UNDERGRADUATE (ASSOCIATE)							
5	ESTIMATED *NEW* EXPENSES TO IMPLEMENT PROPOSED PROGRAM								
6		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	TOTAL
7	PERSONNEL SALARIES & BENEFITS	\$133,012	\$134,997	\$137,022	\$139,087	\$141,194	\$149,344	\$151,655	\$986,311
8	EQUIPMENT								\$0
9	FACILITIES								\$0
10	ASSISTANTSHIPS/FELLOWSHIPS								\$0
11	LIBRARY								\$0
12	ACCREDITATION								\$0
13	OTHER COSTS								\$0
14	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$133,012	\$134,997	\$137,022	\$139,087	\$141,194	\$149,344	\$151,655	\$986,311
15	*NEW* REVENUES AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT								
16		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	TOTAL
17	TUITION + FEES	\$158,760	\$158,760	\$158,760	\$158,760	\$158,760	\$158,760	\$176,400	\$1,128,960
18	EXTERNAL FUNDING								\$0
19	REALLOCATIONS								\$0
20	TOTAL REVENUES	\$158,760	\$158,760	\$158,760	\$158,760	\$158,760	\$158,760	\$176,400	\$1,128,960
21	ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS								
22									
23		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	AVERAGE
24	FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT	No data reporting	15	15	15	15	15	15	15.00
25	PART-TIME ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT		10	10	10	10	10	10	10.00
26	TOTAL ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT		25	25	25	25	25	25	25.00
27	NEW ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT		10	15	15	15	15	20	15.00
28	Validation of Enrollment			YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	
29	DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS								
30	Note: Do not count Lead “0”s and Lead 0 years in computing the average annual degree completions.								
31		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	AVERAGE
32	DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS	No data reporting	8	7	8	7	8	7	7.50

Undergraduate Curriculum Plan

Undergraduate Curriculum Checklist:

- 1. Overview ☒
- 2. Components ☒
- 3. Options (as required) ☐

1. Undergraduate Overview

Enter the credit hour value for all applicable components (N/A if not applicable).
The credit hours **MUST** match the credit hours in the Curriculum Components table.

Curriculum Overview of Proposed Program	
Credit hours required in General Education	25
Credit hours required in Program Courses & Required Electives	33
Credit hours in Program Options (concentrations/specializations/tracks)	
Credit hours in Free Electives	
Credit hours in required Capstone/Internship/Practicum	3
Total Credit Hours Required for Completion:	61

Maximum number of credits that can be transferred in from another institution and applied to the program:	45
Intended program duration in semesters for full-time students:	5
Intended program duration in semesters for part-time students:	10

Does the program require students to demonstrate industry-validated skills, specifically through an embedded industry-recognized certification, structured work-based learning with an employer partner, or alignment with nationally recognized industry standards?:

YES ☒ NO ☐

Through hands-on instruction in computer hardware, operating systems, networking, cybersecurity, cloud technologies, ethical hacking, threat detection, and AI-enhanced security tools, students will develop the technical knowledge and practical skills needed to pursue certifications such as CompTIA A+, CompTIA Security+, CompTIA Cloud+, CompTIA PenTest+, and CompTIA CySA+.

Does the program include any concentrations/ tracks/ options?

YES ☐ NO ☒

If **yes**, please explain (i.e., define):

2. Undegraduate Components

Please provide all course information as indicated in the following table. Indicate new courses with “Y” in the associated column. If the course includes a required work-based learning component, such as an internship or practicum course, please indicate with a “Y” in the WBL column.

Insert Additional Rows as Needed				
Institution:	Central Alabama Community College			
Program Name:	CyberAI			
Program Level:	UNDERGRADUATE (ASSOCIATE)			
Curriculum Components of Proposed Program				
Course Number	Course Name	Credit Hours	New? (Y)	WBL? (Y)
General Education Courses		25		
CIS 146	Computer Applications	3		
ENG 101	English Composition	3		
MTH 100	Intermediate College Algebra	3		
ORI 105	Orientation & Student Success	3		
SPH 106	Fundamentals of Oral Communication	3		
	History, Social or Behavioral Science Elective	3		
	Natural Science Elective	4		
	Humanities & Fine Arts Elective	3		
Program Courses and Required Electives		33		
CIS 202	Python Programming	3		
CIS 214	Security Analysis	3		
CIS 225	SQL Programming	3		
CIS 234	Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning	3		
CIS 238	Cloud Computing	3		
CIS 240	Data Engineering	3		
CIS 244	Introduction to Cybersecurity	3		
CIS 245	Cyber Defense	3		
CIS 263	Computer Maintenance	3		
CIS 282	Computer Forensics	3		
Program Options (enter total credit hours from all options below)		0		
Free Electives				
Capstone/Internship/Practicum		3		
CIS 291	Case Study in Computer Science	3		
Total Credit Hours Required for Completion:		61		

Coosa County Board of Education

Caleb Whorton

73 Nixburg Road
PO Box 37
Rockford, AL 35136
Telephone (256)377-4913 · Fax (256)377-2385
Email: cwhorton@coosaschools.org
Website: <http://coosaschools.k12.al.us>

Technology Director

Date: 30 July, 2026

Subject: CACC Cyber AI Degree

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the proposed degree program - Associate of Applied Science in Cyber AI. In the rapidly changing world of technology, innovative and current/future oriented programs will be necessary and helpful in preparing the next generation of employees for the AI world and workforce they will be entering. As someone who hires in the area, I would look favorably upon an applicant with this proposed degree.

Thank you,

Caleb Whorton
Technology Director
Coosa County BOE
cwhorton@coosaschools.org
Work : (256)377-4913

Board of Education

*· Tiffany McCain, President, District II · Sharon Massie, Vice-President, District I · Gay Adams, District V
· Sharon Coffman, District IV · Joe Belyeu, District III*

July 30, 2026

Dear Slade Young:

I am writing to express my strong support for the creation of an Associate of Applied Science in CyberAI. As organizations continue to rely on increasingly complex digital systems, the need for professionals who understand both cybersecurity fundamentals and the practical use of artificial intelligence is becoming urgent. A focused CyberAI program would help prepare students for the realities of today's technology environment, where security teams must defend against faster, more sophisticated threats while also learning to use AI-enabled tools responsibly and effectively.

From an employer's perspective, this type of degree would address a clear and growing workforce need. Cybersecurity roles increasingly require hands-on technical ability, sound judgment, familiarity with cloud and endpoint environments, and an understanding of automation, data analysis, and AI-assisted detection and response. Entry-level candidates who can combine these skills will be better prepared to contribute quickly in help desk, security operations, systems support, compliance, and incident response roles.

This program would also benefit the broader regional economy. Businesses, public agencies, healthcare providers, financial institutions, manufacturers, and professional service firms all depend on secure technology operations. As AI becomes embedded in business applications and security platforms, employers will need workers who can evaluate risk, recognize abnormal behavior, support secure configurations, and communicate clearly with both technical and non-technical stakeholders. An Associate of Applied Science in CyberAI would create an accessible pathway for students to enter this field while giving employers a stronger pipeline of job-ready talent.

I especially support the applied nature of the proposed degree. Students need more than theory; they need practical labs, real-world scenarios, exposure to current security tools, and opportunities to develop disciplined troubleshooting habits. A curriculum that combines networking, operating systems, cloud services, cybersecurity principles, scripting, AI concepts, ethical use of technology, and incident response would align closely with the skills employers need now and will continue to need in the future.

For these reasons, I believe the Associate of Applied Science in CyberAI is timely, relevant, and important. It would provide students with a meaningful career pathway, help employers address a critical skills gap, and strengthen the region's ability to respond to evolving cybersecurity and artificial intelligence challenges. I respectfully encourage support for the development and approval of this program.

Sincerely,

A large green triangle pointing towards the bottom right, located in the bottom left corner of the page.

Jackson Thornton Technologies LLC

200 Commerce Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36104-2591 P.O. Box 96, Montgomery, Alabama 36101-0096
334 834 7660 | jttconnect.com



Chris Bell
VP, Technical Services



Jackson Thornton Technologies LLC

200 Commerce Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36104-2591 P.O. Box 96, Montgomery, Alabama 36101-0096
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ELMORE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

100 H.H. Robison
P.O. Box 817
Wetumpka, AL 36092

Phone: 334-567-1200
Fax: 334-567-1405

Richard E. Dennis, Superintendent
Jason M. Mann, CSFO

August 4, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

Elmore County Schools is pleased to support Central Alabama Community College's proposed Associate of Applied Science in CyberAI degree program.

As the demand for skilled professionals in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, cloud technologies, data engineering, and related fields continues to grow, this program will provide students with valuable skills and industry aligned training needed to pursue high demand careers.

We believe this program will create important educational and career pathways for students in Elmore County and the surrounding communities while helping meet the workforce needs of local and regional employers. This program also aligns with our current high school Cybersecurity pathway.

We strongly support the development of the AAS in CyberAI at Central Alabama Community College and look forward to partnering with them.

Sincerely,

Richard Dennis
Superintendent
Elmore County Schools

Every student empowered. Every student succeeds.

BOARD MEMBERS

David Jones-Chairman Michael Morgan-Vice Chairman Leisa Finley Jason Lett Bill Myers Wendell Saxon Brian Ward



July 30, 2026

Mr. Slade Young
Instructor, Computer Information Systems
Central Alabama Community College

Dear Mr. Young,

River Bank & Trust is pleased to offer its support for Central Alabama Community College's proposed Associate of Applied Science in CyberAI degree program.

As financial institutions continue to rely on advanced technology to serve customers and protect sensitive information, the demand for professionals with expertise in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, cloud technologies, automation and data analytics continues to grow. Community focused organizations like ours recognize the importance of developing a skilled workforce that can address today's evolving cyber threats while helping businesses leverage emerging technologies responsibly.

The proposed CyberAI program represents an important investment in the future of our region. By combining technical education with industry-recognized certifications, Central Alabama Community College will help prepare graduates for meaningful careers while providing local employers with access to highly qualified talent.

River Bank & Trust fully supports the establishment of the Associate of Applied Science in CyberAI degree program and appreciates Central Alabama Community College's commitment to preparing students for high-demand careers. We wish you success as you move through the approval process and look forward to the positive impact this program will have on our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jimmy Stubbs".

Jimmy Stubbs
Chief Executive Officer