



Baskin Engineering at UC Santa Cruz

As a leading public research university, the **University of California, Santa Cruz**, transforms California and the world through groundbreaking discoveries, creative scholarship, public service, and a student-centered learning environment that empowers engaged global leaders.

The campus has earned international distinction for high-impact research with faculty and alumni at the forefront of sequencing the human genome, creating the organic farming movement, unlocking the mysteries of our galaxy, and applying interdisciplinary approaches to build a more just society. UC Santa Cruz offers 74 undergraduate majors and 66 graduate programs through four academic divisions—Arts, Humanities, Physical & Biological Sciences and Social Sciences—and one school, the Baskin School of Engineering.

The Ph.D. program in Computer Science and Engineering advances trustworthy computing, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence through an open science mission. Students push the frontiers of theory and systems research while contributing openly to the scientific and software ecosystems that underpin national security.

Our location provides unique advantages. UCSC maintains a dedicated Silicon Valley Campus, connecting Ph.D. students with technology companies, startups, and national laboratories. These connections support internships, joint research, and technology transfer, ensuring our graduates are well prepared to transition ideas from research into practice. This proximity complements federally funded projects with industry partnerships that address pressing real-world needs.

Equally distinctive is our leadership in open-source research and education. UCSC established one of the first university Open Source Program Offices, where students contribute to large-scale open-source projects, analyze and secure software supply chains, and apply cybersecurity research to critical infrastructure. This culture of open collaboration prepares students to work effectively across academia, government, and industry while advancing the security of shared digital resources.

DESIGNATIONS

- CAE-Research

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Together, these features make our Ph.D. program a strong contributor to the CAE-R mission of advancing excellence in cybersecurity research and workforce development.