MC has signed an agreement with SANS Technology Institute (STI) to offer the first two years of STI's Bachelor of Professional Studies in Applied Cybersecurity (BACS) program. STI and MC have worked collaboratively in offering academic cybersecurity programs for nearly four years and have worked together to design the BACS program.

The BACS, just approved by the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC), will provide a cost-effective academic pipeline that supplies highly skilled cybersecurity professionals qualified for elite positions with employers in Maryland and across the nation. Graduates of the BACS program will have completed all requirements for a bachelor's degree and in the process will complete seven advanced immersion cybersecurity courses and associated Global Information Assurance Certifications (GIAC) certifications. These same courses and certifications have been completed by more than 100,000 cybersecurity professionals, but their employers paid the costs. BACS graduates, on the other hand, will have completed those immersion courses and passed the challenging certification exams before entering the workforce. Thus, employers of BACS graduates will get new employees ready to perform at high levels without requiring months of additional advanced training and tens of thousands of dollars of additional training investment. For the graduates, the BACS will provide credentials that demonstrate hands-on cybersecurity skills and knowledge far beyond those offered in most graduate cybersecurity degree programs, thereby saving the students years of extra study and tens of thousands of dollars in extra tuition.

With STI providing the upper division courses and Montgomery College providing the general education and foundational computer science and cybersecurity courses, the BACS program is affordable and accessible for students throughout Montgomery County. In particular, the BACS will provide talented MC students with a direct pathway to qualify for cybersecurity jobs by earning multiple, highly valued, specialized cybersecurity certifications that are an integral part of completing the BACS degree. We intend for the BACS to be accessible to students throughout Maryland as additional Maryland community colleges decide to participate in the program by establishing articulation roadmaps.