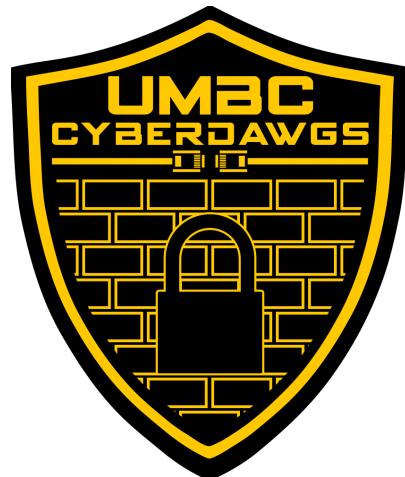


# **UMBC CyberDawgs Sponsorship Packet**

**(Academic Year 2025-2026)**

## **Contact Us**

If your company has questions or is interested in sponsoring the CyberDawgs, please send an email to club President Alex Henning at [ahennin1@umbc.edu](mailto:ahennin1@umbc.edu), Team Manager Alina Aler at [aaler1@umbc.edu](mailto:aaler1@umbc.edu), and faculty advisor Dr. Charles Nicholas at [nicholas@umbc.edu](mailto:nicholas@umbc.edu). We will then arrange a meeting to answer any questions your company may have and discuss the next steps towards sponsorship and creating a mutually beneficial relationship.



## **About Us**

In 2009, a group of UMBC students who valued the importance of computer security founded the CyberDawgs to raise awareness for all things secure computing and compete in the National CyberWatch Center's Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (CCDC). Since then, the organization has expanded significantly, growing in size and ability to compete in various competitions.

Participating in cybersecurity competitions has always been a core aspect of the CyberDawgs. In 2015, our CCDC team won Mid-Atlantic CCDC (MACCDC) and placed fourth at the National CCDC (NCCDC). Throughout the years, with support from our academic community and sponsors like you, we have earned 1st place at both the MACCDC and NCCDC competitions, the DoE Cyberforce competition, the RIT Information Security Talent Search, and several others. Year after year, our CyberDawgs team continues to tackle greater challenges. A complete list of the cyber security competitions we have participated in can be found on our website: <https://umbccd.umbc.edu/>.

In addition to competing in intercollegiate cybersecurity competitions, the CyberDawgs strive to share knowledge and experience. To accomplish this, we hold weekly meetings where we welcome guest speakers, including industry and government professionals, to present on a topic they're knowledgeable about, while sharing professional advice. We also host an international CTF and an annual Cyber Defense Exercise (CDE) for students to gain hands-on experience in cyber. Further, we foster an online community on Discord where questions are always welcome, and club members share cyber news, discuss personal projects, and build connections outside of classrooms and competitions.

With your support as a sponsor, we can better serve our community, prepare for and attend more competitions, host incredible events, and provide high-quality weekly meetings. As a sponsor, your company would be associated with cyber competition success and furthering the success of cyber education and awareness, at a university designated as a Center for Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense (CAE-CD). Sponsorship also allows your company to recruit and network directly with the competition team.

# **2025-2026 CyberDawgs Events**

## **Cyber Defense Exercise (CDE) - October 04, 2025**

Cyber Defense Exercise (CDE) is our in-house red-team/blue-team competition meant to simulate a live cyber attack on a realistic company network. We emphasize the complete scope of concerns during a cyber attack, such as business continuity, service-level agreements, writing documentation, and reporting to C-Suite executives. CDE tests a student's technical skills in system administration and incident response, as well as their knowledge of general security concepts and collaborative abilities under pressure. Students also get the opportunity to interact with a range of software and tools that they may encounter in the workplace.

This structure of CDE is largely inspired by competitions run by the National CyberWatch Center and the Department of Energy. Naturally, CDE has become a primary method of recruiting students for our competition team.

We also invite sponsors to send representatives to join CDE's white team. The white team interacts directly with the student blue teams to help answer questions and communicate competition updates. They are also responsible for collecting "business injects" and grading them. You can find more details in the **Event Participation Benefits** table below.

The CyberDawgs hosted this event for the first time in Fall of 2017. Since then, the number of participating students has continued to grow each year. In Fall 2023, we had 48 students competing across 12 blue teams. This grew in Fall 2024, we had 60 students competing across 15 blue teams.

## **DawgCTF - April 10th, 2026**

DawgCTF is a 3-day capture-the-flag (CTF) competition designed to appeal to all levels of cyber experience. It is a Jeopardy-style CTF in which we provide local, national, and international student competitors with challenges to solve that give them points upon completion. The team with the most points at the end of the competition wins. Challenge categories typically include reverse engineering, digital forensics, binary exploitation, web exploitation, steganography, cryptography, incident response, and general coding, but we encourage challenge writers to invent unique problems for the competitors. We invite UMBC students to form teams and compete on campus during the first day of the event, with prizes going to the group with the most points at the end of the day.

In the past, students have thoroughly enjoyed solving challenges from our sponsors, and we are always excited and willing to incorporate additional sponsor challenges. You can find more details in the **Event Participation Benefits** table below.

DawgCTF was first held in the Spring of 2017, and we plan to host every year in the Spring. Each year garnering more and more participants. In Spring 2023, we had 560 active users compete across 414 teams and received almost 9000 "flag" submissions across 63 challenges in a 72-hour period. In Spring 2025, we had 1,278 active users compete across 789 teams and received almost 27,930 "flag" submissions across 69 challenges in a 72-hour period.

# **Sponsorship Benefits**

All funds raised will be administered by UMBC for the benefit of CyberDawgs.

<b>Benefit</b>	<b>Bronze: \$1,000</b>	<b>Silver: \$3,000</b>	<b>Gold: \$6,000+</b>	<b>Philanthropic Gift: Any Amount</b>
Option to Post your Company's Logo/Name on our Website, Discord, and Club, Team, and Event Items	X	X	X	<p>"Philanthropic Gifts" can be of any amount and are tax-deductible as a charitable donation. However, regardless of the amount you gift, you cannot receive sponsorship benefits. If you are interested in this option, please let us know in your initial email to us.</p>
Access to UMBC Cyber Team Member Résumés for students who opt-in	X	X	X	
Access to the Club Discord Server		X	X	
Ability to Participate in either CDE <u>or</u> DawgCTF		X		
Ability to Participate in both CDE <u>and</u> DawgCTF			X	
Option to Present a Talk in either the Fall <u>or</u> Spring*		X		
Option to Present a Talk in both the Fall <u>and</u> Spring*			X	
Dedicated Club Discord Channel for your Company			X	

\*"Talk" refers to a presentation at a weekly meeting. The presentation must last at least 1 hour and focus on a topic in the cyber field (See **Disclaimers**). Companies that sponsor less than 30 days before the start of a semester may not be accommodated on the weekly meeting schedule.

## **Event Participation Benefits**

<b>Benefit</b>	<b>CDE (Fall)</b>	<b>DawgCTF (Spring)</b>
In-Person Recruitment Table	X	X
Dedicated Event Discord Channel for Recruitment	X	X
Short Presentation about your Company during the Event	X	X
Access to Résumés of Event Participants	X	X

### **CDE Only Benefit: Join "White Team"**

Your company can send representatives on the "white team," which acts as competition officials. The white team interacts directly with the competing teams and scores certain parts of the competition.

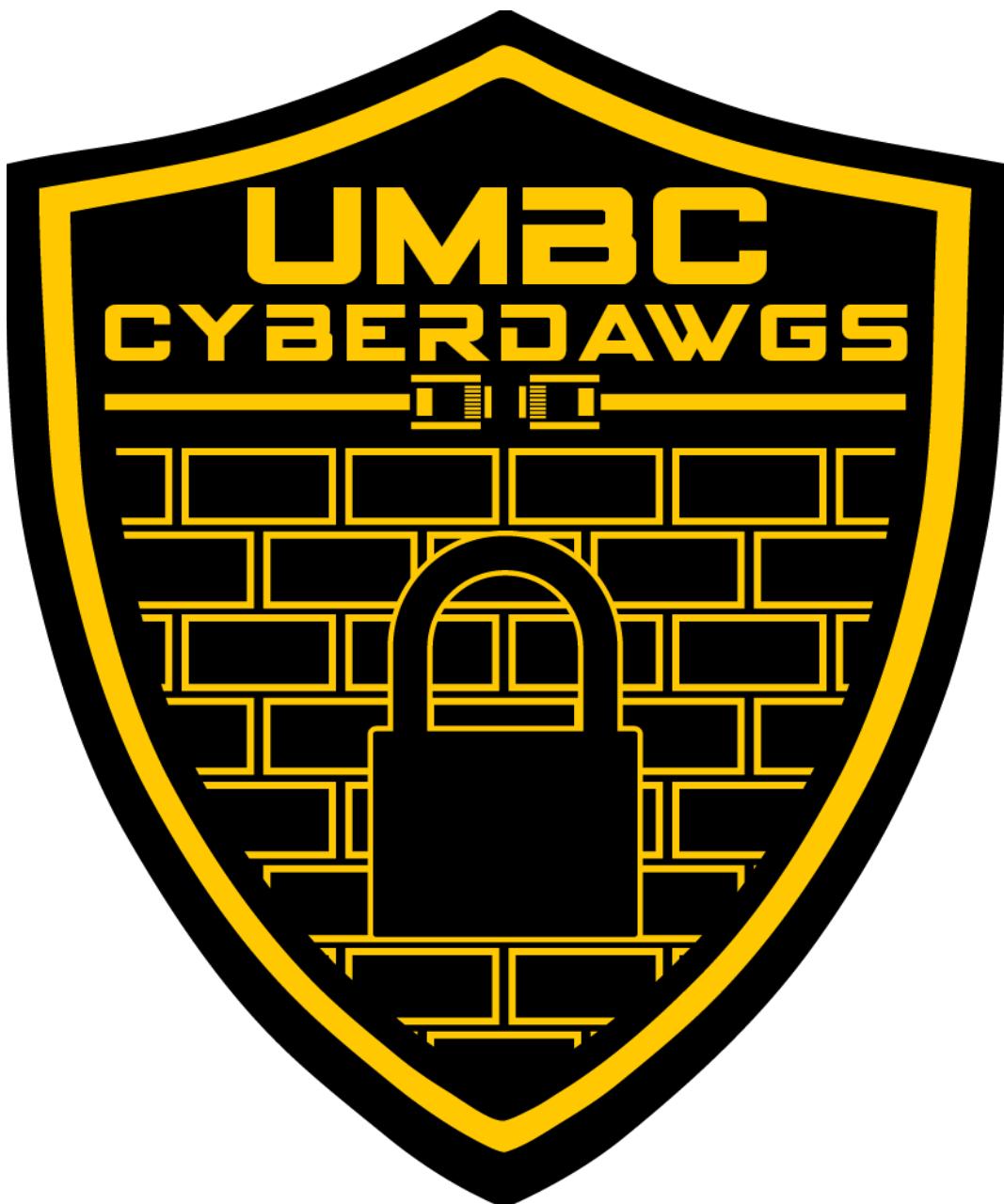
### **DawgCTF Only Benefit: Submit Sponsor Challenge(s)**

Your company can submit "sponsor challenge(s)" for DawgCTF. These challenges will have your company name as the author. We invite companies to create challenges to assess students' skills as recruitment tools and offer prizes to winners of your company's challenge(s).

*No portion of the sponsorship payment is deductible as a philanthropic donation.*

## **Disclaimer**

Without warning or explanation, the CyberDawgs reserve the right to refuse material we deem inappropriate for our members, the Discord, events, or weekly meetings. Recruiting content is welcome but should not be the complete focus of shared materials or your talk, except during events where a specific Recruitment Table or Company Presentation is expected.



*No portion of the sponsorship payment is deductible as a philanthropic donation.*