The Advanced Cybersecurity Experience for Students (ACES) program will educate future leaders in the field of cybersecurity by offering a two-year living-learning undergraduate program exclusively for Honors students, the first of its kind in the United States, as well as a complementary two-year advanced program of study in cybersecurity.

**TOP TEN REASONS TO CONSIDER ACES**

10. **Ideal Location**: The University of Maryland's proximity to the nation's capital and close interactions with key federal agencies, such as the National Security Agency (NSA) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), make UMD an ideal place for cybersecurity education, research, and technology development. Maryland leads the nation in information technology jobs and more than half of the nation's Internet traffic passes through the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

9. **Elite Honors College**: Acceptance into UMD's Honors College is elite and selective with only the top 10% of freshman applicants admitted. Academic credentials of Honors College students are comparable to the most selective colleges and universities in the country and the average high school GPA for Honors College freshmen is 4.30. ACES Honors students will benefit from courses with sophisticated material, preparing them for the cybersecurity jobs of the future.

8. **First in the Country**: ACES is the first undergraduate honors program in the country specifically focused on cybersecurity.

7. **Experiential Learning**: The ACES program combines the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom with real-world, flexible, hands-on experience. Each ACES student will participate in exclusive opportunities, including seminars, field trips, and site visits with senior officials from Northrop Grumman. Students will also conduct individual and group research projects and complete a capstone project in their senior year.

6. **Leadership and Team Learning Opportunities**: ACES students are encouraged to apply for a spot on Maryland's competitive Cybersecurity Team that participates in a variety of cybersecurity competitions in the state and the region. In addition, ACES students will take a leadership role in educating and making recommendations for the entire university community about basic cyber hygiene.

5. **Invaluable Internship Experience**: Each ACES student can apply to intern with organizations with cybersecurity expertise such as Northrop Grumman, NSA, and NIST. Students will understand the needs and demands of the cybersecurity industry and may have the chance to complete the security clearance process.

4. **Inter-Disciplinary Learning**: ACES offers an intensive, interdisciplinary, accelerated curriculum in key technical, policy, behavioral, and social science components of cybersecurity, enriching students' overall educational experience.

3. **Living and Learning Community**: ACES students are a part of a close-knit community of like-minded individuals who live and learn together as one community, working closely inside and outside of the classroom. Students learn from their peers and strengthen their problem-solving, leadership, and team skills.

2. **Individualized Attention**: With ACES cohorts ranging from 40-45 students, ACES students have small classes, more individualized attention, and unique preparation to become a future leader in cybersecurity.

1. **Impact on the Nation and the World**: We face threats to national and private networks on all fronts, from cyber-terrorism that threatens critical infrastructure, to malicious viruses and malware sent to our personal computers. Now, more than ever, we must ensure the integrity of the Internet systems upon which we all depend in order to better protect our personal and national security. The U.S. faces a severe shortage of cybersecurity professionals and the demand for cyber-enabled graduates is outpacing the nation's ability to produce these students. The ACES program prepares students with the skills and knowledge to be cybersecurity scholars who will lead and transform the field and make a difference in the world.