

Securing the AI Era in Higher Education

How Presidio and Cloudflare help campuses adopt AI safely and defend students, research and services, in plain terms for IT and academic leaders.

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HIGHER EDUCATION · EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Securing the AI era in higher education

How Presidio and Cloudflare help campuses adopt AI safely and defend students, research, and services, in plain terms for IT and academic leaders.

THE SHIFT Students, faculty, and researchers have all adopted AI overnight, and an open campus cannot simply ban it. At the same time, attackers use AI to target research, records, and enrollment systems. Both are solved on one platform.

1 Safe AI adoption across campus

The problem: students, faculty, and staff use AI for coursework, grant writing, and admin, often pasting in student records or unpublished research. Academic freedom rules out blanket bans, IT is decentralized, and campuses are also building their own AI tutors and advising tools.

CLOUDFLARE'S ANSWER

- **See it.** Discover which AI tools are used across a decentralized campus, including unsanctioned ones.
- **Control by group.** Set policy differently for students, faculty, research, and admin.
- **Protect records & research.** Stop student data and unpublished research leaking into public AI.
- **Govern campus-built AI.** AI Gateway gives one place to see, limit, and guardrail tutors, advising, and admissions AI.

WHY IT'S DIFFERENT

- **Enable, don't ban.** Allow the right tools and still protect data, instead of bans that get ignored.
- One platform spans a federated, BYOD campus and covers both the AI people **use** and the AI the institution **builds**.

Protect student records (FERPA)

Safeguard research & IP

Enable AI without banning it

Govern campus-built AI

2 Defending campus against AI-accelerated attacks

The problem: universities are prime targets. Nation-states pursue research IP; ransomware hits hospitals and administration; AI writes flawless phishing for students and faculty; and bots and DDoS swamp registration, admissions, and financial-aid portals at peak, against open networks and lean security teams.

CLOUDFLARE'S ANSWER

- **Keep portals online.** Absorb DDoS and block bots, fraud, and exploits so registration and aid stay up at peak.
- **Protect campus-built AI.** Screen prompts to tutors and chatbots for manipulation and data leaks.
- **Shrink the human target.** Filter malicious email and replace VPN with zero trust for researchers and contractors.

WHY IT'S DIFFERENT

- **Scale built for open networks.** ~230B threats blocked daily across ~20% of the web catches new techniques early.
- One platform gives central protection without taking control from each department's apps.

Keep registration & aid online

Protect research from nation-states

Stop phishing at scale

Consolidate across departments

WHY CLOUDFLARE

230B

cyber threats blocked per day (2025 avg)

~20%

of the web runs on Cloudflare

337+

cities, 125+ countries

500 Tbps

network capacity to absorb attacks

80%

of leading gen-AI firms build on it

One platform, one global network. Built organically as one system, not assembled by acquisition, so a decentralized campus gets central visibility and protection while each department keeps its own apps, with less tool sprawl and lower cost.

THE SELLER CHEAT SHEET

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- Do you know which AI tools students, faculty, and researchers use, across every department?
- If unpublished research or student records went into a public AI tool, would you know?
- What happens to registration, admissions, and aid portals under a bot or DDoS surge at peak?
- Are you building AI tutors or advising tools? Who secures them and protects student data?

HANDLE THE OBJECTION

"Our culture is open; we can't lock down." Cloudflare lets you allow the right tools and still protect records and research, instead of bans that get ignored.

"Our IT is decentralized." One platform gives central visibility and protection without taking control away from each department's apps.

Opener: "Your campus adopted AI overnight, and attackers are using AI to target your research and enrollment systems. Let's make both safe, without banning the tools people rely on."

THE PRESIDIO + CLOUDFLARE PLAY

CLOUDFLARE BRINGS THE PLATFORM One network that governs campus AI use, keeps student-facing portals online, and secures the AI tutors and tools the institution builds.	PRESIDIO BRINGS THE OUTCOME Higher-education advisory, the assessment that finds the risk, design for federated campus environments, tool consolidation, and managed services for lean teams. Confirm education offers & contract vehicles with your Presidio alliance contact.
Sources: Cloudflare company & network metrics (Q4 2025 reporting); product capabilities per Cloudflare documentation, June 2026. Figures and packaging vary by plan; validate before sharing externally. FERPA is the institution's obligation; Cloudflare provides data-protection controls that support it. Items in blue depend on Presidio's Cloudflare agreement and education practice. Non-technical brief; engage your Presidio technical team and Cloudflare for architecture and a tailored demo.	