



**Certified Information  
Systems Security Professional**

**ISC2 Certification**

# The Ultimate Guide to the **CISSP**

Achieve the world's premier cybersecurity leadership certification

**ISC2™**



# Achieve More in Your Career

You prove every day that you have what it takes to secure critical assets. But our profession is always changing, and even the brightest minds can benefit from having a guide on the journey to success. ISC2 is here to help you discover the right path, create your plan and thrive throughout your career.

The Ultimate Guide to the CISSP covers everything you need to know about the world's premier cybersecurity leadership certification. Inside, learn how CISSP and ISC2 help distinguish you as a top-level cybersecurity expert.

## Inside...

- » Is CISSP Right for Me?
- » CISSPs in the Community
- » CISSP Fast Facts
- » Benefits of CISSP Certification
- » Benefits of ISC2 Membership
- » Exam Overview
- » Official Exam Prep
- » Pathway to Certification
- » Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Opportunities
- » Grow Your Cyber Skills and Knowledge



# Is CISSP Right for Me?

As organizations continue to pursue digital transformation initiatives, the threat landscape is always expanding. Yet cybersecurity leadership talent is scarce. That's where CISSP from ISC2 comes in — to help fill the gap. Once certified, the opportunities for certified professionals are near limitless.

CISSP, a vendor-neutral cybersecurity credential, shows you have the knowledge to design, implement and manage a best-in-class cybersecurity program in any environment. Vendor-neutral credentials are sought by organizations to avoid the limitations and expense of vendor lock-in.

CISSP is particularly well-suited for information security professionals seeking to prove their understanding of cybersecurity strategy and hands-on implementation. It shows you have the advanced knowledge and technical skills to design, develop and manage an organization's overall security posture.

## As a first step – become an ISC2 Candidate

Begin your journey by joining ISC2, the world's leading cybersecurity professional organization. As a Candidate, you'll access a full range of benefits, including 10% off Online Self-Paced Training and discounts on textbooks to help you on your path to CISSP certification.

**Sign up now.** Your first year is free — no cost to you.\*

\*If you choose to renew after the first year, U.S. \$50 due annually.

## Acquire five years of experience

**To qualify for the CISSP**, candidates must have a minimum of five years cumulative full-time experience in two or more of the eight domains of the ISC2 CISSP Exam Outline.

If you don't yet have the required experience, you may become an Associate of ISC2 after successfully passing the CISSP exam. The **Associate of ISC2** will then have six years to earn the experience needed for the CISSP certification.

## Discover your path

See "[Pathway to Certification](#)" for more information.





**Certified Information  
Systems Security Professional**

**ISC2 Certification**

# Jobs that typically use or require CISSP certification

- Chief Information Officer
- Chief Information Security Officer
- Chief Technology Officer
- Compliance Manager/Officer
- Director of Security
- Information Architect
- Information Manager/Information Risk Manager or Consultant
- IT Specialist/Director/Manager
- Network/System Administrator
- Security Administrator
- Security Architect/Security Analyst
- Security Consultant
- Security Manager
- Security Systems Engineer/Security Engineer

# CISSPs in the Community



*"CISSP is recognized worldwide as the gold standard. The whole premise of it is not just passing the exam but demonstrating you have the verifiable experience to perform at a high level. The ISC2 Code of Ethics is important. The ongoing CPE requirement is tough, but it helps make sure your skills stay up to date. It all adds up to a very credible certification."*

**Angus Macrae**

Head of Cybersecurity  
King's Service Centre, Cornwall, England



*"CISSP gives you a lot of street credibility with the people who do this for a living because they all understand what it is. It's definitely an important designation to have on your calling card. I see it as the gold standard in cybersecurity. It's the most-recognized credential in the security community."*

**Theresa Grafenstine**

Global Chief Auditor, Technology  
Citi, Wilmington, DE, USA



*"When I passed the CISSP exam, I gained access to the strong network of industry professionals at ISC2. I attend industry events to learn more about how my peers are dealing with cybersecurity challenges. The ISC2 Community online discussion board and local chapters have engaging presentations and workshops where you can focus on your skills."*

**Jason Lau**

CISO  
Crypto.com, Singapore



*"The CISSP made me a stronger professional. It taught me that everything I was learning while working at one company was not going to work everywhere. Now I know what the standard is and how to identify the best framework. When I'm put in different and unfamiliar positions, I have a solid foundation from the CISSP that I can work from."*

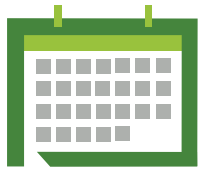
**Christine Izuako**

Founder and CEO, Cyber Pop-up  
Chicago, IL

## Become an ISC2 Candidate

You'll access a full range of benefits as you pursue the CISSP, including 10% off Online Self-Paced Training and discounts on textbooks to help you prepare. [Sign up now.](#)

# CISSP Fast Facts



Introduced in 1994



CISSPs are part of a network of more than 675,000 cybersecurity professionals



93% of CISSPs are lifers



ANAB accredited



Computerized Adaptive Testing (CAT) introduced December 18, 2017

Most required security certification by hiring managers on LinkedIn



DoD-approved



ISC2 certified members work in more than 170 countries globally



Average CISSP Salary: U.S. \$140,230



## Shout-outs

**RANKED #1 ON 'THE NEXT BIG THING' LIST** as the certification survey respondents plan to earn in 2023. — *Certification Magazine*

Named one of the  
**TOP CERTIFICATIONS  
IN BEST  
INFORMATION  
SECURITY  
CERTIFICATIONS**

Named the  
**MOST VALUED  
CREDENTIAL AMONG  
EMPLOYERS**  
by a margin of 3 to 1

Repeatedly voted  
**'BEST PROFESSIONAL  
CERTIFICATION  
PROGRAM'**  
— *SC Magazine*

**#1 SECURITY  
CREDENTIAL**  
required by hiring  
managers on LinkedIn

# Benefits of CISSP Certification

## Career opportunities and advancement

Raise visibility and credibility and create new career opportunities.



## Credibility

Demonstrate a solid foundation to mitigate and respond to cyberthreats.



## Membership in a strong peer network

Become an ISC2 member, unlocking exclusive resources, educational tools and peer-to-peer networking opportunities.



## Expanded knowledge

Reach a deeper, better and broader understanding of the Exam Outline.



## Versatile skills

Build vendor-neutral skills that can be applied to different technologies and methodologies.



## Leadership

Develop a broad set of technical and nontechnical skills that job experience alone doesn't provide.



## Higher salaries

Earn more. In 2023, Certification Magazine's annual survey lists an average salary of \$140,230 (in U.S.) and \$115,080 (globally).



## Stronger skill set

Expand the skills and knowledge needed to fulfill organizational duties.



# Benefits of **ISC2 Membership**

Once you earn your CISSP, you'll become an ISC2 member and part of a professional community that never stops learning and growing. You'll also gain access to a full suite of benefits and resources for continuing education and development, many that will help you earn CPE credits to maintain your certification:

- Discounts on [ISC2 Certificates, Courses and Express Courses](#)
- Discount pricing for [ISC2 events](#) and industry events including [ISC2 Security Congress](#)
- [Discounts](#) on CISSP textbooks, practice test books and study guides.
- Free access to [ISC2 webinars](#) on cybersecurity topics, tools and trends
- Invitation to join or start a [local ISC2 Chapter](#)
- [Volunteer opportunities](#)
- Access to the [Center for Cyber Safety and Education](#)
- Professional recognition through [ISC2 Global Achievement Awards](#)

## **Sign up now to become an ISC2 Candidate**

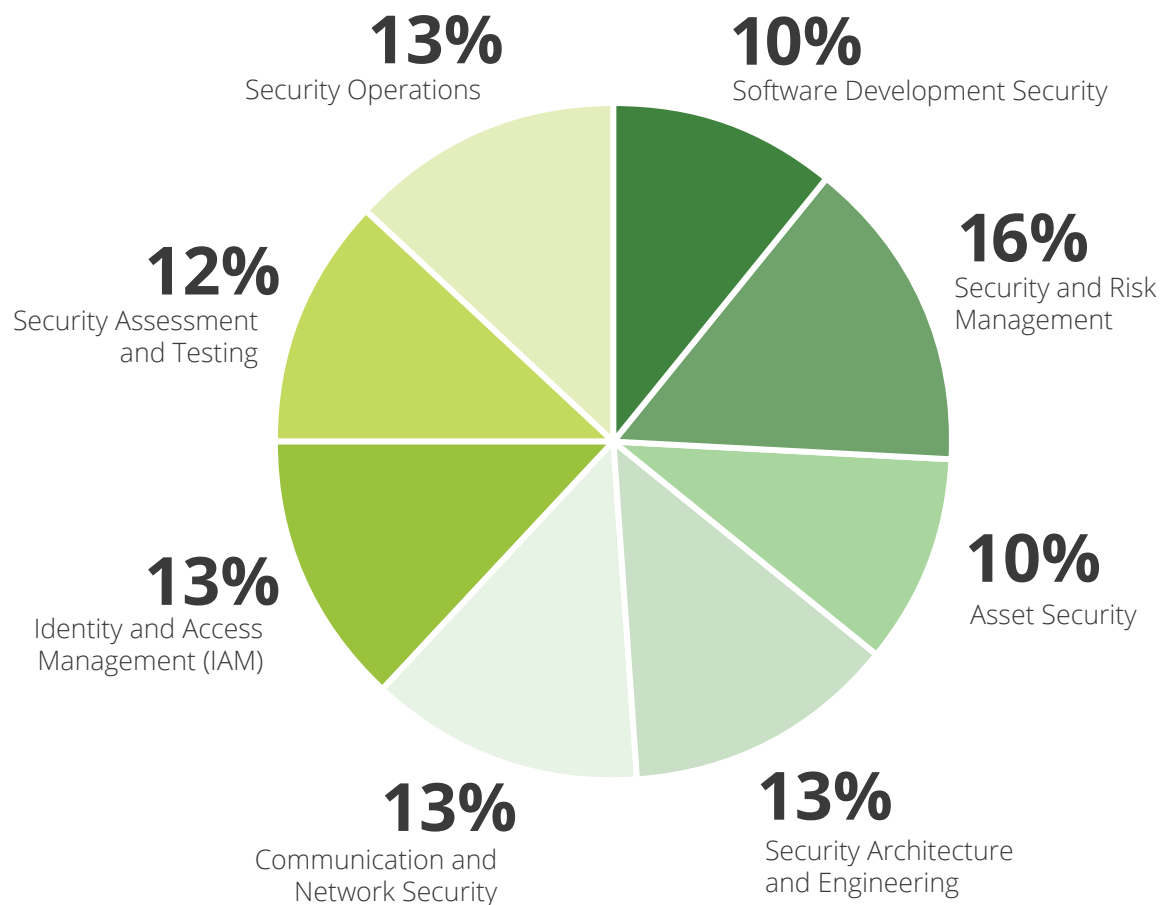
Your first year is free — no cost to you.\* You'll enjoy most of these benefits as you prepare for certification — plus 10% off Online Self-Paced Training for CISSP.

\*If you choose to renew after the first year, U.S. \$50 due annually.



# Exam Overview

The CISSP exam evaluates expertise across eight security domains. (Think of domains as topics you need to master based on your professional experience and education.) Passing the exam proves you have the advanced knowledge and technical skills to effectively design, implement and manage a best-in-class cybersecurity program.



## 100-150

Number of items on the CISSP CAT (Computer Adaptive Testing) exam

## 3 hrs.

Maximum amount of time for the CISSP CAT exam

## 700

Score you need out of 1,000 to pass the exam

View the CISSP [exam outline](#).

Exam availability:

**English, Chinese, German, Japanese and Spanish**

Testing Centers:

**ISC2 Authorized PPC and PVT Select Pearson VUE Testing Centers**

# Official **Exam Prep**

ISC2 offers Official Exam Prep for CISSP. Save 10% on Official ISC2 Self-Paced Training when you sign up to be an **ISC2 Candidate**.

Everyone has their own style of learning. That's why we offer three options to help guide you in CISSP certification. Experience new learning with recently enhanced Official ISC2 CISSP Training options. **Find Exam Prep**.

## **1. Online Self-Paced – Register now**

Your self-guided tour toward certification — now featuring adaptive learning for a streamlined experience customized to each individual. Leveraging the power of AI, the training guides learners through a self-paced learning experience adapted to their individual needs.

- Flexibility to study on your own time and at your own pace
- Personalized learning that adapts to your needs
- Interactive, engaging courseware
- Analytics dashboard to track learning progress
- Education Guarantee

## **2. Online Bootcamp – Register now**

Progress through the course domain by domain with the most current content that aligns to the CISSP exam outline to be easy-to-follow in live virtual learning sessions from an ISC2 Authorized Instructor.

- 180-day access to the most up-to-date course content — straight from the source
- Virtual live instruction and access to recordings if you miss a session
- Official ISC2 Student Training Guide (electronic format)
- Interactive content
- Online interactive flash cards
- 24x7x365 chat technical support
- Education Guarantee
- And more!

## **3. In-Person Bootcamp – Learn more**

Your guided small group tour (10 or more students) toward certification

- Learn in-person at your office or a private venue near you
- Interact with an ISC2 Authorized Instructor and students
- Coordinate training around your schedule

### **CISSP Self-Study Resources**

We offer a variety of **Self-Study Resources** to supplement your coursework and reinforce key concepts. Choose from options for every schedule and learning style.

# Pathway to Certification

## 1 Become an ISC2 Candidate

Begin your journey by joining ISC2, the world's leading cybersecurity professional organization. As a candidate, you'll access a full range of benefits, including 10% off Online Self-Paced Training and discounts on textbooks to help you on your path to CISSP.

[Sign up now.](#)

## 2 Obtain the required experience

To qualify for the CISSP, candidates must have a minimum of five years cumulative full-time experience in two or more of the eight domains of the ISC2 CISSP Exam Outline.

- **Domain 1:** Security and Risk Management
- **Domain 2:** Asset Security
- **Domain 3:** Security Architecture and Engineering
- **Domain 4:** Communication and Network Security
- **Domain 5:** Identity and Access Management (IAM)
- **Domain 6:** Security Assessment and Testing
- **Domain 7:** Security Operations
- **Domain 8:** Software Development Security

If you don't yet have the required experience, you may become an Associate of ISC2 after successfully passing the CISSP exam. The [Associate of ISC2](#) will then have six years to earn the experience needed for the CISSP certification.





# Pathway to Certification

## 3 Study for the exam

Many [Self-Study Resources](#) are available from ISC2 – the creator and keeper of the CISSP Exam Outline – to help you prepare with confidence. Some CISSP candidates pass the exam with self-study, and many choose to attend an [Official ISC2 Training](#) to review and refresh their knowledge before sitting for the exam.

## 4 Pass the exam

You have a maximum of three hours to complete the 100-150 item CISSP CAT exam. Ready to schedule your exam? [Register now](#) and get it on the calendar.

## 5 Get endorsed

After you pass the exam, you have nine months from the date of the exam to complete the [ISC2 endorsement process](#).

## 6 Earn CPE credits

Once you are certified, you become a member of ISC2 and recertify every three years. Recertification is accomplished by earning Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credits and paying an [annual maintenance fee \(AMF\)](#) to support ongoing development.



**120** CPE credits  
over 3 years  
(40 CPE credits recommended yearly)

U.S. **\$135** AMF

Members with multiple ISC2 certifications only pay a single AMF.

# Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Opportunities

The Continuing Professional Education credits requirement helps you maintain your competencies following initial certification. By developing and enhancing skills through CPE activities, you make an important investment in yourself while increasing value to customers and employers.

## Join webinars

- Think Tanks
- Security Briefings
- Knowledge Vault
- Security Congress

## Read and write

- Read a book directly related to CISSP and submit a 150-word review
- Author an information security article published in a journal or magazine
- Review an educational white paper related to the CISSP

## Attend trainings and events

- ISC2 Chapter meetings
- Prepare or attend an educational presentation related to the CISSP exam outline domains
- ISC2 Certificates - Grow your skills with quick learning averaging 3.5 hours per certificate that focuses on high demand subject matter.
- ISC2 Courses - Dive deeper into learning with actionable strategies you can apply immediately to strengthen your organization's security.
- ISC2 Express Courses - Grow your cybersecurity knowledge at home or on the go with fast, flexible learning that delivers real-world results.
- Discount pricing for ISC2 events and industry events, including ISC2 Security Congress

## Volunteer

- Become a Safe and Secure Online Ambassador and spread your knowledge about cyber safety in your community
- Volunteer to help develop ISC2 certification exams

# Grow Your Cybersecurity Skills and Knowledge

Cybersecurity never stands still – it's a constantly evolving field that requires continuing education. ISC2 Certificates, Courses and Express Courses will help you stay in front of cyberthreats and on top of trends.

## Explore ISC2 Continuing Education Now

Learn on demand anytime, anywhere with Certificates, Courses and Express Courses created by industry experts

### ISC2 Certificates

Advance your skills in high-demand cybersecurity areas of focus with [ISC2 Certificates](#). Move your career forward and gain the competencies you need for certification.

ISC2 Certificates turn a laser focus on the subject matter. And with courseware created on the hottest topics by cybersecurity's most respected certifying body, you're assured the most current and relevant content.

You'll earn digital badges you can share when you pass the assessments.

### ISC2 Courses

Demonstrate your knowledge of the latest cybersecurity principles and best practices with [ISC2 Courses](#), created by industry experts and available online. Access practical learning with actionable strategies that deliver measurable results for organizations around the globe.

### ISC2 Express Courses

Stay in front of the hottest cybersecurity topics, challenges and emerging trends with [ISC2 Express Courses](#). Quickly grow what you know with short-format, on-demand learning designed to fit your busy schedule.







**Certified Information  
Systems Security Professional**

**ISC2 Certification**

# Get in touch with us

For more information about CISSP certification and training, contact an Education Consultant in your region:

**Americas** — Phone: +1.866.331.4722, Email: [training@isc2.org](mailto:training@isc2.org)

**Europe, Middle East and Africa** — Phone: +44.203.960.7800, Email: [info-emea@isc2.org](mailto:info-emea@isc2.org)

**Asia-Pacific** — Phone: +852.5803.5662, Email: [isc2asia@isc2.org](mailto:isc2asia@isc2.org)

## About ISC2

ISC2 is the world's leading member organization for cybersecurity professionals, driven by our vision of a safe and secure cyber world. Our more than 265,000 certified members, and associates, are a force for good, safeguarding the way we live. Our award-winning certifications – including cybersecurity's premier certification, the CISSP® – enable professionals to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and abilities at every stage of their careers. ISC2 strengthens the influence, diversity and vitality of the cybersecurity profession through advocacy, expertise and workforce empowerment that accelerates cyber safety and security in an interconnected world. Our charitable foundation, The Center for Cyber Safety and Education, helps create more access to cyber careers and educates those most vulnerable. Learn more, get involved or become an ISC2 Candidate to build your cyber career at [ISC2.org](https://www.isc2.org). Connect with us on [X](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).



**ISC2**

© 2025 ISC2, Inc. All rights reserved.

23067 03/2025