



**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...

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- » CISSPs in the community
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# 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 many of the benefits our certified members enjoy, including 20% off online training and 30% - 50% off 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, you must pass the exam and have at least five years of cumulative paid work experience in two or more of the eight domains of the ISC2 CISSP Common Body of Knowledge (CBK®).

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 (ISC)²** will then have six years to earn the experience needed for the CISSP certification.

## **Discover your path**

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



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## 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 20% off online training and 30% - 50% off textbooks to help you prepare. [Sign up now.](#)

# CISSP Fast facts



Introduced in 1994



CISSPs are part of a network of over 365,000 cybersecurity professionals



93% of CISSPs are lifers



ANAB/ANSI accredited



Computerized Adaptive Testing (CAT) introduced December 18, 2017

Most required security certification by hiring managers on LinkedIn



DoD-approved



(ISC)<sup>2</sup> 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 Common Body of Knowledge (CBK®) in cybersecurity.



## 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:

- Free online [continuing professional development](#) courses
- Discount on [ISC2 Certificates](#)
- Discount pricing for [ISC2 events](#) and industry events including [ISC2 Security Congress](#)
- Discounts on [CRC Press](#) (all certification CBK books)
- Discounts on [Wiley publications](#) (all certification practice test books and study guides)
- Free access to [ISC2 webinars](#) on cybersecurity topics, tools and trends
- Free access to [ISC2 Security Congress](#) webinar channel, containing breakout sessions from past conferences
- 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**

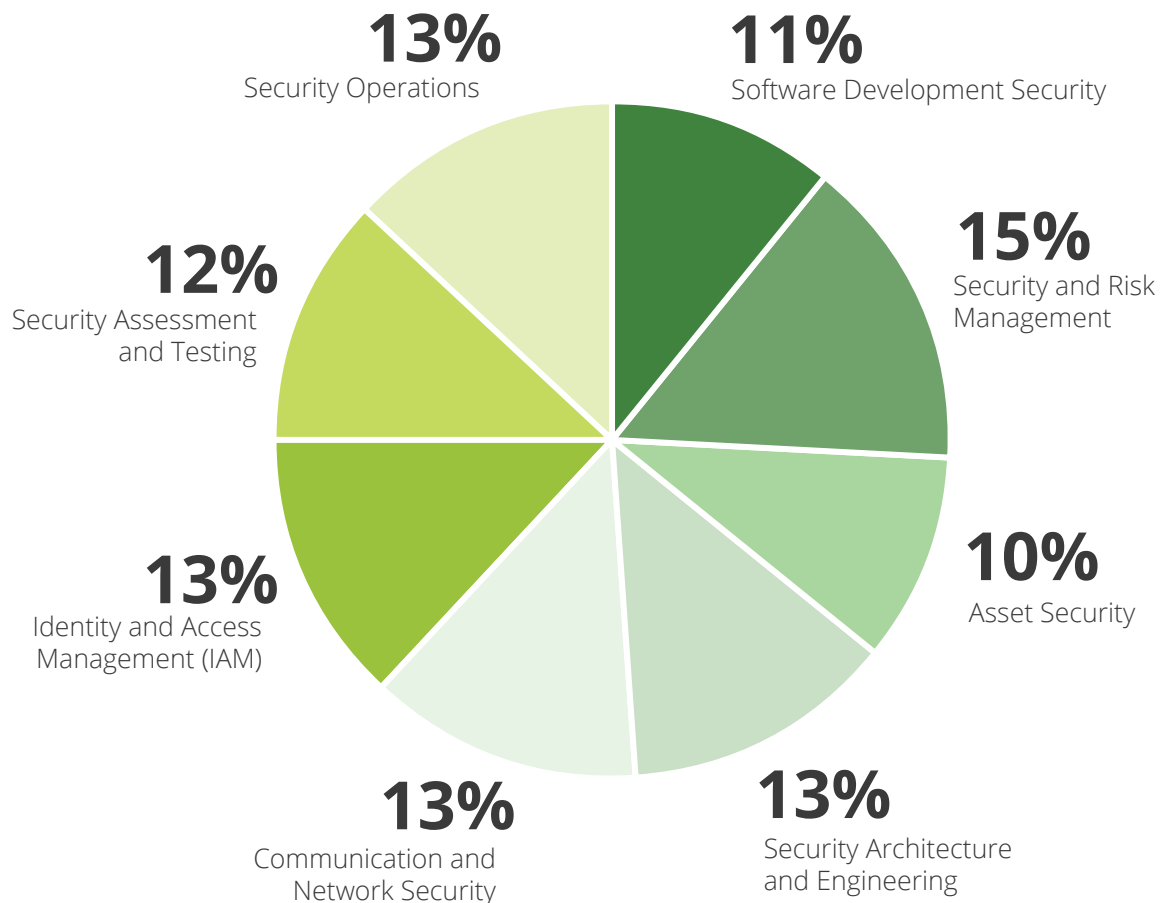
Your first year is free — no cost to you.\* You'll enjoy most of these benefits as you prepare for certification — plus 20% off Online Self-Paced and Online Instructor-Led Training for CISSP.

\*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.



## 125-175

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

## 4 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](#).

CISSP CAT

All English CISSP exams worldwide use CAT. Non-English CISSP exams are administered as a linear, fixed-form exam. [Learn more](#).

Exam availability:

**English, Chinese, German, Korean, Japanese, Spanish**

Testing Centers:

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

# Official **training**

ISC2 offers Official Training for CISSP. Save 20% on Official ISC2 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 training**.

## 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 Instructor-Led – Register now**

Progress through the course domain-by-domain with content that's organized to align specifically to the CISSP CBK® domains to be easier-to-follow.

- Live virtual instruction from an ISC2 Authorized Instructor
- Virtual collaboration with classmates
- Interactive, engaging courseware
- New digital eTextbook
- Addition of glossary
- Key takeaway resources for each domain
- Education Guarantee

## 3. **Classroom-Based – 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 tools**

We offer a variety of **self-study tools** 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 many of the benefits our certified members enjoy, including 20% off training and 30% - 50% off textbooks to help you on your path to CISSP.

[Sign up now.](#)

## 2 Obtain the required experience

To qualify for the CISSP, you must have at least five years of cumulative, paid full-time work experience in two or more of the eight domains:

- **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 CBK – 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 four hours to complete the 125-175-item English CISSP CAT exam, or six hours to complete the 250-item non-English CISSP linear exam. If you're ready now, schedule your exam by creating an account with [Pearson VUE](#), the leading provider of global, computer-based testing for certification and licensure exams.

## 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. **\$125** AMF

Members with multiple ISC2 certifications only pay a single AMF.

# Free CPE opportunities

The CPE credit 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. ISC2 makes it possible for you to earn all your CPE credits without spending a dime.

## Join webinars

- Think Tanks
- Security Briefings
- Knowledge Vault
- Security Congress
- ISC2 Membership
- eSymposiums
- Solutions Summits

## 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 CBK domains
- Free ISC2 Skill-Builders – grow your knowledge with short-format learning on demand
- Earn ISC2 Certificates – access with member discounts
- Attend ISC2 Security Congress – register with member discounts

## Volunteer

- Become a Safe and Secure Online Ambassador and spread your knowledge about cyber safety in your community
- Volunteer to help develop (ISC)<sup>2</sup> certification exams

The logo consists of the letters 'CPE' in a bold, sans-serif font, centered within a square border that has a slightly irregular, hand-drawn appearance.

# Continuing professional development

**ISC2 Certificates** allow certified members to sharpen their skills while earning CPE credits and uncertified individuals to learn about the topic areas of focus.

Our online **ISC2 CISO Leadership Certificates** focus on real-world applications of cybersecurity management principles from an executive management point of view. Online on-demand certificates include:

- Introduction to NIST Cybersecurity Framework
- Building a High-Performing Cybersecurity Team
- Purple Team Playbook Certificate
- Gaining Support for Your Security Program
- Incident Management: Preparation and Response Certificate

Follow your path to purpose and impact with **ISC2 Cybersecurity Leadership Skill-Builders**, created by industry experts and available now on demand. Grow what you know and earn CPE credits with short-format, learning designed to fit your busy schedule.

## ISC2 Resource Center

Informational materials will help you navigate our certification and education portfolios, as well as explore expert insights into the latest trends and issues facing the cybersecurity profession.

[EXPLORE RESOURCES](#)







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# 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 ext. 2, 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 an international nonprofit membership association focused on inspiring a safe and secure cyber world. Best known for the acclaimed Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP®) certification, ISC2 offers a portfolio of credentials that are part of a holistic, pragmatic approach to security. Our association of candidates, associates and members, nearly 365,000 strong, is made up of certified cyber, information software and infrastructure security professionals who are making a difference and helping to advance the industry. Our vision is supported by our commitment to educate and reach the general public through our charitable foundation – **The Center for Cyber Safety and Education™**. For more information on ISC2, visit [isc2.org](http://isc2.org), follow us on **Twitter**, or connect with us on **Facebook** and **LinkedIn**.



**ISC2™**

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