



The **ULTIMATE GUIDE**  
to the **CISSP**<sup>®</sup>

Be a Leader in the Field of Information Security



Certified Information Systems  
Security Professional

# ACHIEVE YOUR CISSP CERTIFICATION

## SHOW THEM YOU'RE THE INFOSEC EXPERT

Are you looking to accelerate your infosec career? Differentiate yourself to employers and/or clients? The CISSP is an elite way to demonstrate your knowledge, advance your career, and join a community of like-minded cybersecurity leaders. It shows you have all it takes to design, engineer, implement, and run an information security program.

The Ultimate Guide to the CISSP is a must-have resource if you are planning to sit for the exam – and it was developed by (ISC)<sup>2</sup>, the creator of the CISSP Common Body of Knowledge (CBK).

**Designed with you in mind, this guide will walk you through:**

- Fast facts about CISSP
- An overview of the CISSP exam
- Benefits of becoming a CISSP
- Setting yourself up for success
- Steps to getting certified



We're here to help you through the certification process. **Contact us with any questions.**

# FAST FACTS ABOUT CISSP



Introduced in 1994

1<sup>st</sup>

First information security credential to meet the strict conditions of ISO/IEC Standard 17024



Over **140,000** professionals have obtained CISSP certification



CISSPs work in more than **160 countries** globally



Average CISSP Salary: **US \$126,770**  
– CertMag 2016 Salary Survey



CISSP named the most valued security credential by employers by a margin of **3 to 1**  
– 2017 Cybersecurity Trends Spotlight Report



DoD Approved

## TRAINING AND EXAM

**40 hrs.**

Length of the typical CISSP training course (Training can range from 5 days to 12 weeks depending on delivery method)

**250**

Number of CISSP certification exam questions

**6 hrs.**

Amount of time allowed for taking the CISSP certification exam

**700**

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

## EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

**5 years or more:**

Amount of work experience you need to have in two of the domain areas required for CISSP certification

**Less than 5 years:**

Amount of work experience that allows you to pursue the CISSP certification via the Associate of (ISC)<sup>2</sup>

Pearson Vue Testing Center

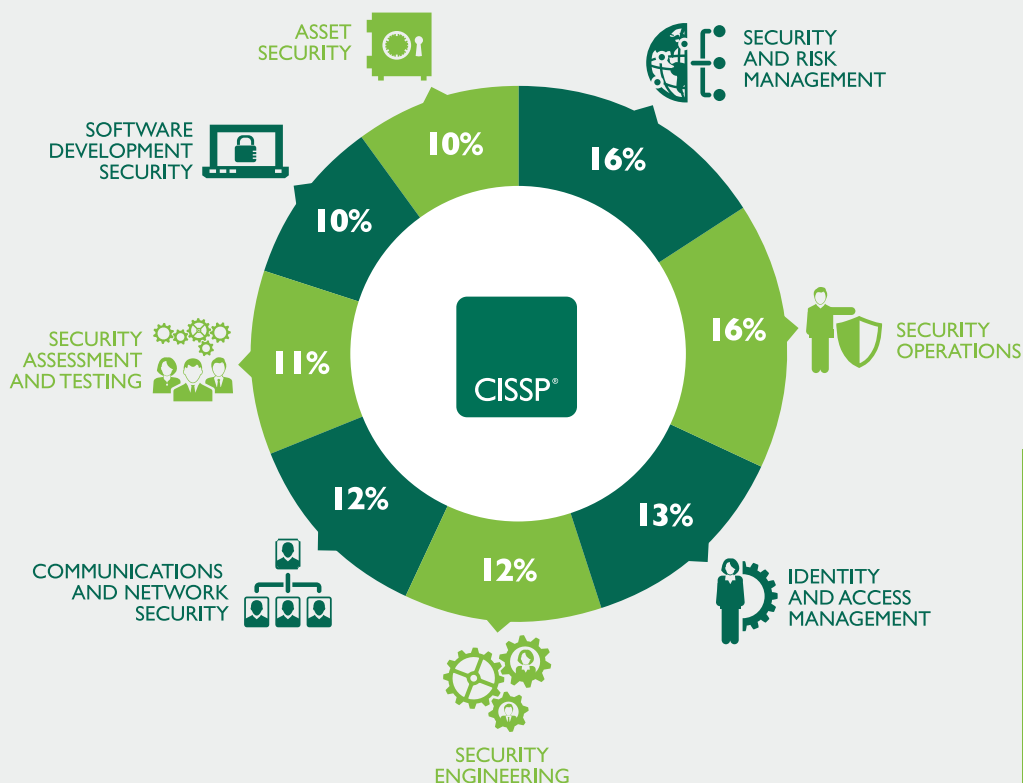
Exam availability: English, French, German, Brazilian Portuguese, Spanish, Japanese, Simplified Chinese, Korean, Visually impaired

# WHAT'S COVERED ON THE CISSP EXAM

## THE TOPICS YOU'LL NEED TO KNOW

By taking the CISSP exam, you'll have the chance to prove you have the technical and managerial knowledge necessary to effectively design, engineer, and manage the overall security posture of an organization.

The exam covers 8 domain areas. Think of the domains as specific topics you need to know based on your professional experience and education. Some domains carry more exam weight than others.



[DOWNLOAD THE CISSP EXAM OUTLINE FOR A DEEPER DIVE.](#)

# BENEFITS TO BECOMING A CISSP

## GET CONNECTED AND KEEP YOUR KNOWLEDGE FRESH

Once you attain the CISSP certification, you become a member of (ISC)<sup>2</sup> - and you'll be part of a growing global community of over 125,000 information security leaders.

You'll also receive access to ongoing continuing education and professional development opportunities, helping you stay ahead of industry trends and keep your knowledge and skills current.

### Benefits you'll receive include:

#### ✔ Free Webinars

- ThinkTank
- Security Briefings
- From the Trenches
- Solutions Summit
- EMEA Secure Webinars

#### ✔ Networking Opportunities

- (ISC)<sup>2</sup> Chapters
- (ISC)<sup>2</sup> Member Receptions

#### ✔ Discounted and Free Events

- (ISC)<sup>2</sup> Security Congress
  - U.S., Asia-Pacific, Latin America
- (ISC)<sup>2</sup> Secure Summits EMEA
- (ISC)<sup>2</sup> SecureEvents
- Industry Conferences

#### ✔ Discounts on (ISC)<sup>2</sup> Education

- (ISC)<sup>2</sup> Training
- (ISC)<sup>2</sup> Textbooks
- (ISC)<sup>2</sup> Study Guides

#### ✔ Industry Recognition

- (ISC)<sup>2</sup> Global Awards Program

#### ✔ InfoSecurity Professional Magazine

- Free for members
- Six digital bi-monthly issues



For more information on member benefits,  
visit: [www.isc2.org/memberbenefits](http://www.isc2.org/memberbenefits)



# SETTING YOURSELF UP FOR SUCCESS

## GET PREPARED TO ROCK YOUR CISSP CERTIFICATION

**GET FAMILIAR WITH THE EXAM.** The [exam outline](#) is a great place to start. It's a free resource that details the major topics and subtopics within the 8 domains you will be tested on in the CISSP exam. Reviewing this outline can help set you up for success as you prepare for the exam.

**CREATE URGENCY AND DEVELOP A PLAN.** Commit to an exam date early. This can help you stay motivated and allow you to work backwards as you create a study schedule. Stay on track and stick to a routine by blocking study time on your calendar each day.

**INVEST IN STUDY MATERIALS, STARTING WITH THE CBK GUIDE BOOK.** Take advantage of the many [self-study resources](#) available. From a traditional study guide to an on-the-go study app, (ISC)<sup>2</sup> offers several options to suit your study needs.

**REVIEW AND REFRESH YOUR KNOWLEDGE THROUGH TRAINING.** Attending a formal training once you've begun studying can help reinforce the topics you've already explored. Choosing official training from (ISC)<sup>2</sup> provides several benefits, like access to the most up-to-date content with a focus on real-world learning activities and scenarios. You'll also be learning from an (ISC)<sup>2</sup>-authorized instructor who is an industry expert and certified CISSP. And, with diverse training options available - including in-person and online - you can pick what works best for you and your schedule.



Classroom-based



Live OnLine



Private, Onsite



OnDemand

**BRUSH UP ON LESS FAMILIAR TOPICS.** After your training, think about the topics that were covered and if there were any areas where you could improve. Refer back to your study materials and review those domains more closely as you continue to prepare.

**PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!** Now's the time to assess your exam readiness by going through realistic practice questions. You can find these practice questions in your CISSP Practice Test Book, CISSP study app, and other study materials. Once you're acing the practice exams, you should feel confident that you're ready to take on the real thing!

**CATCH SOME ZZZS.** Try to relax in the days leading up to your exam. Go to bed at a reasonable hour the night before, and try to eat a healthy breakfast on the morning of your exam. Remember that the exam is 6 hours - you'll probably want to bring along a snack, too.

 **Good luck. You got this!**

# STEPS TO GETTING CERTIFIED

## 1 Obtain the Required Experience

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

- Security and Risk Management
- Asset Security
- Security Engineering
- Communications and Network Security
- Identity and Access Management
- Security Assessment and Testing
- Security Operations
- Software Development Security

Don't have enough experience? Check out our Associate program at [www.isc2.org/associate](http://www.isc2.org/associate).

## 2 Take the Exam

Candidates are given six hours to complete the 250 question CISSP exam. Register at your local Pearson VUE Test Center:

[www.pearsonvue.com/isc2](http://www.pearsonvue.com/isc2)

## 3 Complete the Endorsement Process

Once you successfully pass the exam, you will have nine months from the date of the exam to complete this process.

[www.isc2.org/endorsement](http://www.isc2.org/endorsement)

## 4 Maintain Your Membership

Once you are certified, you become a member of (ISC)<sup>2</sup>. Recertification is required every three years. This is accomplished through earning Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credits and paying an Annual Maintenance Fee (AMF).

120 CPEs

US \$85 AMF

3 years



# About (ISC)<sup>2</sup>

(ISC)<sup>2</sup> is an international nonprofit membership association focused on inspiring a safe and secure cyber world. (ISC)<sup>2</sup> offers a portfolio of credentials that are part of a holistic, programmatic approach to security. Our membership, over 125,000 strong, is made up of certified cyber, information, software and infrastructure security professionals who are making a difference and helping to advance the industry.

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

**North America:** Phone: +1.866.462.4777 Email: [training@isc2.org](mailto:training@isc2.org)

**Europe, Middle East and Africa:** Phone: + 44 (0)203 300 1878 Email: [info-emea@isc2.org](mailto:info-emea@isc2.org)

**Latin America:** Phone: +55 21 3174 4613 Email: [connectlatam@isc2.org](mailto:connectlatam@isc2.org)

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