



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

Jumpstart Your IT Security Career



Systems Security  
Certified Practitioner

# ACHIEVE YOUR SSCP CERTIFICATION

## SHOW THEM YOU'RE THE IT SECURITY GO-TO

Looking to boost your career in information security? Not sure where to start? The SSCP certification helps practitioners like you prove their ability to defend against cyber attacks. Earning the SSCP will show your employer that you have the knowledge and skills to ensure strong security practices are implemented and maintained across IT operations.

The Ultimate Guide to the SSCP 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 SSCP Common Body of Knowledge (CBK).

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

- Fast facts about SSCP
- An overview of the SSCP exam
- Benefits of becoming an SSCP
- 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 SSCP



Introduced in 2001



Join a network of over **125,000** professionals



Average SSCP Salary:  
**US\$93,240**  
– CertMag 2016 Salary Survey



One of the **BEST certifications** for those working in IT, from increased earning potential to staying ahead of the curve.

– Site Pro News 2016



DoD Approved



Listed as one of the 10 security certifications to **boost your career.**

– Dark Reading

## TRAINING AND EXAM

Exam availability: English, Japanese, and Brazilian Portuguese

**40 hrs.**

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

**125**

Number of SSCP certification exam questions

**3 hrs.**

Amount of time allowed for taking the SSCP certification exam

**700**

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

## EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

**1 Year or more**

Amount of work experience you need to have in one of the domain areas required for SSCP certification

**Less than 1 Year**

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

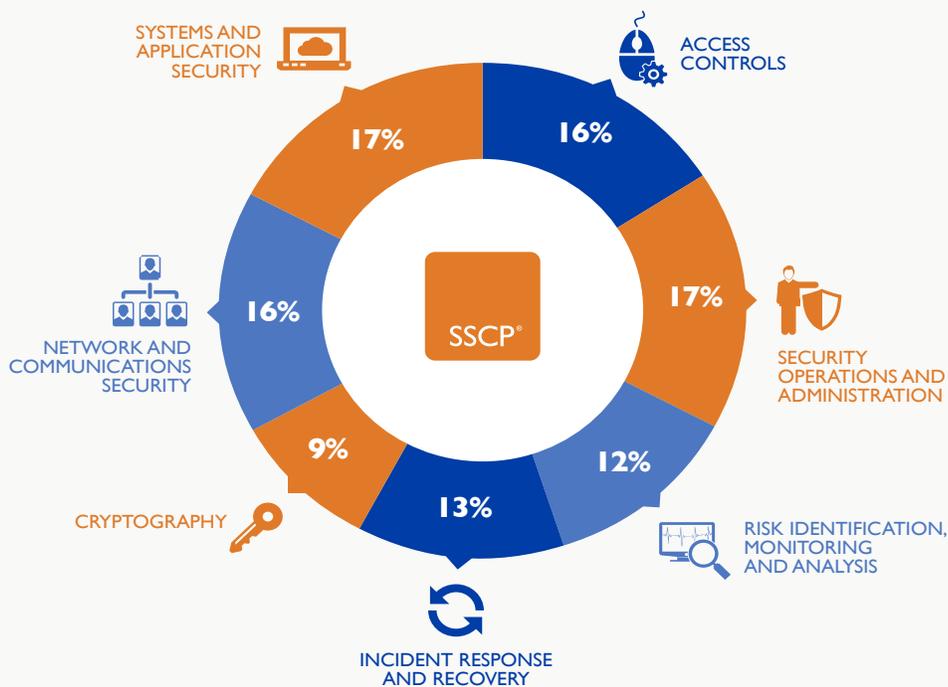
# WHAT'S COVERED ON THE SSCP EXAM

## THE TOPICS YOU'LL NEED TO KNOW

By taking the SSCP exam, you'll have the chance to prove you have the knowledge necessary to implement, monitor and administer IT infrastructure in accordance with information security policies and procedures.



The exam covers 7 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.



Percentages = Weight on Exam

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

# BENEFITS TO BECOMING AN SSCP

## GET CONNECTED AND KEEP YOUR KNOWLEDGE FRESH

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

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

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

### ✓ Networking Opportunities

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

### ✓ Industry Recognition

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

### ✓ 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

### ✓ 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 SSCP** 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 7 domains you will be tested on in the SSCP 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.

- [Official \(ISC\)<sup>2</sup> Guide to the SSCP CBK, 4th Edition](#)
- [Official \(ISC\)<sup>2</sup> SSCP Study Guide](#)
- [Official SSCP Study App](#)

**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 SSCP. And, with diverse training options available - including in-person

and online - you can pick what works best for you and your schedule.



[Classroom-based](#)



[Private, Onsite](#)



[Live OnLine](#)

**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 SSCP Study Guide, SSCP 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 could take you up to 3 hours to complete - you might 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 SSCP, you must have a minimum of one year of cumulative paid full-time work experience in two or more of the seven domains:

- Access Controls
- Security Operations and Administration
- Risk Identification, Monitoring, and Analysis
- Incident Response and Recovery
- Cryptography
- Network and Communications Security
- Systems and Application 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 three hours to complete the 125-question SSCP exam. Find your local Pearson VUE Test Center and register for your exam at [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. Learn more at [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).

60 CPEs    US\$65 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 SSCP 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)

**Asia-Pacific:** Hong Kong: +852.2850.6951

Japan: 81-3-5322-2837

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