



**Certified in Governance,  
Risk and Compliance**

**ISC2 Certification**



# The Ultimate Guide to the **CGRC**

Be the expert in governance, risk and compliance

A photograph of a man's hands and forearms resting on a desk. He is wearing a silver watch with a black dial and a metal link bracelet. His hands are clasped together. In the background, there is a laptop, a smartphone, and some papers.

**ISC2**

# Achieve more in your career

You prove every day that you have what it takes to help an organization align its information technology with business objectives, while managing risk and meeting regulatory compliance requirements. 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 CGRC covers everything to know about the risk management certification. See how the CGRC – and ISC2 — can differentiate you as a globally respected security leader.

## Inside...

- » Is CGRC right for me?
- » CGRCs in the community
- » CGRC fast facts
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- » Benefits of ISC2 membership
- » Exam overview
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- » Pathway to certification
- » CPE opportunities
- » Continuing professional development



# Is CGRC **right for me?**

The Certified in Governance, Risk and Compliance (CGRC) is an information security practitioner who champions system security commensurate with an organization's mission and risk tolerance, while meeting legal and regulatory requirements.

CGRC, a vendor-neutral cybersecurity credential, recognizes your knowledge, skills and abilities to authorize and maintain information systems within the RMF. It proves you know how to formalize processes to assess risk and establish security documentation.

CGRC is particularly well-suited for IT, information security and cybersecurity practitioners who manage risk in information systems. It is also recommended for any practitioner involved in authorizing and maintaining information systems.

## **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 CGRC 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 two years of experience**

**To qualify for the CGRC**, candidates must have at least two years of cumulative, paid work experience in one or more of the seven domains of the current ISC2 CGRC Exam Outline.

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

## **Discover your path**

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



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## Jobs that typically use or require CGRC certification

- Authorizing Official
- Cyber GRC Manager
- Cybersecurity Auditor/Assessor
- Cybersecurity Compliance Officer
- Cybersecurity Architect
- GRC Architect
- GRC Information Technology Manager
- GRC Manager
- Cybersecurity Risk & Compliance Project Manager
- Cybersecurity Risk & Controls Analyst
- Cybersecurity Third Party Risk Manager
- Enterprise Risk Manager
- GRC Analyst
- GRC Director
- GRC Security Analyst
- System Security Manager
- System Security Officer
- Information Assurance Manager
- Cybersecurity Consultant

# CGRCs in the community



*"CGRC is a great certification to earn and have on your resume. It shows you understand what is required to secure IT systems. Also, understanding the Risk Management Framework will help you during the interview process."*

**Brian Braxton**

Information Security Risk Management Lead  
Rockville, MD, USA



*"The CGRC not only helps to explain how the federal government operates but lays the foundation for how you work and what to expect in the way of security and privacy controls and countermeasures."*

**Larry Wlosinski**

Senior Associate  
Veris Group, Woodlawn, MD, USA



*"I immediately got a raise and promotion after earning CGRC certification. I also gained the knowledge and skills needed to perform my job as a security analyst."*

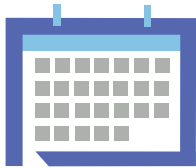
**Ernest Blankson**

Senior Risk Advisor  
Administrative Office of the United States Courts, Washington, D.C., USA

## Become an ISC2 Candidate

You'll access a full range of benefits as you pursue the CGRC, including 20% off online training and 30% - 50% off textbooks to help you prepare. **Sign up now.**

# CGRC Fast facts



Introduced in 2005



CGRCs are part of a network of over 675,000 cybersecurity professionals



ANAB/ANSI accredited

DoD-approved



Average CGRC Salary:  
U.S. \$118,980

## Shout-outs

CGRC  
**Ranked #34** on the  
**Certification Salary  
Survey 75 list** with an  
annual salary of \$118,980  
(U.S) in 2023.

— *Certification Magazine*

CGRC ranks on  
**'The Next Big Thing'**  
list as a certification  
survey respondents plan  
to earn this year.

— *Certification Magazine*

# Benefits of CGRC 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.



## Solid foundation

Be better prepared to stem cyberattacks and inspire a safe and secure cyber world.



## Higher salaries

Earn more. In 2023, Certification Magazine's annual survey lists an average salary of \$118,980 (in U.S.) and \$114,150 (globally).



## Stronger skill set

Expand the skills and knowledge needed to fulfill organizational duties.



# Benefits of **ISC2** membership

Once you earn your CGRC, 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 select publications including 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**

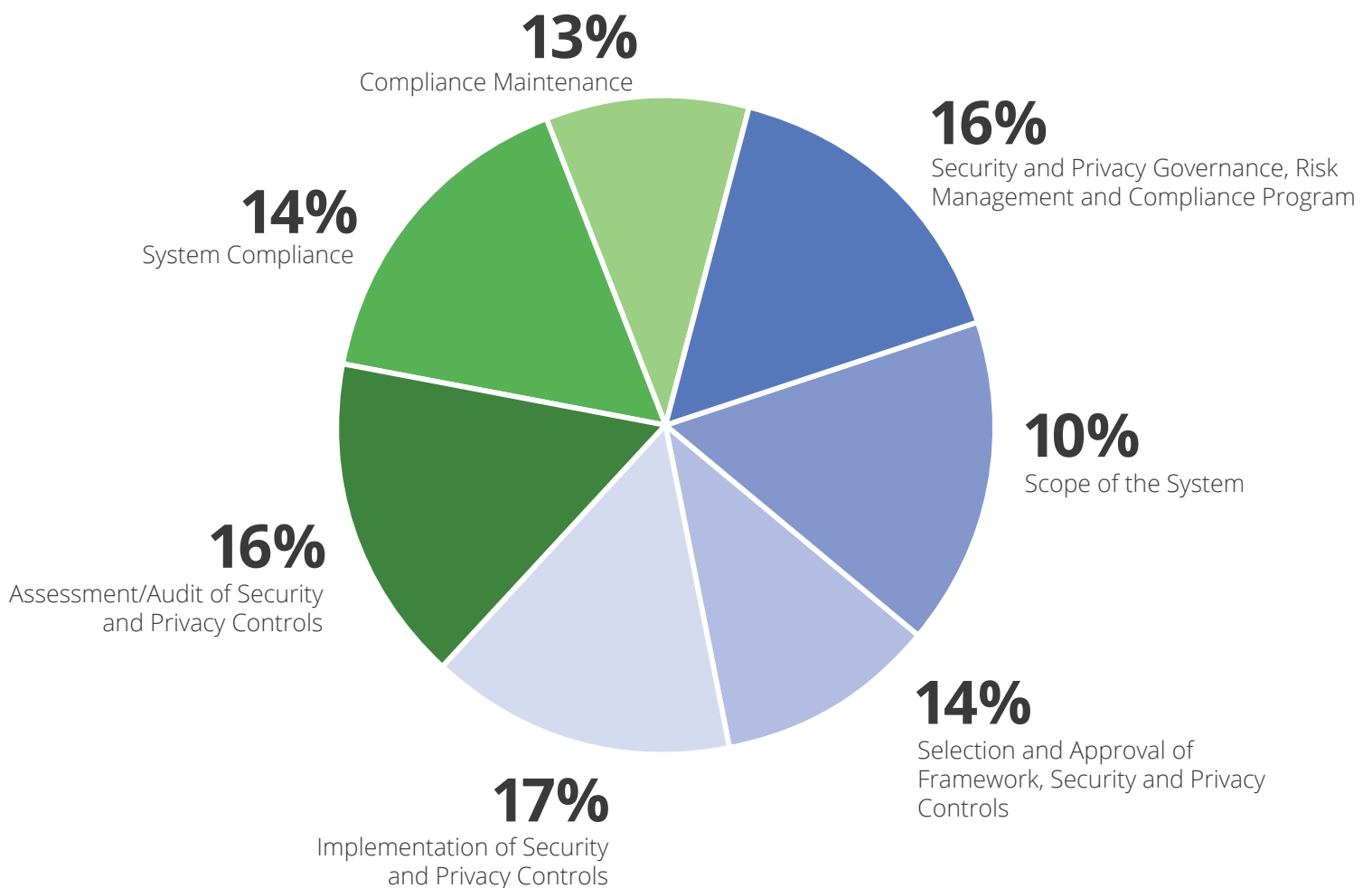
Your first year is free — no cost to you.\* You'll enjoy most of these benefits as you prepare for certification — plus 20% off Online Self-Paced and Online Instructor-Led Training for CGRC.

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



# Exam overview

The CGRC exam evaluates expertise across seven domains. (Think of domains as topics you need to master based on your professional experience and education.) Passing the exam demonstrates that you have the advanced technical skills and knowledge to understand governance, risk and compliance, and can authorize and maintain information systems utilizing various risk management frameworks, as well as best practices, policies and procedures.



**125** Number of items on the CGRC exam

**3 hrs.** Maximum amount of time for the exam

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

View the CGRC [exam outline](#).

Exam availability:  
**English**

Testing Centers:  
**Pearson VUE**

# Official **Exam Prep**

ISC2 offers Official Exam Prep for CGRC. Save 20% on Official ISC2 Exam Prep 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 CGRC certification. Experience new learning with recently enhanced Official ISC2 CGRC Exam Prep options. **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 adaptive 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 Boot Camp – Register now**

Progress through the course domain by domain with the most current content that aligns to the CGRC 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. **Classroom – 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

### **CGRC 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 many of the benefits our certified members enjoy, including 20% off training and 30% - 50% off textbooks to help you on your path to CGRC.

[Sign up now.](#)

## 2 Obtain the required experience

[To qualify for the CGRC](#), candidates must have at least two years of cumulative, paid work experience in one or more of the seven domains of the current ISC2 CGRC Exam Outline.

- **Domain 1:** Security and Privacy Governance, Risk Management and Compliance Program
- **Domain 2:** Scope of the System
- **Domain 3:** Selection and Approval of Framework, Security and Privacy Controls
- **Domain 4:** Implementation of Security and Privacy Controls
- **Domain 5:** Assessment/Audit of Security and Privacy Controls
- **Domain 6:** System Compliance
- **Domain 7:** Compliance Maintenance

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



# Pathway to certification

## 3 Study for the exam

Many [self-study resources](#) are available from ISC2 – the creator and keeper of the CGRC Exam Outline – to help you prepare with confidence. Some CGRC 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 125-item exam. Ready for the exam? [Register now](#) and get it on your calendar.

## Get endorsed

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

## Earn CPE credits

6 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.



**60** CPE credits  
over 3 years

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

Members with multiple ISC2 certifications only pay a single AMF.

# 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.

## Join webinars

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

## Read and write

- Read a book directly related to CGRC 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 CGRC

## Attend trainings and events

- ISC2 Chapter meetings
- Prepare or attend an educational presentation related to the CGRC CBK domains
- ISC2 Skill-Builders – grow your knowledge with short-format learning on demand
- ISC2 Certificates – Grow your skills with quick learning averaging just 3.5 hours per certificate that focuses on high demand subject matter
- Discount pricing for ICS2 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



# Continuing professional development

[ISC2 Certificates](#) allow you to advance your skills in areas employers are seeking and provide pathways toward gaining the competencies you need for the journey to ISC2 certification.

Our online [ISC2 Risk Management Practitioner Certificates](#) focus on understanding how to assess and analyze risk while taking a deeper dive into standards and risk methods. Online on-demand certificates include:

- Continuing Practical Risk Analysis
- Exploring Risk Standards
- Practical Risk Methods

Stay in front of the hottest topics and trends impacting your current role and your cybersecurity career with [ISC2 Governance, Risk and Compliance Skill-Builders](#), created by industry experts and available now on demand. Learn how aligning IT goals and objectives while managing cyber risks and achieving regulatory needs supports informed choices around data security and privacy with short-format learning designed to fit your busy schedule.

Demonstrate your understanding of the latest strategies to assess risk and ensure regulatory compliance with [ISC2 Governance, Risk and Compliance Courses](#), created by industry experts and available on demand. Learn about the components, activities and functions of frameworks and why they are important in cybersecurity.





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# Get in touch with us

For more information about CGRC 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 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, more than 675,000 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](https://www.isc2.org), follow us on [X](#), or connect with us on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#).



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