



Information Systems Security  
Architecture Professional

ISC2 Certification

A photograph of a man and a woman in a professional setting. The man, on the right, has a beard and glasses, wearing a blue denim shirt, and is smiling broadly. The woman, on the left, has long blonde hair and is wearing an orange top, also smiling. They appear to be looking at something off-camera with interest and joy. The background is softly blurred, suggesting an office or meeting room.

# The Ultimate Guide to the **ISSAP**

Design the next level of your career

ISC2™

# Achieve more in your career

You already prove every day that you are a globally respected cybersecurity leader. Now elevate your knowledge and skills even higher as a go-to expert in information security architecture.

The Ultimate Guide to the ISSAP covers everything to know about this certification. See how the ISSAP helps you design the next level of your career.

## Inside...

- » Is ISSAP right for me?
- » ISSAPs in the community
- » ISSAP fast facts
- » Benefits of ISSAP certification
- » Benefits of ISC2 membership
- » Exam overview
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- » CPE opportunities
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# Is ISSAP **right for me?**

The ISSAP is ideal for professionals who want to build on their expertise in information systems security architecture. It shows you have the advanced knowledge and skills to develop, design and analyze security solutions and provide risk-based guidance to meet organizational goals. ISSAPs facilitate the alignment of security solutions within organizational contexts (e.g., vision, mission, strategy, policies, requirements, change and external factors).

## **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 ISSAP 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 seven years of experience**

To qualify for the ISSAP, candidates must have a minimum of seven years cumulative, full-time experience in two or more of the domains of the current ISSAP Exam Outline. If you don't yet have the required experience, you may **become an Associate** of ISC2 after successfully passing the ISSAP exam. The Associate of ISC2 will then have eight years to earn the experience needed for the ISSAP certification.



**Discover  
your path**

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



**ISSAP**

**Information Systems Security  
Architecture Professional**

**ISC2 Certification**

## Jobs that typically use or require ISSAP certification

- System Architect
- Chief Information Security Officer (CISO)
- Chief Information Officer (CIO)
- Chief Technology Officer (CTO)
- System and Network Designer
- Business Analyst
- Chief Security Officer

# ISSAPs in the community



*"The ISSAP provided me the opportunity to increase my depth of knowledge while attaining a significant certification. My understanding of security architecture has grown, and I've been able to leverage that into quality interactions with both technical and business teams."*

**David Wayland**

Senior Director, Security Architecture  
Alteryx, Irvine, CA



*"The ISSAP concentration addresses expected security knowledge and experience for cybersecurity professionals. Recognized by the cybersecurity community, it will eventually be a de-facto standard for the industry."*

**Bahadır G. Sarikoz**

Product and Service Presales Manager  
Barikat Cyber Security, Ankara, Turkey



*"The ISSAP has helped me gain a greater and extensive understanding in the field of information security architecture through the Common Body of Knowledge. It has also made me more marketable, employable and recognizable to recruiters."*

**Kenneth Dontoh**

Senior Global Security Engineer  
leading global law firm, London, UK



*"The ISSAP concentration will challenge you and is a self-development journey. It will prove that you have very strong baselines and a good grasp of security principles."*

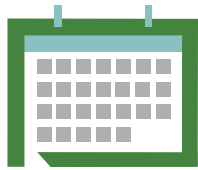
**John Martin**

Senior Security Architect  
IBM, Auckland, New Zealand

## Become an ISC2 Candidate

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

# ISSAP **Fast facts**



Introduced in 2003



ISSAPs are part of a network of over 600,000 cybersecurity professionals



ANAB/ANSI accredited

DoD-approved



Average ISSAP Salary:  
U.S. \$102,170

## Shout-outs

ISSAP ranks among the  
**MOST LUCRATIVE CERTIFICATIONS  
FOR CYBERSECURITY PROFESSIONALS.**

— *Certification Magazine*

# Benefits of ISSAP certification

## Career opportunities and advancement

Raise visibility and credibility, improve job security and create new 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

In 2022, Certification Magazine's annual survey listed an average salary of \$102,170 (in U.S.) and \$101,570 (globally).



## Stronger skill set

Expand the skills and knowledge needed to fulfill organizational duties.

# Benefits of **ISC2** membership

Once you earn your ISSAP, 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 select publications including textbooks, practice test books and study guides.
- Free online [continuing professional development](#) courses
- Discount on [ISC2 Certificates](#)
- Discount pricing for [ISC2 events](#) and industry events including [ISC2 Security Congress](#)
- 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

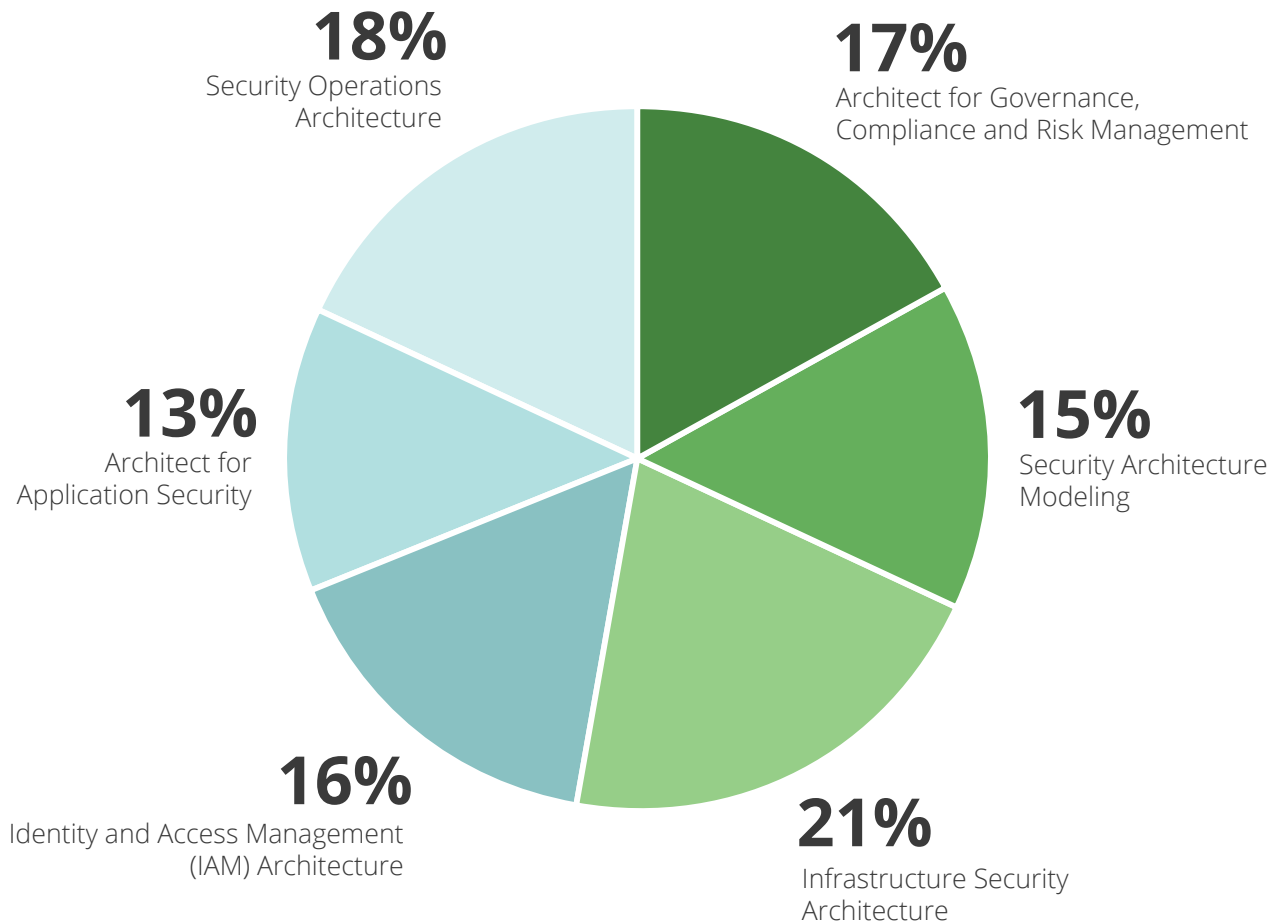
Your first year is free — no cost to you.\* You'll enjoy most of these benefits as you prepare for ISSAP certification.

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



# Exam overview

The ISSAP exam evaluates expertise across six 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 with the ability to effectively implement best practices focused in security architecture.



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

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

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

View the ISSAP [exam outline](#).

Exam availability:  
**English**

Testing Centers:  
**Pearson VUE**

# Official **training**

ISC2 offers Official Training for ISSAP. Save 20% on Official ISC2 Training when you sign up to be an **ISC2 Candidate**.

## 1. **Online Self-Paced** – [Register now](#)

Progress through the course domain-by-domain with content that aligns specifically to the exam outline to be easier to follow.

- Learn online at your own pace
- Download videos from an ISC2 Authorized Instructor
- Access instructor support (48-hour email response time)
- New digital eTextbook
- New glossary
- Key takeaway resources for each domain

## **ISSAP 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 ISSAP.

[Sign up now.](#)

## 2 Obtain the required experience

To qualify for the ISSAP, candidates must have a minimum of seven years cumulative, full-time experience in two or more of the domains of the current ISSAP Exam Outline.

- **Domain 1:** Architect for Governance, Compliance and Risk Management
- **Domain 2:** Security Architecture Modeling
- **Domain 3:** Infrastructure Security Architecture
- **Domain 4:** Identity and Access Management (IAM) Architecture
- **Domain 5:** Architect for Application Security
- **Domain 6:** Security Operations Architecture

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



# Pathway to certification

## 3 Study for the exam

Many [self-study resources](#) are available from ISC2 – the creator and keeper of the ISSAP exam outline – to help you prepare with confidence. Some ISSAP 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 ISSAP exam. Ready for the 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.

# 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 ISSAP 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 ISSAP

## Attend trainings and events

- ISC2 Chapter meetings
- Prepare or attend an educational presentation related to the ISSAP exam outline
- 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 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



# 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.

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.

Current ISC2 Certificates include:

- Cloud Security
- Risk Management
- CISO Leadership
- Healthcare
- Security Engineering
- Security Administration and Operations

*Additional certificates coming soon.*

Stay in front of the hottest topics and trends impacting your current role and your cybersecurity career with **ISC2 Skill-Builders**, created by industry experts and available now on demand. Grow what you know with short-format learning designed to fit your busy schedule.





**Information Systems Security  
Architecture Professional**  
**ISC2 Certification**

# Get in touch with us

For more information about ISSAP 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, more than 600,000 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 **X**, or connect with us on **Facebook**, **LinkedIn** and **YouTube**.



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