ISSEP®

Information Systems Security Engineering Professional

ISC2 Certification

The Ultimate Guide to the ISSEP

Engineering your next big achievement

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 engineering.

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

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Is ISSEP **right for me?**

The ISSEP is ideal for professionals who want to build on their expertise in information systems security engineering. 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. ISSEPs analyze organizational needs, define security requirements, design security architectures, develop secure designs, implement system security, and support system security assessments and authorizations for governments and industries.

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

If you don't yet have the required experience to become a ISSEP, you can become an **Associate of ISC2** after successfully passing the ISSEP exam. You will then have eight years to earn the experience needed for the ISSEP certification.

Discover your path

See "Pathway to certification" for more information.

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Jobs that typically use or require ISSEP certification

- Senior systems engineer
- Security systems engineer
- Security officer
- Senior security analyst

ISSEPs in the community

"As an internationally recognized certification, the ISSEP gives me credibility with peers and customers as a desirable cybersecurity expert and team member."

Tom Tobiassen
Associate, Information Systems Security Engineer
Zeta Associates, Inc., Aurora, Colorado

"The ISSEP credential has distinguished me from my peers. It is still rare globally and has allowed me to participate in SME activities and projects that preserve the distinction of the specialization."

Cassandra Giddings
Information System Security Technical Manager
Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, DC

"The ISSEP has made it possible for me to customize and recommend specific tools and techniques for clients to secure their applications in different circumstances."
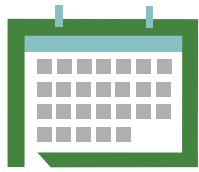
Clement Low
Cybersecurity Consultant
Horangi Pte Ltd, Singapore

Become an ISC2 Candidate

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

ISSEP **Fast facts**

Introduced in 2003

DoD-approved

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

Average ISSEP Salary: U.S. $101,780

ANAB/ANSI accredited

Shout-outs

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

— *Certification Magazine*

ISSEP ranks #3 among **CERTIFICATIONS WITH THE HIGHEST CASH MARKET VALUE INCREASES.**

— *IDG Connect*

Benefits
of ISSEP certification

Career opportunities and advancement
Raise visibility and credibility, improve job security and create new opportunities.

Versatile skills
Build vendor-neutral skills that can be applied to different technologies and methodologies.

Credibility
Demonstrate a solid foundation to mitigate and respond to cyberthreats.

Leadership
Develop a broad set of technical and nontechnical skills that job experience alone doesn't provide.

Membership in a strong peer network
Become an ISC2 member, unlocking exclusive resources, educational tools and peer-to-peer networking opportunities.

Higher salaries
Earn more. In 2022, Certification Magazine's annual survey listed an average salary of $101,780 (in U.S.) and $100,160 (globally).

Expanded knowledge
Reach a deeper, better and broader understanding of the Exam Outline.

Stronger skill set
Expand the skills and knowledge needed to fulfill organizational duties.

Benefits of **ISC2 membership**

Once you earn your ISSEP, 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, manythat 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 text books, 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
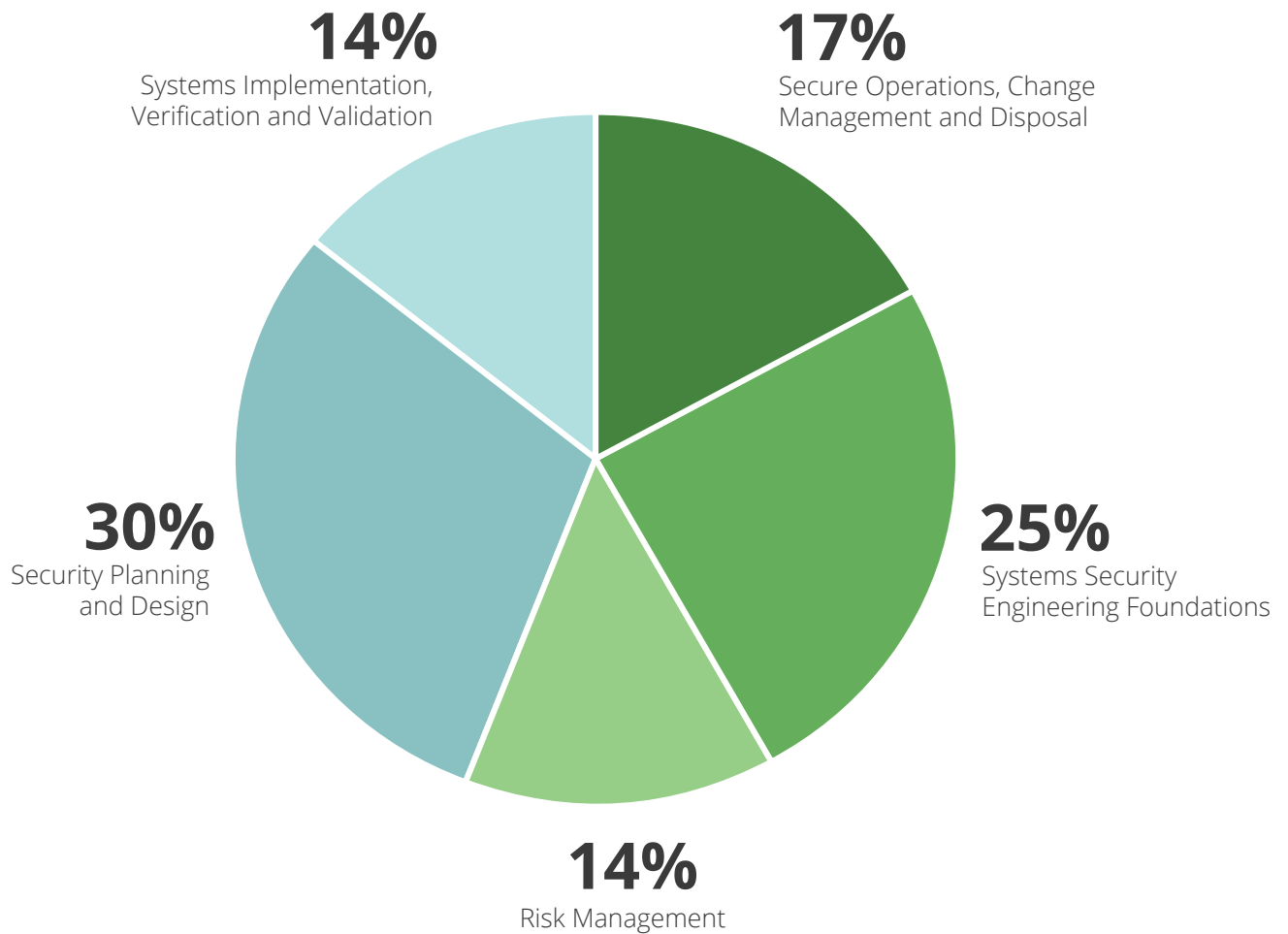
Your first year is free — no cost to you.* You'll enjoy most of these benefits as you prepare for ISSEP certification.

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

Exam overview

The ISSEP exam evaluates expertise across five 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 engineering.

14%
Systems Implementation, Verification and Validation

17%
Secure Operations, Change Management and Disposal

30%
Security Planning and Design

25%
Systems Security Engineering Foundations

14%
Risk Management

125 Number of items on the ISSEP exam

3hrs. Maximum amount of time for the exam

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

View the ISSEP **exam outline**.

Exam availability:
English

Testing Centers:
Pearson VUE

Official **training**

ISC2 offers Official Training for ISSEP. 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

ISSEP 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 ISSEP.
Sign up now.

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

- **Domain 1:** Systems Security Engineering Foundations
- **Domain 2:** Risk Management
- **Domain 3:** Security Planning and Design
- **Domain 4:** Systems Implementation, Verification and Validation
- **Domain 5:** Secure Operations, Change Management and Disposal

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

Pathway to certification

3 Study for the exam
Many **self-study resources** are available from ISC2 – the creator and keeper of the ISSEP exam outline – to help you prepare with confidence. Some ISSEP 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 ISSEP 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 ISSEP 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 ISSEP

Attend trainings and events
- ISC2 Chapter meetings
- Prepare or attend an educational presentation related to the ISSEP 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

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.

ISSEP®

**Information Systems Security
Engineering Professional**

ISC2 Certification

Get in touch with us

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

Americas — Phone: +1.866.331.4722 ext. 2, Email: **training@isc2.org**

Europe, Middle East and Africa — Phone: +44 203 960 7800, Email: **info-emea@isc2.org**

Asia-Pacific — Phone: +852.5803.5662, Email: **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**, follow us on **X**, or connect with us on **Facebook, LinkedIn** and **YouTube**.

ISC2™