SSCP®

**Systems Security
Certified Practitioner**

ISC2 Certification

The Ultimate
Guide to the SSCP

Be the expert in network security and operations

ISC2™

Achieve more
in your career

You prove every day that you have what it takes to secure critical assets. 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 SSCP covers everything to know about the IT security professional's certification. Inside, see how the SSCP and ISC2 can help distinguish you as a globally respected security leader.

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Is SSCP **right for me?**

As organizations continue to pursue digital transformation initiatives, the threat landscape is always expanding. Yet cybersecurity leadership talent is scarce. That's where SSCP from ISC2 comes in — to help fill the gap. Once certified, the opportunities for certified professionals are near limitless.

The SSCP is ideal for IT administrators, managers, directors and network security professionals responsible for the hands-on operational security of their organization's critical assets. It shows you have the advanced technical skills and knowledge to implement, monitor and administer IT infrastructure using security best practices, policies and procedures.

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 CCSP 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 one year of experience
To qualify for the SSCP, candidates must have a minimum of one year cumulative full-time experience in one or more of the seven domains of the ISC2 SSCP Exam Outline.

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

Discover your path

See "Pathway to certification" for more information.

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Jobs that typically use or require SSCP certification

- Network Security Engineer
- IT/Systems/Network Administrator
- Security Analyst
- Systems Engineer
- Security Consultant/Specialist
- Security Administrator

- Systems/Network Analyst
- Database Administrator
- Individuals operating in a security operations center (SOC) environment performing the role of incident handler, SIEM analyst, forensics specialist, threat intel researcher, etc.

SSCPs in the community

"The SSCP has helped tremendously by deepening my knowledge of information security and has given me new opportunities to further my career within my organization. It has also allowed me to share my knowledge externally and better educate people on the importance of InfoSec."

Adam Gorecki
Information Systems Security Analyst
Mountain View County, Alberta, Canada

"SSCP provides knowledge on everything SOC analysts need to perform their daily tasks. And since it's vendor-neutral, you can apply this knowledge on any device. Having your SSCP and being part of ISC2 helps you build connections with peers and stay up-to-date on the latest security threats."

Ronald Ricohermoso
Senior Information Security Professional
Ingram Micro, Irvine, CA

"The SSCP certification has helped me think and work in ways that let me see the bigger picture when it comes to cybersecurity and its many facets. In turn, this has enabled me to proactively protect the users in my organization and react quickly to remediate issues in dire situations."

Tiffany Temple
IT Security Specialist
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Greensboro, NC

"Earning the SSCP has completely elevated my career. If you're considering this certification, pursue it all the way. It shows that you're serious about cybersecurity and positions you to deliver expert consultation and analysis to your organization and community."
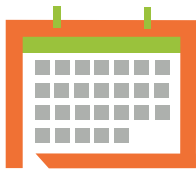
Kreesan Govender
Information Security Officer (Card and Payments)
Standard Bank Group, Johannesburg, South Africa

Become an ISC2 Candidate

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

SSCP **Fast facts**

Introduced in 2001

DoD approved

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

Exam available in 2 languages at 882 locations in 114 countries

Average SSCP Salary: U.S. $98,530

ISC2 certified members work in more than 170 countries globally

ANAB/ANSI accredited

ANAB

Shout-outs

Listed as **'HEATING UP'** on the 2020 Simmering Salaries List.
— *Certification Magazine*

Cited as
"ONE OF THE BEST CERTIFICATIONS" for those working in IT, from increased earning potential to staying ahead of the curve.
— *Site Pro News*

Listed as one of the
10 SECURITY CERTIFICATIONS TO BOOST YOUR CAREER
— *Dark Reading*

Benefits of SSCP 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 2023, Certification Magazine's annual survey lists an average salary of $98,530 (in U.S.) and $92,410 (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 SSCP, 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 CBK 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**

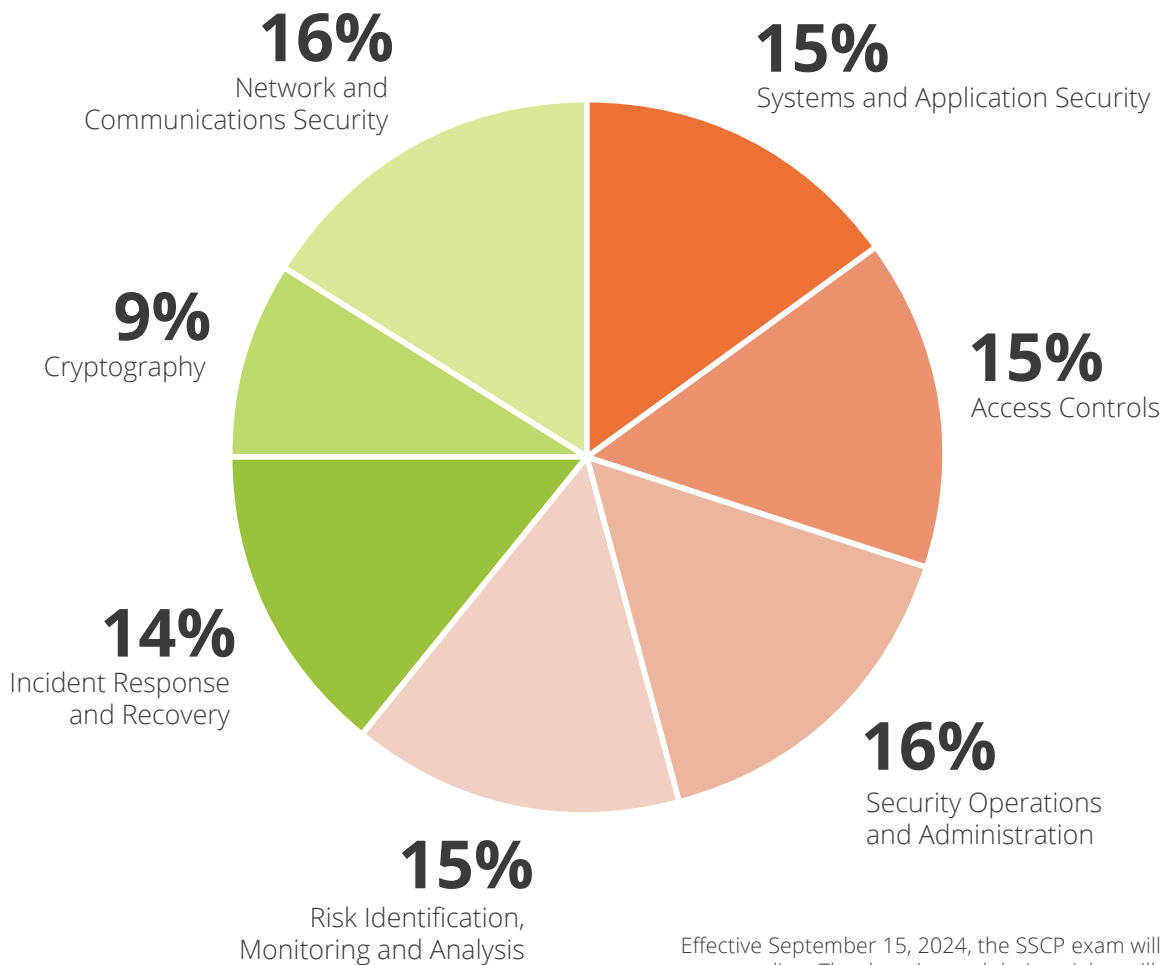- Professional recognition through **ISC2 Global Achievement Awards**

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 certification — plus 20% off Online Instructor-Led and Online Self-Paced Training for SSCP.

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

Exam overview

The SSCP exam evaluates expertise across seven 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 to implement, monitor and administer IT infrastructure using security best practices, policies and procedures.

16%
Network and
Communications Security

15%
Systems and Application Security

15%
Access Controls

9%
Cryptography

16%
Security Operations
and Administration

14%
Incident Response
and Recovery

15%
Risk Identification,
Monitoring and Analysis

Effective September 15, 2024, the SSCP exam will be based on a new exam outline. The domains and their weights will change. Please refer to the SSCP **Exam Outline** and SSCP **FAQs**.

150
Number of items on the SSCP exam

4hrs.
Maximum amount of
time for the SSCP exam

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

View the SSCP **exam outline.**

Exam availability:
Japanese and Spanish

Testing Centers: **Pearson VUE**

Official **training**

ISC2 offers Official Training for SSCP. Save 20% on Official ISC2 Training 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 SSCP certification. **Find training**.

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 adapted 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 Instructor-Led – Register now**
    Progress through the course domain-by-domain with content that's organized to align specifically to the CISSP Exam Outline domains to be easier-to-follow in live sessions led by an ISC2 Authorized Instructor.

    - Live virtual instruction from an ISC2 Authorized Instructor
    - Virtual collaboration with classmates
    - Interactive, engaging courseware

    - New digital eTextbook
    - Addition of glossary
    - Key takeaway resources for each domain
    - Education Guarantee

3. **Classroom-Based – 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

SSCP 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 SSCP. **Sign up now**.

2 **Obtain the required experience**
To qualify for the SSCP, candidates must have a minimum of one year cumulative full-time experience in one or more of the seven domains of the ISC2 SSCP Exam Outline.

- **Domain 1:** Security Operations and Administration
- **Domain 2:** Access Controls
- **Domain 3:** Risk Identification, Monitoring and Analysis
- **Domain 4:** Incident Response and Recovery
- **Domain 5:** Cryptography
- **Domain 6:** Network and Communications Security
- **Domain 7:** Systems and Application Security

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

Pathway to certification

3 **Study for the exam**
Many **self-study resources** are available from ISC2 – the creator and keeper of the SSCP Exam Outline – to help you prepare with confidence. Some SSCP 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 four hours to complete the 150-item exam. You must pass the exam with a score of 700 points or greater. Ready to schedule your 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.

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 SSCP 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 SSCP

Attend trainings and events
- ISC2 Chapter meetings
- Prepare or attend an educational presentation related to the SSCP 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
- Attend ISC2 Security Congress – 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.

Our online **ISC2 Security Administration and Operations Certificates** focus on introducing cybersecurity professionals to key concepts and best practices. Each ISC2 Certificate turns a laser focus on the subject matter. Security Administration and Operations Certificates include:

- Responding to a Breach Certificate
- Malware Analysis Certificate
- Crowdsourced Security Certificate
- Cryptography Certificate

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.

- **ISC2 Network Security Skill-Builders** allow you to become versed in the fundamentals of threat detection and incident response, including security orchestration, automation and response.

- **ISC2 Security Operations Skill-Builders** allow you to develop new skills to help manage access controls and network security and learn how to operate and configure network-based security devices.

Our online **ISC2 Protecting Data Using Zero Trust Courses** cover the principles and requirements necessary to transition from traditional perimeter-based security to a security operating model focused on granular trust relationships. Online on-demand courses with CPE credits include:

- Defining the Boundaries of Zero Trust
- Vulnerability Management in Zero Trust
- Continuous Monitoring and Incident Response for Zero Trust

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ISC2 Certification

Get in touch with us

For more information about SSCP 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 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**, follow us on **X** or connect with us on **Facebook**, **LinkedIn** and **YouTube**.

ISC2™