



Certified Cloud  
Security Professional

ISC2 Certification



# The Ultimate Guide to the **CCSP**

Be a leader in the field of cloud security



# 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 CCSP covers everything you need to know about the world's leading cloud security certification. Inside, learn how CCSP and ISC2 help distinguish you as a top-level cybersecurity expert.

## Inside...

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- » CCSP Fast Facts
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# Is CCSP Right For Me?

As cyberthreats continue to make daily headlines, the need for cloud security experts is at an all-time high. Yet talent is scarce. That's where CCSP from ISC2 comes in — to help fill the gap in cloud security. Once certified, the opportunities for certified professionals are near limitless.

CCSP, a vendor-neutral cloud security credential, not only provides a strong foundational understanding of key concepts, it recognizes IT and information security leaders who have the knowledge and competency to apply best practices to cloud security architecture, design, operations and service orchestration. As more organizations worldwide move to multicloud operations, the versatile skills from vendor-neutral certification are highly desirable for cloud security teams.

CCSP is particularly well-suited for IT and information security professionals seeking to prove their understanding of cybersecurity and securing critical assets in the cloud. It shows you have the advanced knowledge and technical skills to design, manage and secure data, applications and infrastructure in the cloud.

## 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 five years experience

[To qualify for the CCSP](#), candidates must have at least five years of cumulative, paid work experience in information technology, of which three years must be in information security and one year in one or more of the six domains of the ISC2 CCSP Exam Outline.

If you don't yet have the required experience to become a CCSP, you can become an [Associate of ISC2](#) after successfully passing the CCSP exam. You will then have six years to earn the experience needed for the CCSP certification.

## Discover your path

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



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## Jobs that typically use or require CCSP certification

- Cloud Architect
- Chief Information Security Officer (CISO)
- Chief Information Officer (CIO)
- Chief Technology Officer
- Engineer/Developer/Manager
- DevOps
- Enterprise Architect
- IT Contract Negotiator
- IT Risk and Compliance Manager
- Security Administrator
- Security Analyst
- Security Architect
- Security Consultant
- Security Engineer
- Security Manager
- Systems Architect
- Systems Engineer
- SecOps

# CCSPs in the Community



*"Vendor knowledge in cloud security is focused on a particular cloud solution and the tools to manage it — but the CCSP is the glue that connects all the concepts. You get a better overview so you can see the capabilities and how everything fits together."*

**Jonas Björk**

Security Presale Representative  
Telia Cygate, Helsingborg, Sweden



*"Certification from widely recognized bodies like ISC2 clarify factual information versus opinion. In cloud security, it's important to provide recommendations based on facts supported by data. The CCSP Exam Outline is a great source of information in that respect."*

**Vanessa Leite**

Principal Strategy and Consulting  
CyberCX, Wellington, New Zealand



*"CCSP complements my CISSP by asserting my knowledge in key areas specific to cloud environments. Cloud-based technologies and theory are ubiquitous in today's IT and cybersecurity realms, and the CCSP took the knowledge I had and updated it to take me to the next level in my career."*

**David Schneider**

Senior Cyber Security Threat Engineer  
Garmin International, Olathe, KS



*"Cloud is in the present and it will be here in the future. Every company will always have a footprint in the cloud. The CCSP is a credential that, as a cybersecurity professional, you need to invest in. It is an asset that will serve you for years."*

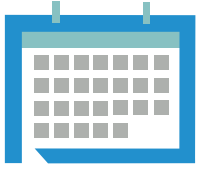
**Panagiotis Soulos**

Global Information Security Manager  
Intrum, Athens, Greece

## Become an ISC2 Candidate

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

# CCSP Fast Facts



Introduced in 2015



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



ANAB accredited

Exam available in 4 languages at 882 locations in 114 countries



DoD-approved



Average CCSP Salary: U.S. \$137,100



## Shout-outs

Ranked #2 on **'THE NEXT BIG THING' LIST** as the certification survey respondents plan to earn in 2023 . — *Certification Magazine*

CCSP makes the list of **top cloud certifications**

— *SC Magazine*

"CCSP is the most **most well-rounded certification by far** for the cloud protection area."

— *Certification Magazine*

# Benefits of CCSP 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 2023, Certification Magazine's annual survey lists an average salary of \$137,100 (in U.S.) and \$115,150 (globally).



## Stronger skill set

Expand the skills and knowledge needed to fulfill organizational duties.

# Benefits of **ISC2 Membership**

Once you earn your CCSP, 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 Education \(CPE\)](#) courses
- Discount on [ISC2 Certificates](#)
- Discount pricing for [ISC2 events](#) and industry events including [ISC2 Security Congress](#)
- [Discounts](#) on CCSP textbooks, practice textbooks 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**

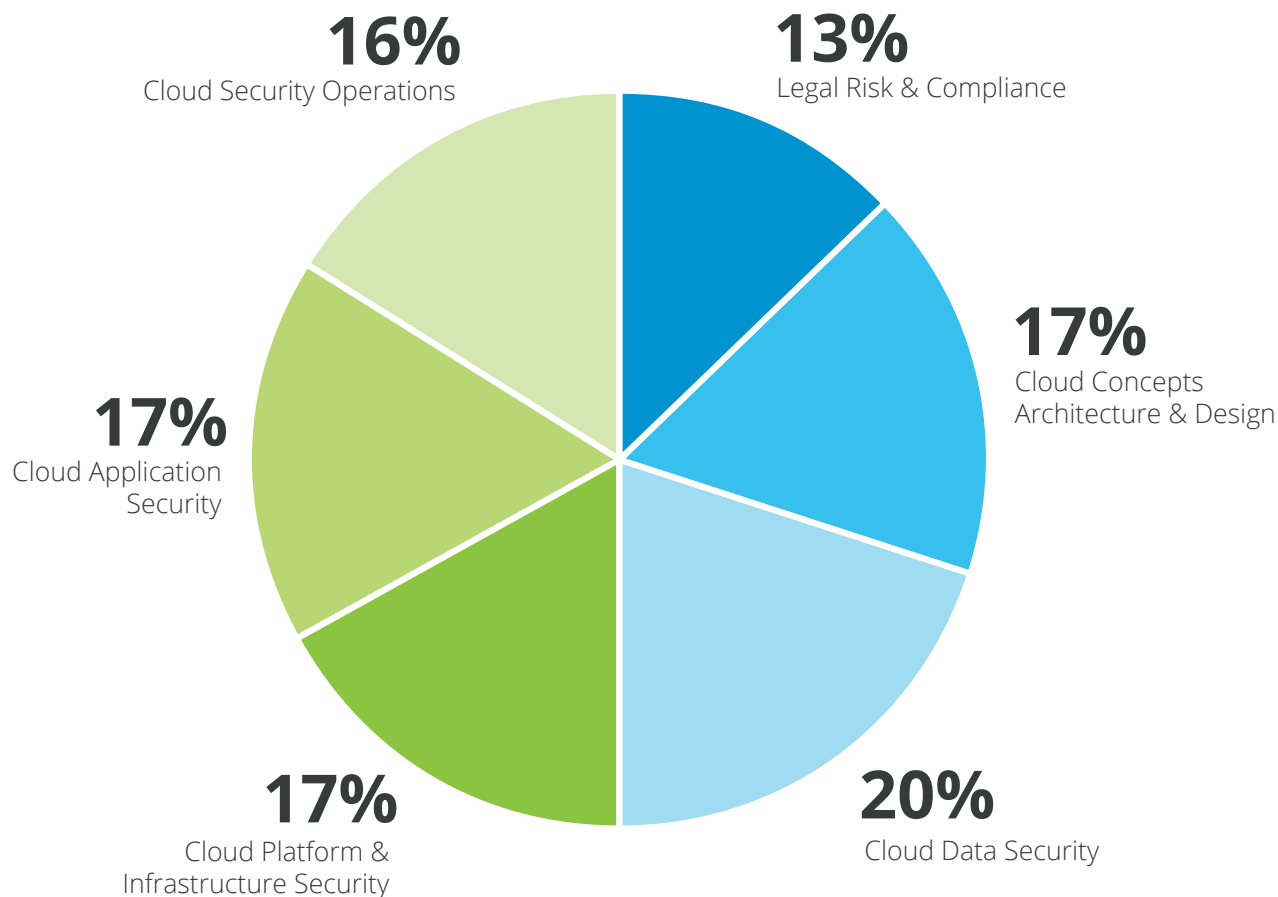
Your first year is free — no cost to you.\* You'll enjoy most of these benefits as you prepare for certification — plus 20% off Online Bootcamp and Online Self-Paced Training for CCSP.

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



# Exam Overview

The CCSP 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 to effectively design, manage and secure data, applications and infrastructure in the cloud using best practices, policies and procedures.



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

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

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

View the CCSP [exam outline](#)

Exam availability: **English, Japanese, Chinese and German**

Testing Centers: **Pearson VUE**



CISSP certification holders automatically meet the experience requirements for CCSP

# Official **Exam Prep**

ISC2 offers Official Exam Prep for CCSP. 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 CCSP certification. Experience new learning with recently enhanced Official ISC2 CCSP 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 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 Bootcamp** – [Register now](#)

Progress through the course domain by domain with the most current content that aligns to the CCSP 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. **In-Person Bootcamp** – [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

## **CCSP 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 CCSP.

[Sign up now.](#)

## 2 Obtain the required experience

[To qualify for the CCSP](#), candidates must have at least five years of cumulative, paid work experience in information technology, of which three years must be in information security, and one year in one or more of the six domains of the ISC2 CCSP Exam Outline:

- **Domain 1:** Cloud Concepts, Architecture and Design
- **Domain 2:** Cloud Data Security
- **Domain 3:** Cloud Platform and Infrastructure Security
- **Domain 4:** Cloud Application Security
- **Domain 5:** Cloud Security Operations
- **Domain 6:** Legal, Risk and Compliance

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



# Pathway to Certification

## 3 Study for the exam

Many [self-study resources](#) are available from ISC2 – the creator and keeper of the CCSP Exam Outline – to help you prepare with confidence. Some CCSP 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

Candidates are given a maximum of three hours to complete the 125-item CCSP exam. Ready for the exam? [Register now](#) and get it on your 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.



**90** CPE credits  
over 3 years

.....

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

.....

Members with multiple ISC2 certifications only pay a single AMF

# CPE Opportunities

The Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credits 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 CCSP 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 CCSP

## Attend trainings and events

- ISC2 Chapter meetings
- Prepare or attend an educational presentation related to the CCSP exam outline domains
- ISC2 Certificates – Grow your skills with quick learning averaging just 3.5 hours per certificate that focuses on high demand subject matter
- ISC2 Courses – Dive deeper into learning with actionable strategies you can apply immediately to strengthen your organization's security.
- ISC2 Express Courses – Grow your cybersecurity knowledge at home or on the go with fast, flexible learning that delivers real-world results.
- 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



# Grow Your Cybersecurity Skills

## Continuing Professional Education (CPE)

Cybersecurity never stands still – it's a constantly evolving field that requires continuing education. ISC2 Certificates, Courses and Express Courses will help you stay in front of cyberthreats and on top of trends.

### Explore ISC2 Continuing Education Now

Learn on demand anytime, anywhere with Certificates, Courses and Express Courses created by industry experts

#### ISC2 Certificates

Advance your skills in high-demand cybersecurity areas of focus with [ISC2 Certificates](#). Move your career forward and gain the competencies you need for 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.

You'll earn digital badges you can share when you pass the assessments.

#### ISC2 Courses

Demonstrate your knowledge of the latest cybersecurity principles and best practices with [ISC2 Courses](#), created by industry experts and available online. Access practical learning with actionable strategies that deliver measurable results for organizations around the globe.

#### ISC2 Express Courses

Stay in front of the hottest cybersecurity topics, challenges and emerging trends with [ISC2 Express Courses](#). Quickly grow what you know with short-format, on-demand learning designed to fit your busy schedule.





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# Get in touch with us

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

**Pinnacle Learning Centres Inc.**

**Phone: (587) 487-2839**

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**Edmonton, AB T5J 3R8**

**csanelson@pinnaclelearningcentres.com**

**www.pinnaclelearningcentres.com**

## 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, 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://isc2.org), follow us on **X** or connect with us on **Facebook** and **LinkedIn**.



**ISC2™**

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