



Information Systems Security  
Management Professional

ISC2 Certification



# The Ultimate Guide to the **ISSMP**

Be recognized as an expert in information security management





# 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 management.

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

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- » ISSMPs in the Community
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# Is ISSMP Right for Me?

The ISSMP is ideal for professionals who want to build on their expertise in information systems security management. It shows you have deep management and leadership skills and the advanced knowledge to establish, present and govern information security programs. ISSMPs direct the alignment of security programs with an organization's mission, goals and strategies in order to meet enterprise financial and operational requirements in support of its desired risk position.

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

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



**Discover your path**  
See "Pathway to certification"  
for more information.



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## Jobs that typically use or require ISSMP certification

- CIO (Chief Information Officer)
- CISO (Chief Information Security Officer)
- CTO (Chief Technology Officer)
- Senior Security Executive



# ISSMPs in the Community



*"While studying and training for the ISSMP, I got to see how the dots of individual security processes connected in support of an overall mission."*

**Diane McClain**

Information Security Architect  
Centene Corporation, St. Louis, MO



*"As someone running your own company, you need to make sure customers have a clear idea of your level of expertise. For this reason, I've made sure that I have all important and relevant certifications available. ISSMP is well-recognized around the world, but it's not my only badge. The industry changes too fast to stand still."*

**Steve Durbin**

Director  
Ex Cathedra Solutions Ltd., UK



*"ISSMP has opened doors and increased my tenure as a sound cybersecurity professional. I have had the chance to speak at several international cybersecurity conferences and now mentor CISSP and ISSMP aspirants."*

**Gezahegn Tadesse**

Infrastructure and Security Project Manager  
Boyd Gaming, Las Vegas, NV



*"Passing the ISSMP exam increased my own confidence in my Information Security Management knowledge, as well as the perception and confidence others have in my skills."*

**Tiago Kiill**

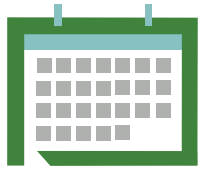
Regional IT Security Manager  
Latam and U.S. Region, Sodexo Benefits and Rewards Services, Ile-de-france, France

## Become an ISC2 Candidate

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



# ISSMP Fast Facts



Introduced in 2003



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



ANAB accredited

DoD-approved



Average ISSMP Salary:  
U.S. \$111,650

## Shout-outs

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

— *Certification Magazine*

ISSMP ranks #5 among **CERTIFICATIONS WITH THE HIGHEST CASH MARKET VALUE INCREASES.**

— *IDG Connect*



# Benefits of ISSMP 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 \$111,650 (in U.S.) and \$101,780 (globally).



## Stronger skill set

Expand the skills and knowledge needed to fulfill organizational duties.



# Benefits of **ISC2 Membership**

Once you earn your ISSMP, 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:

- Discount on [ISC2 Certificates, Courses and Express Courses](#)
- 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](#)



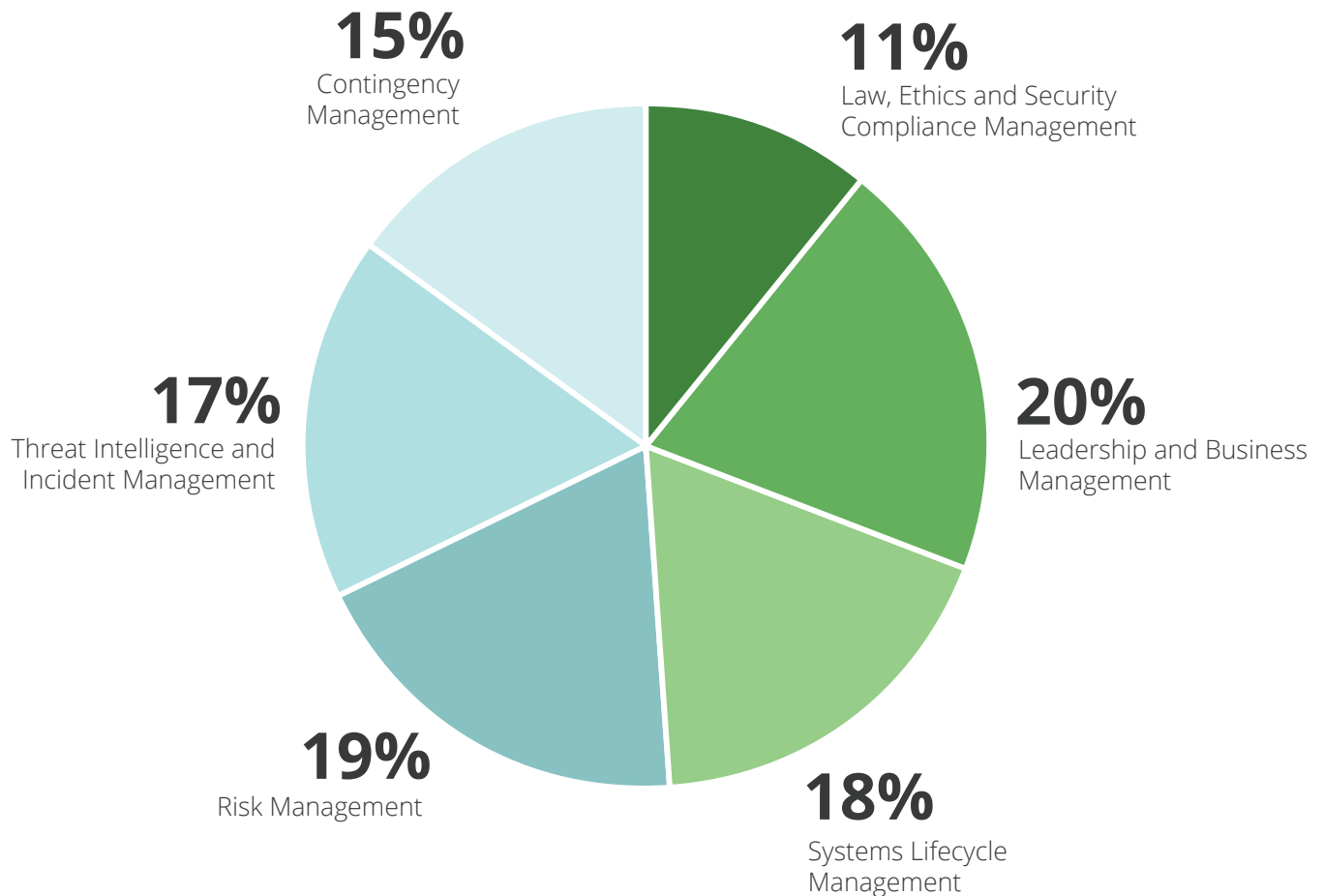
**Sign up now to become an ISC2 Candidate**

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

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

# Exam Overview

The ISSMP 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 management and leadership skills necessary to effectively establish, present and govern information security programs.



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

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

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

View the ISSMP [exam outline](#).

Exam availability:  
**English**

Testing Centers:  
**Pearson VUE**



# Official **Exam Prep**

ISC2 offers Official Training for ISSMP. 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
- Digital eTextbook
- Pre- and post-course assessments
- Interactive content
- Glossary of Terms
- 24x7x365 chat technical support

## **ISSMP 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 ISSMP.

[Sign up now](#)

## 2 Obtain the required experience

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

- **Domain 1:** Leadership and Business Management
- **Domain 2:** Systems Lifecycle Management
- **Domain 3:** Risk Management
- **Domain 4:** Threat Intelligence and Incident Management
- **Domain 5:** Contingency Management
- **Domain 6:** Law, Ethics and Security Compliance Management

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





# Pathway to Certification

## 3 Study for the exam

Many [Self-Study Resources](#) are available from ISC2 – the creator and keeper of the ISSMP Exam Outline – to help you prepare with confidence. Some ISSMP 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 ISSMP 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.

# Continuing Professional Education (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 ISSMP 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 ISSMP

## Attend trainings and events

- ISC2 Chapter meetings
- Prepare or attend an educational presentation related to the ISSMP exam outline
- 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 and Knowledge

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.

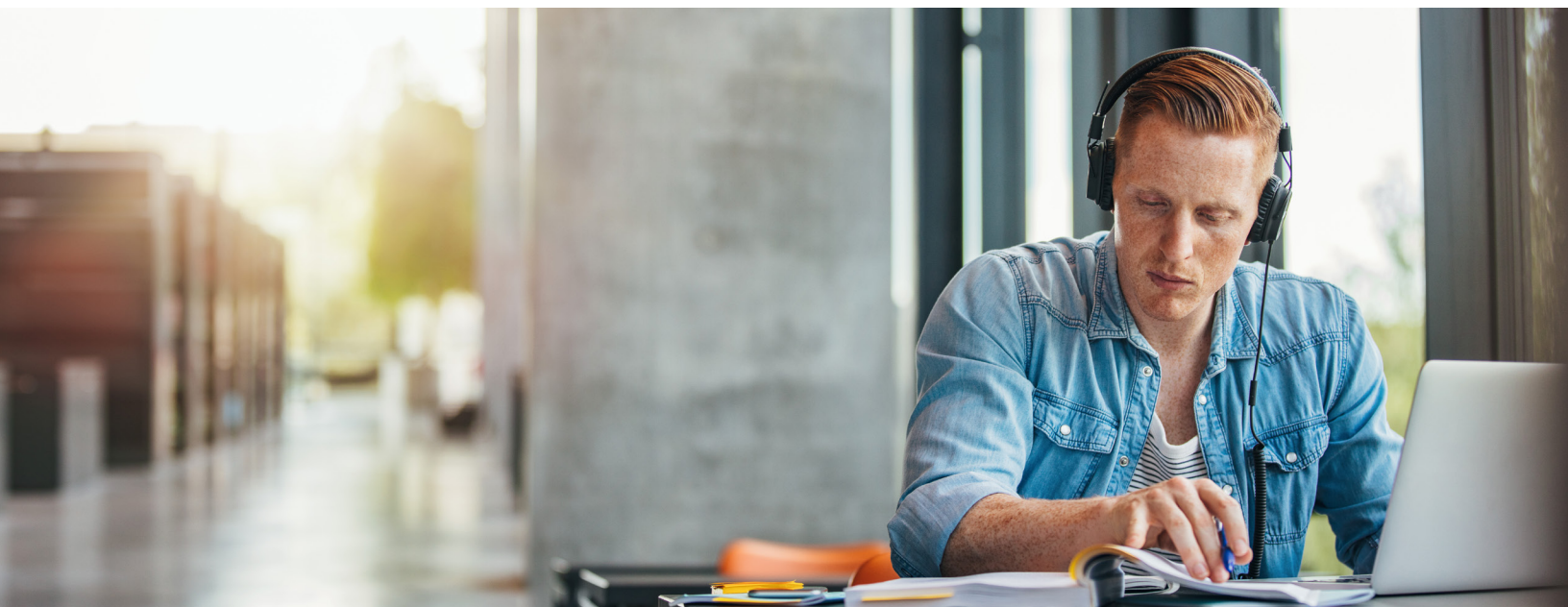
You'll earn digital badges you can share when you pass the assessments.

### 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 ISSMP certification and training, contact an Education Consultant in your region:

**Pinnacle Learning Centres Inc.**

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

**10060 Jasper Ave, Tower 1, Suite 2020**

**Edmonton, AB T5J 3R8**

**[csanelson@pinnaclelearningcentres.com](mailto:csanelson@pinnaclelearningcentres.com)**

**[www.pinnaclelearningcentres.com](http://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](http://isc2.org), follow us on **X**, or connect with us on **Facebook, LinkedIn** and **YouTube**.



**ISC2™**

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