

CISSP® Planning Kit

Your Guide to CISSP Certification and Beyond
(With Your Sanity Intact!)



Certified Information
Systems Security Professional



The Path to CISSP Certification Can Be Complex...

We're here to help you navigate the planning process with ease

Congratulations! You've discovered this amazing planning kit designed to guide you on your journey to CISSP certification.

In the following pages, you'll find:

- ✓ [Fast facts about CISSP](#)
- ✓ [An overview of the CISSP exam](#)
- ✓ [Your success roadmap \(aka, planning and study tips\)](#)
- ✓ [5 Tips to help you maintain your CISSP certification](#)
- ✓ [22 continuing education ideas](#)

As the creators of the CISSP Common Body of Knowledge (CBK), we're here to help navigate you through the certification process. [Contact us with any questions.](#)



Fast Facts About CISSP



Certified Information
Systems Security Professional

INTRODUCED IN 1994



250 Number of CISSP
certification exam questions



Length of the typical
CISSP training course

*(Training can range from 5 days
to 12 weeks depending on
delivery method)*



Amount of time
allowed for taking the
CISSP certification
exam

Amount of work experience
you need to have in two of
the domain areas required for
CISSP certification



Amount of work experience
that allows you to pursue the
CISSP certification via the
Associate of (ISC)²

Learn about domains on the next page

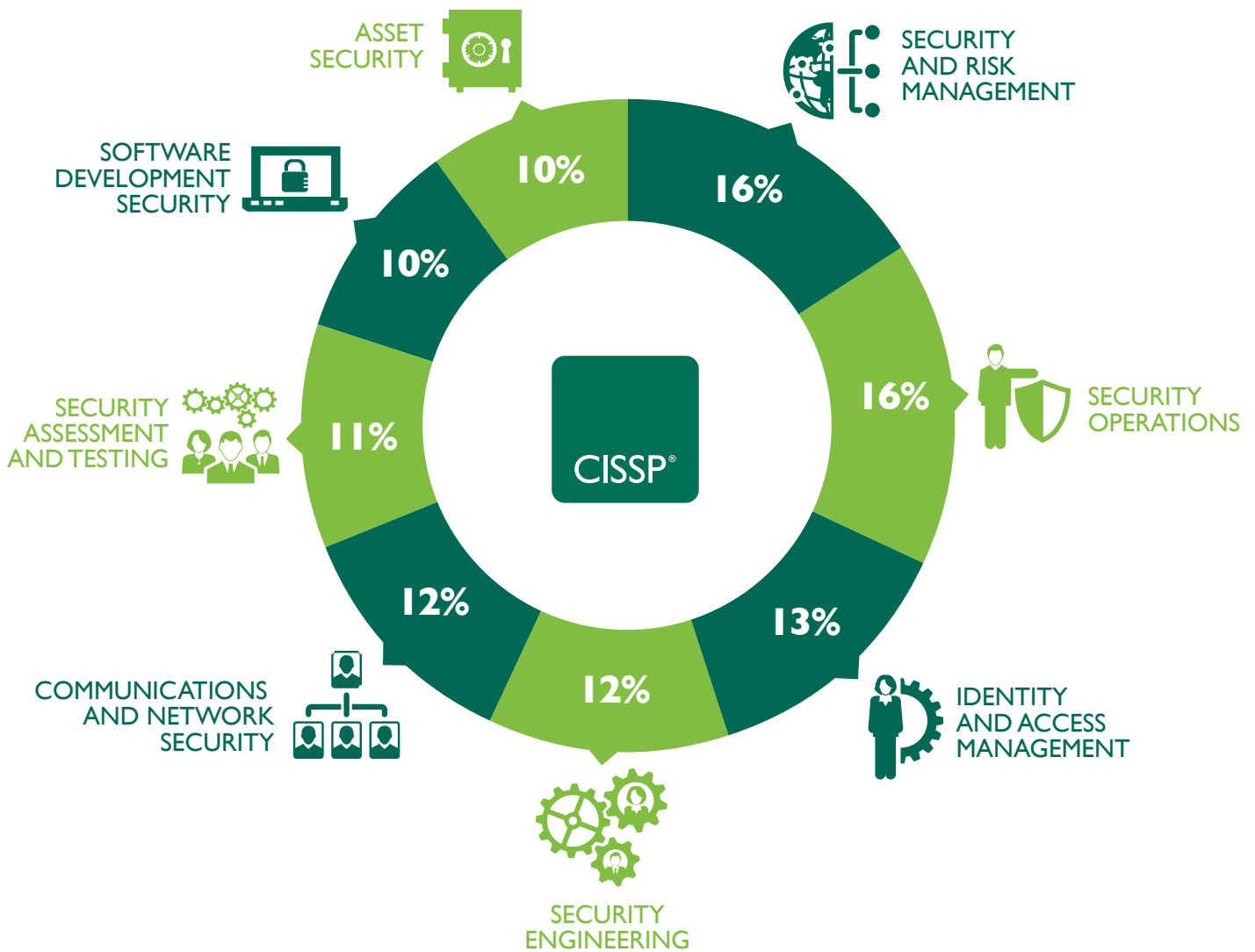
An Overview of the CISSP Exam

What exam topics you will explore

The CISSP is the industry-leading certification for information security professionals. When you earn your CISSP, it shows you have the knowledge and skills of a true expert. Ideally, through continuing professional education, you'll be qualified throughout your lifetime!

The CISSP exam itself covers [8 domain areas](#). Think of the domains as specific knowledge areas you need to know based on your professional experience and education. Some domains carry more exam weight than others.

If you're interested in the CISSP exam outline, [download it here](#).



Percentages = Weight on Exam

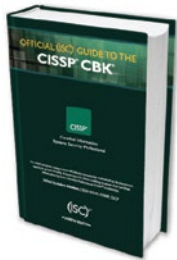
Setting Yourself Up For Success

Get prepared to rock your CISSP certification

Get familiar with the exam. The [exam outline](#) is a great place to start. It's a free resource that details the major topics and subtopics within the 8 domains you will be tested on in the CISSP exam. Reviewing this outline can help set you up for success as you prepare for the exam.

Create urgency and develop a plan. Commit to an exam date early. This can help you stay motivated and allow you to work backwards as you create a study schedule. Stay on track and stick to a routine by blocking study time on your calendar each day.

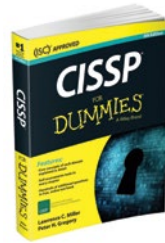
Invest in study materials, starting with the CBK guide book. Take advantage of the many self-study resources available. From a traditional study guide to an on-the-go study app, (ISC)² offers several options to suit your study needs.



Official (ISC)² Guide to the CISSP CBK, 4th Edition



Official (ISC)² CISSP Study Guide, 7th Edition



CISSP for Dummies, 5th Edition



Official (ISC)² CISSP Practice Tests



Official CISSP Study App



Review and refresh your knowledge through training. Attending a formal training once you've begun studying can help reinforce the topics you've already explored. Choosing official training from (ISC)² provides several benefits, like access to the most up-to-date content with a focus on real-world learning activities and scenarios. You'll also be learning from an (ISC)²-authorized instructor who is an industry expert and certified CISSP. And, with diverse training options available - including in-person and online - you can pick what works best for you and your schedule.



Classroom-based



Private, Onsite



Live OnLine



OnDemand

Brush up on less familiar topics. After your training, think about the topics that were covered and if there were any areas where you could improve. Refer back to your study materials and review those domains more closely as you continue to prepare.

Practice, practice, practice! Now's the time to assess your exam readiness by going through realistic practice questions. You can find these practice questions in your CISSP Practice Test Book, CISSP study app, and other study materials. Once you're acing the practice exams, you should feel confident that you're ready to take on the real thing!

Catch some ZZZs. Try to relax in the days leading up to your exam. Go to bed at a reasonable hour the night before, and try to eat a healthy breakfast on the morning of your exam. Remember that the exam is 6 hours - you'll probably want to bring along a snack, too.



*Good luck.
You got this!*

5 Tips to Help You Maintain Your CISSP Certification

The best routes to keep you certified

Earning the CISSP certification is a major career milestone! Of course, the journey doesn't end with passing the exam. Like most professional credentials, CISSP has continuing education requirements.

Below are five ways you can accrue Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credits. Following these simple steps will not only help you keep up with the rapidly evolving cybersecurity landscape and expand your knowledge, but will also allow you to maintain your CISSP status – meaning you won't ever have to worry about taking the intense 6-hour exam again.

1 Track and record your CPEs.

To maintain your CISSP certification you must earn and submit a minimum number of CPE credits during each of your three-year certification cycles, including a minimum number of CPEs that must be earned annually during each year of your three-year cycle.

To keep it simple, set an auto-reminder or note on your calendar to submit your CPEs. Keep in mind that you must have all CPEs submitted on the anniversary of the date that you became certified.

Rather than looking at your continuing education requirements as a nuisance or just another task to cross off your list, remember that education is a lifelong journey.

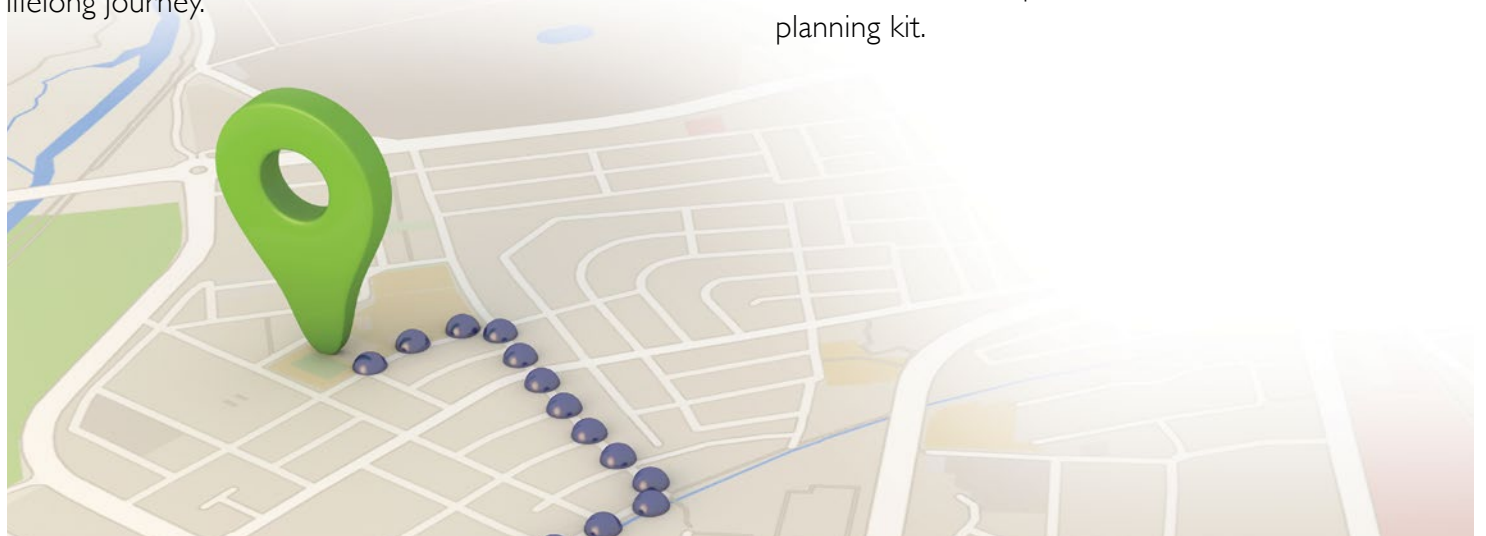
2 Understand CPE activities.

As a professional, you are probably already doing things that count toward your required CPEs. Get credit for it!

Many activities count toward your CPE credits, including:

- ✓ Reading information security blogs
- ✓ Attending webinars or live events
- ✓ Writing articles or presenting to peers
- ✓ Serving as a volunteer leader for a local information security chapters

You can find a complete [list of activities](#) within this planning kit.





3 Utilize the free, ongoing options to earn CPE credits.

It's possible for you to earn all of your CPE credits without spending a dime. Seriously!

Every month there are new learning opportunities offered online, including:

- ✓ 60-minute [ThinkTank Security Leadership Roundtable](#) webinars
- ✓ [From the Trenches](#) webinars
- ✓ Monthly [Security Briefings](#) webinars
- ✓ Quarterly [InfoSecurity Professional](#) e-magazine

4 Be aware there's a grace period if you don't report all of your CPE credits.

Sometimes life gets in the way, and you may forget to report CPEs. For example, you may have reached the end of your three-year renewal cycle...and you haven't documented all of your CPEs yet.

Luckily, there's a 90-day grace period following the certification expiration date to report CPEs to (ISC)², but the credits must have been earned by the expiration date. This provides some buffer room.

And if the 90-day grace period just isn't long enough ...

5 Know that you can retake the CISSP exam if necessary.

When all else fails, it's possible for you to take the exam again to recertify as a CISSP. Yes, it's a long exam, and there will be extra costs for you. Overall, though, it's better than no longer holding the CISSP credential.

The good news is there's usually no need for you to get endorsed again. It's just a matter of you passing the exam and contacting Member Services to reactivate your certification. Note that there is a US\$35 reinstatement fee upon recertification.



The number of CPE credits your employees need each year.



How much time the required CPEs equate to per month.



The length of time the CISSP certification is good for before renewal.



The total number of credits needed to stay CISSP certified by the end of three years.

22 Activities that Qualify for CPE Credits

There are many roads you can travel

Once you've achieved your CISSP, you can earn different types of CPE credits:

- ✓ **Group A credits** are for professional development activities that directly relate to the domains covered by the CISSP exam. Of your 40 required credit hours per year, at least 30 of them need to be from Group A.
- ✓ **Group B credits** are for everything else that enhances your general skills and competencies. There are no mandatory CPE credit requirements for Group B.

Examples of Activities	Group A <i>Topic relates to a CISSP domain(s)</i>	Group A or B <i>Depends on the topic</i>	Group B <i>Topic does not relate to any CISSP domains</i>
Attending educational training courses, seminars, conferences, vendor presentations		✓	
Attending vendor presentations	✓		
Completing higher academic courses		✓	
Preparing for presentation/lecture/training		✓	
Publishing a security article or book	✓		
Performing board service for a professional security company or organization or its parent company (if one exists)	✓		
Completing self-study, and attending computer-based training, webcasts and podcasts		✓	
Reading cyber security book/magazine, including InfoSecurity Professional magazine	✓		
Reading white paper	✓		
Writing a security white paper	✓		

Activities That Qualify for Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Credits (Continued)

- ✓ **Group A credits** are for professional development activities that directly relate to the domains covered by the CISSP exam. Of your 40 required credit hours per year, at least 30 of them need to be from Group A.
- ✓ **Group B credits** are for everything else that enhances your general skills and competencies. There are no mandatory CPE credit requirements for Group B.

Examples of Activities	Group A <i>Topic relates to a CISSP domain(s)</i>	Group A or B <i>Depends on the topic</i>	Group B <i>Topic does not relate to any CISSP domains</i>
Reviewing cyber-security book	✓		
Volunteering for government, public-sector, and other charitable organizations	✓		
Volunteering for and attending information systems/ cyber security professional association chapter meeting		✓	
Safe and Secure Online program	✓		
Performing unique projects and activities on-the-job	✓		
Preparing new or updating existing training seminar or classroom material	✓		
Management or accounting courses			✓
Education related to interpersonal communication skills			✓
Education related to interviewing techniques			✓
Education related to development skills			✓
Education related to project planning skills			✓
Education related to technical skills not in information security — such as programming languages and techniques			✓

About (ISC)²

(ISC)² 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, (ISC)² offers a portfolio of credentials that are part of a holistic, programmatic approach to security.

Our membership, over 115,000 strong, is made up of certified cyber, information, software and infrastructure security professionals who are making a difference and helping to advance the industry.

For more information about CISSP training in North America:

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