# What is the CISSP®?

(ISC)2's Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP®) is *the* gold standard professional certification for experienced information security and related professionals worldwide. Increasingly it is expected. It covers a vast range of knowledge, described as a "mile wide and an inch deep" spanning 8 domains (updated in April 2018):

1. Security and Risk Management (e.g., Security, Risk)

2. Asset Security (Protecting Security of Assets)

3. Security Engineering (Engineering and Management of Security)

4. Communications and Network Security (Designing and Protecting Network Security)

5. Identity and Access Management (Controlling Access and Managing Identity)

6. Security Assessment and Testing (Designing, Performing, and Analyzing Security Testing)

7. Security Operations (e.g. Foundational Concepts, Investigations, Incident Management, Disaster Recovery)

8. Software Development Security (Understanding, Applying, and Enforcing Software Security)

**What is required for CISSP certification**

Please refer to https://www.ISC2.org for current details, as they may change without notice.

Generally, certification requires 4 or 5 years of relevant experience in at least two of CISSP domains, passing of the difficult exam, application, endorsement by a current CISSP, subscription to the Code of Ethics, continuing education, and fees.

Only 4 years' experience, instead of 5, is required with a four-year degree or possession of any one of the following certifications:

Certified Authorization Professional (CAP)

Certified Business Continuity Professional

Certified Cloud Security Professional (CCSP)

Certified Computer Examiner (CCE)

Certified Cyber Forensic Professional (CCFP)

Certified Ethical Hacker v8 or higher

Certified Forensic Computer Examiner (CFCE)

Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE)

Certified Information Security Manager (CISM)

Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA)

Certified Internal Auditor (CIA)

Certified Penetration Tester (GPEN)

Certified Protection Professional (CPP) from ASIS

Certified Secure Software Lifecycle Professional (CSSLP)

Certified Wireless Security Professional (CWSP)

Cisco Certified Network Associate Security (CCNA Security)

Cisco Certified Network Professional Security (CCNP Security)

Cisco Cyber Security Specialist Program

CIW – Security Analyst

CIW Web Security Professional

CIW Web Security Specialist

CompTIA Advanced Security Practitioner (CASP)

CompTIA Security+

CyberSecurity Forensic Analyst (CSFA)

GIAC Certified Enterprise Defender (GCED)

GIAC Certified Firewall Analyst (GCFW)

GIAC Certified Forensic Analyst (GCFA)

GIAC Certified Forensics Examiner (GCFE)

GIAC Certified Incident Handler (GCIH)

GIAC Certified Intrusion Analyst (GCIA)

GIAC Global Industrial Cyber Security Professional (GICSP)

GIAC Information Security Fundamentals (GISF)

GIAC Information Security Professional (GISP)

GIAC Mobile Device Security Analyst (GMOB)

GIAC Penetration Tester (GPEN)

GIAC Security Essentials Certificate (GSEC)

GIAC Security Leadership Certification (GSLC)

GIAC Systems and Network Auditor (GSNA)

HealthCare Information Security and Privacy Practitioner (HCISPP)

Information Security Management Systems Lead Auditor (IRCA)

Information Security Management Systems Principal Auditor (IRCA)

Master Business Continuity Professional (MBCP)

Microsoft Certified IT Professional (MCITP)

Microsoft Certified Solutions Associate (MCSA)

Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE)

Systems Security Certified Practitioner (SSCP)

You may take and pass the exam before your years of experience have accrued in which case you will temporarily be an Associate of the (ISC)2.

**The CISSP exam**

Please refer to https://www8.PearsonVUE.com/isc2/ for current details, as they may change without notice.

The actual (ISC)2 certification exam is computer-based, administered independently at any PearsonVUE testing facility. That cost is NOT included as part of the boot camp and the timing is entirely between you and them.

**Exam fees**

Please refer to (ISC)2 and PearsonVUE for current pricing, as this may change without notice. At the time of this writing the fees were:

- $699 (ISC)2 exam fee

- $50 PearsonVUE fee to reschedule a scheduled exam

- $100 PearsonVUE fee to cancel a scheduled exam

**Scheduling, rescheduling and cancelling an exam with PearsonVUE**

Plan ahead: PearsonVUE locations have a limited number of test stations, used for a wide diversity of professional exams, and schedule exams on a first-come-first-serve basis.

For information about taking the exam, refer to https://www8.PearsonVUE.com/isc2/.

To schedule the exam online, go to https://www8.PearsonVUE.com/isc2/schedule/.

To schedule the exam by phone, refer to https://www8.PearsonVUE.com/isc2/contact/.

To reschedule or cancel an exam, you must contact PearsonVUE at least 48 hours before the exam date online at https://www8.PearsonVUE.com/isc2/ OR at least 24 hours in advance by phone as described at

https://www8.PearsonVUE.com/isc2/contact/. Exam fees are forfeited for no-shows.

**PearsonVUE admission policy**

Plan to arrive at the test center 30 minutes before your scheduled appointment time. This will give you adequate time to complete the necessary sign-in procedures. Be prepared to show two (2) valid, unexpired forms of personal ID (examples include: government issued IDs, passports, etc.). Both must have your signature, and one of the two must have your photo. For more information about acceptable IDs please visit: www.isc2.org/cbt-identification.aspx. If you arrive more than 15 minutes late for your appointment, you may be refused admission and exam fees may be forfeited.

Expect to be photographed and to have a biometric scan taken (probably a palm vein scan), and to sign documentation including a Non-Disclosure Agreement (http://www.pearsonvue.com/isc2/isc2_nda.pdf).

The first and last name on the presented identification must exactly match the name on the registration with PearsonVUE. If the name the candidate registers with does not match the name on the identification, proof of legal name change must be brought to the test center on the day of the test. The only acceptable forms of legal documentation are: marriage licenses, divorce decrees, or court sanctioned legal name change documents. All documents presented at the test center must be original documents. If there is a mistake with the name made during the application process, please contact (ISC)² to correct the information well in advance of the actual test. Name changes cannot be made at the test center.

No personal items may be taken into the testing room. This includes all bags, books, notes, phones, pagers, watches and wallets.

**PearsonVUE testing tutorial and practice exam**

Although we do not feel it is necessary, PearsonVUE offers a testing tutorial and practice exam:

> • Download PearsonVUE Tutorial and Practice Exam (44.7 MB)

> • View system requirements and download instructions

The first part of the tutorial illustrates all the functions that you may be asked to use when taking a computer-based test including how to answer questions, change answers, and review questions. You may also view this portion of the tutorial without downloading the software to your computer. Refer to http://www.pearsonvue.com/athena/HTML/.

The second part of the tutorial is "Practice Exam." This section allows you to become familiar with the operations of computer-based examinations. There is no CISSP specific content in this "practice exam", but it does provide the opportunity to use all of the functions to enter responses, view visuals and exhibits, scroll pages and review items. Examples of each type of function are shown.

**Exam duration and scoring**

The (ISC)2 exam consists of 100-150 questions, each 4-answer multiple choice where the best answer of possibly multiple correct answers must be selected, over 1-3 hours. It is *aggressively adaptive* (Computerized Adaptive Testing), typically asking questions that it estimates you will have only a 50% chance of answering correctly. So, expect difficult questions and to feel that you are doing poorly.

25 of the questions are not, but you will not know which questions. 1000 points are distributed in some fashion across the scored questions and 700 is the passing score.

Generally, you will be informed immediately at the end of the exam if you have passed or not. If you did not, you will be provided guidance as to strong and weak areas for further development toward retesting. No numerical score is provided to those who pass the exam.

**Will you pass the exam?**

Virtually all past participants with several years of experience and 2-4 months of intense part-time study before and/or after the boot camp have passed on their first try. Some passed it the next day, although that is not recommended due to the mental fatigue of a boot camp. For some, the boot camp showed areas requiring further study and they pushed out their exam a few weeks and then passed.

Some wanted exposure to the information and didn't intend to take the exam for several months if ever -- they were welcome to attend. Passing the exam cannot be guaranteed. The CISSP requires years of experience and extensive study which this boot camp will wonderfully complement but cannot substitute.

**Failing and repeating the exam**

If you fail to pass the exam in your first attempt you are allowed 3 more attempts, at full price. You must wait 30 days before attempting the second time. You must wait 90 days before attempting the third time. You must wait 180 days before attempting the fourth time in a year.

Questions? Email Bill@SynesysGroup.com