

Systems Security
Certified Practitioner

An (ISC)[®] Certification

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO THE SSCP

Jumpstart Your IT Security Career

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. (ISC)² 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 professional's certification. See how the SSCP – and (ISC)² – can distinguish you as a globally respected security leader.

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SSCP®

Systems Security
Certified Practitioner
An (ISC)² Certification

Is the SSCP Right for Me?

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.

Experience

To qualify for the SSCP, candidates must pass the exam and have at least one year of cumulative, paid work experience in one or more of the seven domains of the (ISC)² SSCP Common Body of Knowledge (CBK[®]).

A candidate who doesn't yet have the required experience to become a SSCP may become an [Associate of \(ISC\)²](#) after successfully passing the SSCP exam. The Associate of (ISC)² will then have two years to earn the experience needed for SSCP certification.

1
YEAR

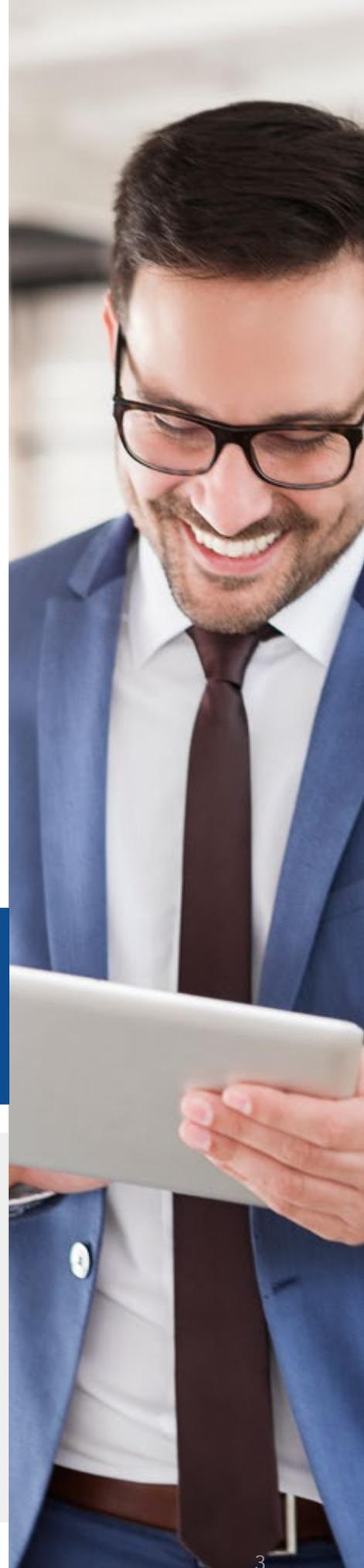
Discover Your Path



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

Jobs that Typically Use or Require the SSCP

- » Database Administrator
- » Network Security Engineer
- » Security Administrator
- » Security Analyst
- » Security Consultant/Specialist
- » Systems Administrator
- » Systems Engineer
- » Systems/Network Analyst



The SSCP has helped tremendously by deepening my knowledge of information security and 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
Didsbury, Alberta, Canada

SSCP provides knowledge on everything SOC analysts need to perform their daily tasks. And since it is vendor-neutral, you can apply this knowledge on any device. Having your SSCP and being part of (ISC)² also helps you build connections with peers and stay up-to-date on the latest security threats.



Ronald Ricohermoso
IS Security Operations
Analyst
Ingram Micro
Philippines

SSCPs from Around the Globe



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
UNC Chapel Hill
Greensboro, North Carolina, U.S.A



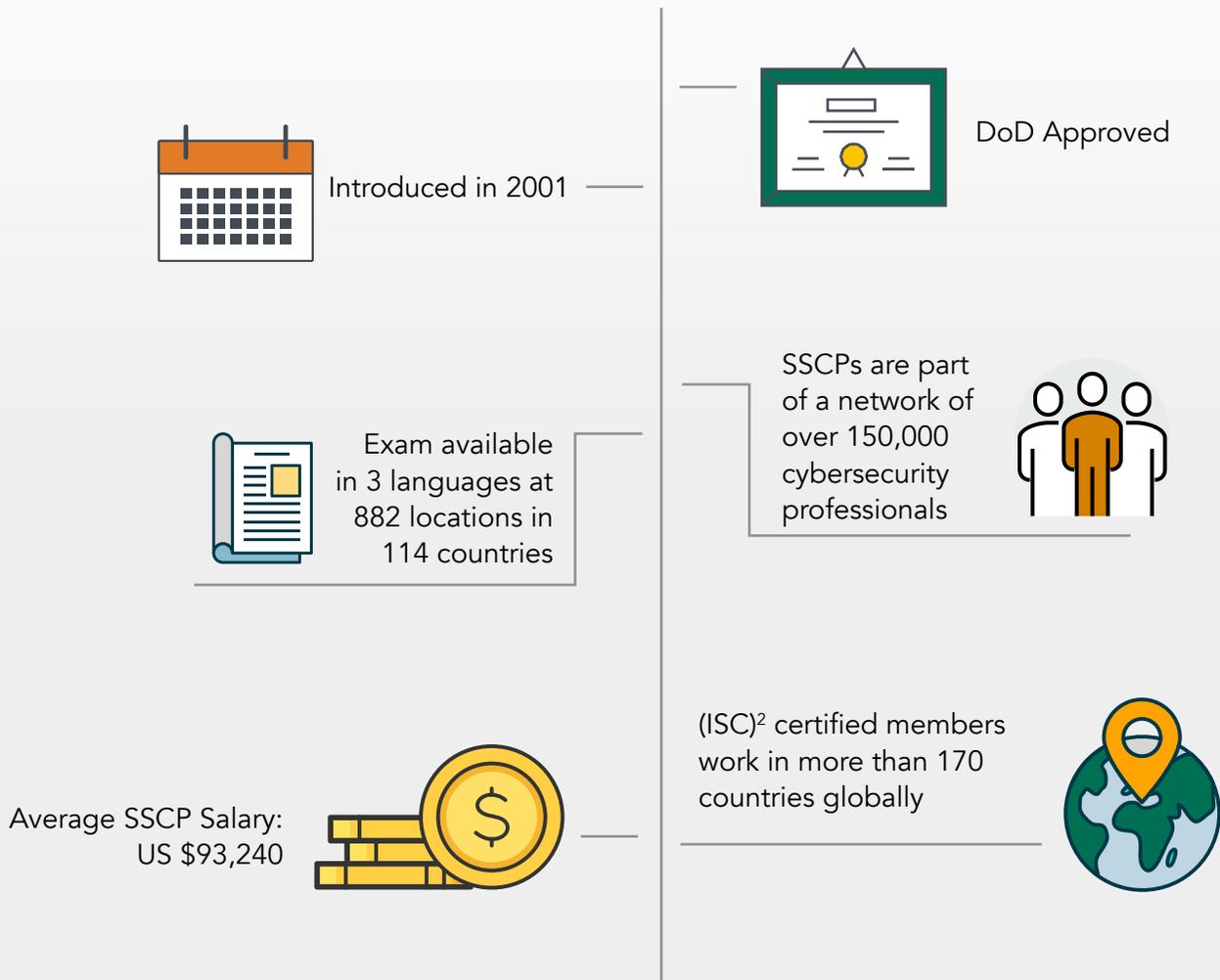
Earning the SSCP has completely elevated my career. If you're considering this certification, pursue it all the way. It shows that you're serious about cybersecurity and positions you to deliver expert consultation and analysis to your organization and community.

Kreesan Govender
Information Security Risk
and Compliance Specialist
MiWay Insurance (Santam Group)
Johannesburg, South Africa

Join the (ISC)² Community!

Meet, learn from and ask questions of SSCPs in our virtual community. You don't have to be an (ISC)² member to join [relevant discussions](#) with a network of security professionals focused on ensuring a safe and secure cyber world.

Fast Facts About SSCP



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 Being SSCP-Certified

Career advancement

Raise visibility and credibility, improve job security and create new opportunities.



Versatile skills

Vendor-neutral so skills can be applied to different technologies and methodologies.



Respect

Differentiate yourself to employers, clients and peers.



Solid foundation

Be better prepared to stem cyber attacks and inspire a safe and secure cyber world.



Community of professionals

Gain access to (and respect from) a global community of like-minded cybersecurity leaders.



Higher salaries

On average, (ISC)² members report earning 35% more than non-members.



Expanded knowledge

Reach a deeper, better and broader understanding of the common body of knowledge for cybersecurity.



Stronger skill set

Expand the skills and knowledge needed to fulfill organizational duties.



Benefits of (ISC)² Membership

Once you earn your SSCP, you become an (ISC)² member and part of a professional community that never stops learning and growing. You also gain access to a full suite of benefits and resources for continuing education and development:

- » Free online (ISC)² Professional Development Institute courses
- » Free subscription to InfoSecurity Professional Magazine
- » Member pricing for (ISC)² events
- » 50% off official (ISC)² textbooks
- » Deep discounts on industry conferences
- » Expert-led webinars on the latest security issues
- » The ability to join or start a local (ISC)² Chapter
- » Volunteer opportunities
- » Safe and Secure Online program
- » Professional recognition through (ISC)² Awards Programs
- » Digital badges to promote expertise
- » (ISC)² Member Perks



Digital Badges Show Off Your Skills

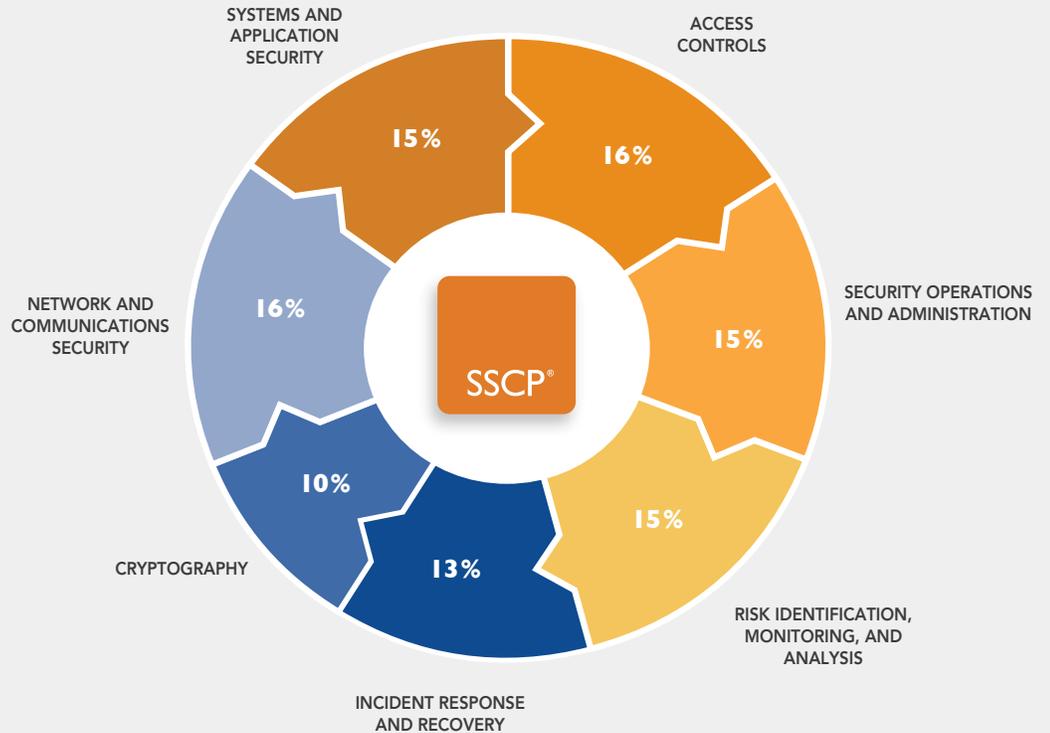
A digital badge is the cool (and secure) way to share your credential online. You can attach it to a website, digital resume, email signature or social network. And with one simple click, employers and colleagues can verify your credential – and all that's required to earn it.

Easy to claim and use, digital badges let you...

- » Share abilities online
- » Prove verification of abilities in real time
- » Show the experience and knowledge required to earn your SSCP

SSCP 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.



125

Number of SSCP certification exam items

3

Maximum amount of time allowed for taking the SSCP exam

hrs.

700

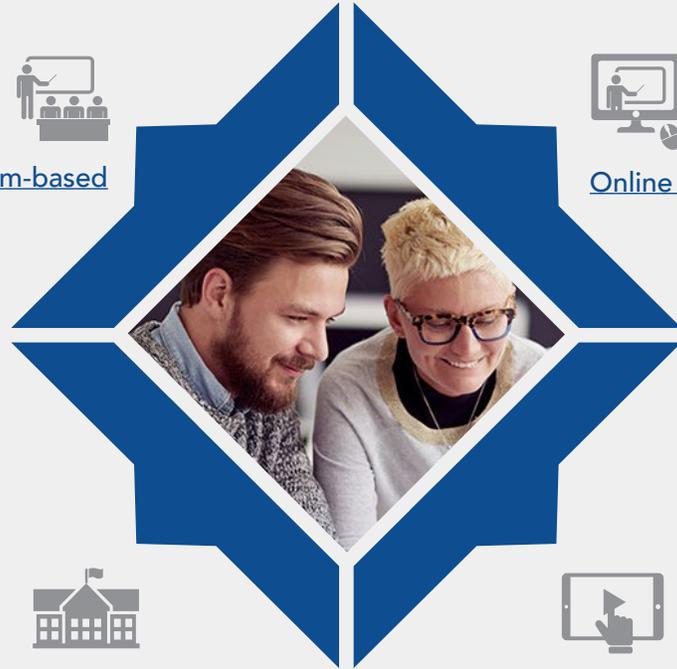
Score you need out of 1,000 to pass the exam

Exam availability:
English, Japanese and
Brazilian Portuguese

Testing Centers:
Pearson VUE

Official SSCP Training

With self-paced or instructor-led online and classroom courses, (ISC)² has a training option to fit different schedules and learning styles. Trainings, seminars, courseware and self-study aids directly from (ISC)² or one of our many Official Training Providers help you get ready for the SSCP exam by reviewing relevant domains and topics.



SSCP Study Resources

- » [Exam Outline](#)
- » [Official \(ISC\)² Guide to the SSCP CBK](#)
- » [Official \(ISC\)² SSCP Study Guide](#)
- » [Official \(ISC\)² SSCP Study App](#)
- » [Official \(ISC\)² SSCP Practice Test](#)
- » [Official SSCP Flash Cards](#)
- » [Suggested References](#)
- » [Free SSCP Webcast Series](#)

Create Your Plan



Get your copy of the (ISC)² Certification Prep Kit.

Pathway to SSCP Certification

Obtain the Required Experience

To qualify for the SSCP, candidates must have at least one year of cumulative, paid full-time work experience in one or more of the seven domains:

Domain 1. Access Controls

Domain 2. Security Operations and Administration

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 have enough experience yet, you can still pass the SSCP exam and become an [Associate of \(ISC\)²](#) while you earn the work experience needed.

Study for the Exam

Many [self-study resources](#) are available from (ISC)² – the creator and keeper of the SSCP CBK – to help you prepare with confidence. Some SSCP candidates pass the exam with self-study, and many choose to attend an [Official \(ISC\)² Training](#) seminar to review and refresh knowledge before sitting for the exam.

Pass the Exam

Candidates are given a maximum of three hours to complete the 125-item SSCP exam. If you're ready now, schedule your exam by creating an account with [Pearson VUE](#), the leading provider of global, computer-based testing for certification and licensure exams.

Get Endorsed

After you pass the exam, you will have nine months from the date of the exam to complete the [\(ISC\)² endorsement process](#).

Earn CPEs

Once you are certified, you become a member of (ISC)² 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 CPEs

U.S. \$125 AMF

3 years

Members with multiple (ISC)² certifications only pay a single AMF.

Free CPE Opportunities

The CPE 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.

(ISC)² makes it possible for you to earn all your CPE credits without spending a dime.



Join Webinars

- Think Tanks
- Security Briefings
- eSymposiums
- Solutions Summit



Read & Write

- Read the bimonthly InfoSecurity Professional e-magazine and take a short quiz
- Subscribe to and summarize an information security magazine
- 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 & Events

- (ISC)² Chapter meetings
- Prepare or attend an educational presentation related to the SSCP CBK domains
- (ISC)² Professional Development Institute courses



Volunteer

- Become a Safe and Secure Online Ambassador and spread your knowledge about cyber safety in your community
- Volunteer to help develop (ISC)² Certification exams

(ISC)² Professional Development Institute



Certification Is Just the Beginning

The (ISC)² Professional Development Institute (PDI) is your go-to resource for timely and relevant continuing education opportunities that will keep your skills sharp and curiosity piqued. All courses are designed with input from leading industry experts and based on proven learning techniques. And best of all, they're **FREE** to (ISC)² members and count toward CPE credits.

Not a member yet? PDI courses are available for purchase, so you have the opportunity to learn how to better secure critical assets and consistently grow as a cybersecurity professional.

Course types include:

- **Immersive** – in-depth investigations of a single topic delivered in an online, self-paced format.
- **Lab** – hands-on approach enabling learners to practice specific technical skills within a virtual machine environment.
- **Express Learning** – topical short-format modules that leverage the expertise of (ISC)² members.

Go beyond certification with courses from our growing portfolio.

Learn more about PDI and the free courses offered to (ISC)² members:



www.isc2.org/development



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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: +852.2850.6951 Email: isc2asia@isc2.org

Japan: Phone: +81-3-5322-2837 Email: infoisc2-j@isc2.org

China: Email: isc2china@isc2.org



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, more than 150,000 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 (ISC)²,
visit www.isc2.org, follow us on **Twitter** or connect with us on **Facebook** and **LinkedIn**.