

(ISC)²[®]



Candidate Information Bulletin

Table of Contents

- About Certifications 4
 - Why Certify? Become a Better Version of Yourself 4
 - Which Certification is Right For You? 4
- Path to Certification 7
 - Complete the Endorsement Process..... 7
 - Endorsement Time Limit 7
 - Agree to the (ISC)² Code of Ethics 7
 - Pay Your First Annual Maintenance Fee..... 7
 - Certified Members AMFs 7
 - Associates of (ISC)² AMFs 8
 - Recertification by Examination 8
- Benefits of (ISC)² Membership 9
 - The Value of Certification 9
 - Unmatched Member Benefits 9
 - Professional Development Institute 9
 - CPE Opportunities 9
 - Manage Your Membership 9
 - Engage, Volunteer & Grow 10
 - Discount, Perks & Resources..... 10
- About the Exam 11
 - Registering for the Exam 11
 - Get Ready for Test Day 11
 - Rescheduling or Cancelling an Exam..... 11
 - Exam Format and Scoring 12
 - Policies and Procedures for Your Cybersecurity Exam..... 13
 - Rescheduling or Cancelling an Exam..... 13
 - Refunds 13
 - Late Arrivals or No Shows 13
 - What You Need to Bring to the Test Center 13
 - What You Shouldn't Bring Into the Test Center 14
 - Name Matching Policy..... 14
 - The Day of Your Exam..... 15
 - Check-In Process..... 15
 - Exam Assistance and Breaks 15
 - Testing Environment..... 15
 - When You Finish Your Exam 16
 - Technical Issues 16

Receiving Your Results	16
Exam Irregularities and Results Invalidation	17
Retake Policy.....	17
(ISC) ² Pass or Fail Decision Rules	18
Alternate Item Formats	18
CISSP Passing Standard	19
Similar Items	19
Guessing	19
Additional Examination Information	20

About Certifications

Information security skills are in higher demand than ever before. But these days, knowledge, experience and skills aren't enough. Employers want proof you have the expertise they need. They want to see your information security certifications. They want to know you're continually improving your skills to stay up to the latest threats and technology. Certify your skills through (ISC)² - the global leader in information security certifications, which are known as the gold standard of the industry.

Why Certify? Become a Better Version of Yourself

When you earn one of our certifications, you:

- Confirm you're a leader and expert in your field.
- Differentiate yourself from other candidates for desirable job openings.
- Validate the knowledge and skills you've gained through all your years of hard work.
- Gain entry into (ISC)² membership. It's a unique community of thought leaders in cybersecurity, so you can collaborate and hone your craft.
- Get insider access to peer networking, mentoring, educational tools and global resources. You can grow and challenge yourself. (ISC)² is on the forefront of helping professionals – like you – learn, certify and grow throughout their careers.
- Gain the power, education and networking system to face security threats head on.

Which Certification is Right For You?

- **CISSP (Certified Information Systems Security Professional):** The most-esteemed cybersecurity certification in the world. The CISSP recognizes information security leaders who understand cybersecurity strategy, as well as hands-on implementation. It shows you have the knowledge and experience to design, develop and manage the overall security posture of an organization.
 - **Experience Required:** Candidates must have a minimum of five years cumulative, paid, full-time work experience in two or more of the eight domains of the CISSP Common Body of Knowledge (CBK). Only a one-year experience exemption is granted for education.
- **SSCP (Systems Security Certified Practitioner):** A global IT security certification. The SSCP recognizes your hands-on, technical abilities and practical experience. It shows you have the skills to implement, monitor and administer IT infrastructure using information security policies and procedures — ensuring the confidentiality, integrity and availability of data.
 - **Experience Required:** Candidates must have a minimum of one year of cumulative work experience in one or more of the seven domains of the SSCP Common Body of Knowledge (CBK). A one-year experience waiver will be granted for a candidate who received a degree (bachelors or masters) in a cybersecurity program.
- **CCSP (Certified Cloud Security Professional):** The premier cloud security certification. One of the hottest certifications on the market today. The CCSP 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.

- Experience Required: Candidates must have a minimum of five years cumulative, paid, full-time work experience in information technology. Three years must be in information security, and one year must be in one or more of the six domains of the CCSP Common Body of Knowledge (CBK). Earning the Cloud Security Alliance's CCSK certificate can be substituted for one year of experience in one or more of the six domains of the CCSP CBK. Earning (ISC)²'s CISSP credential can be substituted for the entire CCSP experience requirement.
- CAP (Certified Authorization Professional): An information security certification aligning with the Risk Management Framework (RMF). The CAP recognizes your knowledge, skills and abilities to authorize and maintain information systems within the RMF. It proves you know how to formalize processes to assess risk and establish security documentation.
 - Experience Required: Candidates must have a minimum of two years cumulative, paid, full-time work experience in one or more of the seven domains of the CAP Common Body of Knowledge (CBK).
- CSSLP (Certified Secure Software Lifecycle Professional): A global, vendor-neutral certification to recognize those with leading software and application security skills. The CSSLP recognizes your expertise and ability to incorporate security practices — authentication, authorization and auditing — into each phase of the SDLC.
 - Experience Required: Candidates must have a minimum of four years cumulative, paid, full-time SDLC professional experience in one or more of the eight domains of the CSSLP Common Body of Knowledge (CBK). Earning a four-year college degree or regional equivalent will waive one year of the required experience. Only a one-year experience exemption is granted for education.
- HCISPP (HealthCare Information Security and Privacy Practitioner): A global healthcare security certification. It bridges healthcare information security and privacy like no other certification! The HCISPP recognizes your knowledge and ability to successfully implement, manage or assess security and privacy controls for healthcare and patient information. It proves you have a strong foundation in healthcare risk, security and privacy, and you understand important healthcare regulations.
 - Experience Required: Candidates must have a minimum of two years cumulative, paid, full-time work experience in one or more knowledge areas of the HCISPP Common Body of Knowledge (CBK) that includes security, compliance and privacy. Legal experience may be substituted for compliance. Information management experience may be substituted for privacy. Of the two years of experience, one of those years must be in the healthcare industry.
- CISSP-ISSAP (Information System Security Architecture Professional): Elite, specialized credentials that build upon the CISSP. These are optional pursuits for CISSPs who wish to prove their subject matter mastery. As a CISSP-ISSAP, you prove your expertise developing, designing and analyzing security solutions. You also excel at giving risk-based guidance to senior management in order to meet organizational goals.
 - Experience Required: Candidates must be a CISSP in good standing and have two years cumulative, paid, full-time work experience in one or more of the six domains of the CISSP-ISSAP Common Body of Knowledge (CBK).

- CISSP-ISSEP (Information Systems Security Engineering Professional): Elite, specialized credentials that build upon the CISSP. These are optional pursuits for CISSPs who wish to prove their subject matter mastery. As a CISSP-ISSEP, you show your keen ability to practically apply systems engineering principles and processes to develop secure systems.
 - Experience Required: Candidates must be a CISSP in good standing and have two years cumulative, paid, full-time work experience in one or more of the five domains of the CISSP-ISSEP Common Body of Knowledge (CBK).

- CISSP-ISSMP (Information Systems Security Management Professional): Elite, specialized credentials that build upon the CISSP. These are optional pursuits for CISSPs who wish to prove their subject matter mastery. As a CISSP-ISSMP, you excel at establishing, presenting and governing information security programs. You also demonstrate deep management and leadership skills.
 - Experience Required: Candidates must be a CISSP in good standing and have two years cumulative, paid, full-time work experience in one or more of the six domains of the CISSP-ISSMP Common Body of Knowledge (CBK).

- Associate of (ISC)²: A unique designation to validate your skills and rapidly advance toward certification. The Associate of (ISC)² proves your knowledge in cybersecurity.
 - Experience Required: You can take an (ISC)² certification exam without the minimum work experience. If you pass, you need to meet your continuing professional education (CPE) requirements, while you work to get the experience needed to certify as a CISSP, SSCP, CCSP, CAP, CSSLP, HCISPP or CCFP.

[Exam outlines](#) are available for all (ISC)² certifications, and they provide details on the domains covered by each exam.

Path to Certification

To qualify for this cybersecurity certification, you must pass the exam and meet the experience requirements or become an Associate of (ISC)².

Complete the Endorsement Process

Once you receive notification informing you that you have successfully passed the exam, you can start the online endorsement process. The application must be endorsed and digitally signed by an (ISC)² certified professional. If you do not know an (ISC)² certified professional in good standing, (ISC)² can act as an endorser for you. The (ISC)² certified professional is anyone who:

- Is able to attest to your professional experience
- Is an active (ISC)² credential holder in good standing

The endorser will attest that your assertions regarding professional experience are true to the best of the endorser's knowledge, and that you are in good standing within the cybersecurity industry. You will need the endorser's member/certification number when filling out the online application.

Endorsement Time Limit

All candidates who pass the exam must complete the endorsement process within a time period of no longer than nine months.

Please note: A percentage of the candidates who pass the exam and submit an endorsement will be randomly selected for audit and required to submit additional information, as required, for verification. You will be notified via email if your application is selected for audit.

Agree to the (ISC)² Code of Ethics

All information security professionals who are certified by (ISC)² recognize that such certification is a privilege that must be both earned and maintained. All (ISC)² members are required to commit to fully support (ISC)² Code of Ethics Canons:

- Protect society, the common good, necessary public trust and confidence, and the infrastructure.
- Act honorably, honestly, justly, responsibly, and legally.
- Provide diligent and competent service to principles.
- Advance and protect the profession.

Pay Your First Annual Maintenance Fee

Once your endorsement application has been approved, the final step in the process is to pay your first Annual Maintenance Fee (AMF). If you already hold an (ISC)² certification you will not have to pay an additional AMF for your latest certification.

Certified Members AMFs

(ISC)² certified members pay a single AMF of U.S.\$125 which is due each year upon the anniversary of their certification date. Members only pay a single AMF of U.S.\$125 regardless of how many certifications they earn. AMFs for members with multiple certifications are due on their earliest certification anniversary.

Associates of (ISC)² AMFs

Associates of (ISC)² pay an AMF of U.S.\$50 which is due each year upon the anniversary of achieving their associate status.

Recertification by Examination

In order to be reinstated once a certification or designation is suspended, certified members and associates of (ISC)² are required to submit all outstanding CPE credits and pay all past due AMFs. Certified members and associates of (ISC)² are given a 90-day grace period from the end of their certification cycle to fulfill outstanding CPE credits and past due AMFs. Suspension status may be maintained for up to two consecutive years. In recognition of their prior demonstrated expertise, suspended members and associates are not required to retake the exam and can opt to pay a one-time U.S. \$600 reinstatement fee instead of reinvesting the time and money to retest.

After two years, certified members and associates of (ISC)² will be terminated, and all membership rights will be revoked. Terminated certified members and associates wishing to be reinstated will be required to retake and pass the examination and pay a U.S. \$600 reinstatement fee.



Benefits of (ISC)² Membership

(ISC)² is an international, nonprofit membership association for security leaders like you. We're committed to helping our members learn, grow and thrive. More than 150,000 certified members strong, we empower the professionals who touch every aspect of cyber, information, software, IT and infrastructure security.

With an (ISC)² certification, you join a globally recognized family of cyber and IT security professionals. You'll have access to a broad array of exclusive resources, educational tools and peer-to-peer networking opportunities, conference and event discounts, and much more to help strengthen your career while helping us accomplish our mission of inspiring a safe and secure cyber world.

The Value of Certification

(ISC)² is acknowledged as the global, nonprofit leader in educating and certifying professionals throughout their careers. Our reputation has earned our cyber and IT security certifications and training programs recognition as the Gold Standard of the industry.

When you become certified through (ISC)², you earn tested and verifiable proof of proficiency in your field, leading to career advancement and new professional growth opportunities.

Unmatched Member Benefits

As an (ISC)² member, you never stop learning and growing. We provide access to a full suite of benefits and resources to help enable your continuing education and development to keep you ahead of the latest cyberthreats, best practices and industry trends.

Members and associates enjoy access to a full spectrum of resources and exclusive benefits that enable them to expand their skillset and earn CPEs, including enriching professional development and volunteer opportunities; peer-to-peer networking and best-practice sharing; the (ISC)² Security Congress annual cybersecurity conference; professional recognition and awards programs; industry event and learning materials discounts, and more.

Professional Development Institute

Free, immersive continuing education courses to help members and associates earn rewarding CPEs while keeping their skills sharp and curiosity piqued. Available at no additional cost to members and associates, the PDI library now includes 35 express learning, immersive and lab-style courses valued at more than \$10,000.

CPE Opportunities

We offer a wide array of rewarding CPE opportunities that help members and associates evolve and grow as security professionals. Our thought-provoking events, webinars, publications and volunteering for exam development workshops are a great way to earn CPEs and stay current on the latest issues and best practices in cybersecurity.

Manage Your Membership

Download your digital certificate, claim your digital badge, review your CPEs, update your communication preferences and more. Make sure you're taking full advantage of your (ISC)² membership.

Engage, Volunteer & Grow

Learn about the many opportunities to grow professionally, share best practices, become a mentor, recognize achievements and more.

- **Exam Development:** Ensure (ISC)² certifications remain up-to-date and relevant to the industry through participating in various exam development workshops, including item writing to earn CPEs while providing invaluable input to the certifications you've earned.
- **Security Congress:** Attend (ISC)² Security Congress and take advantage of the powerful collaboration that you can only find at a conference of your peers who are dedicated to helping one another solve the challenges we all face.
- **Center for Cyber Safety and Education:** Find opportunities to volunteer in your community to keep children, parents and the elderly safe and secure online. Plus, learn about scholarships and get resources to share with your employer.
- **Community:** Connect with cybersecurity professionals from around the world in our online Community. Collaborate, share knowledge and develop best practices required to manage the ever-evolving needs and interests of the cyber industry.
- **Chapters:** (ISC)² Chapters provide the opportunity to build a local network of peers to share knowledge, exchange resources, collaborate on projects and create new ways to earn CPE credits.
- **(ISC)² Blog:** The (ISC)² Blog covers topics facing cybersecurity professionals. Read the posts to learn about new research, reports and certification news. (ISC)² members can write their own posts and earn CPEs.

Discount, Perks & Resources

Take advantage of a wide array of exclusive member discounts and perks, ranging from savings on training materials to discounts on professional services.

About the Exam

Registering for the Exam

1. Visit the Pearson VUE website <https://home.pearsonvue.com/isc2>
2. Create an account and review the Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA). Pearson VUE is the exclusive, global administrator of all (ISC)² exams.
3. Select exam type.
4. Schedule your exam and testing location.
5. Pay for your exam.
6. Look for email confirmation from Pearson VUE with your appointment details, test center location and any other instructions, if any.
7. Pearson VUE will transfer your registration information to (ISC)². All communication about the testing process will be sent to you via email. You may register by phone instead; you can find the phone number for your region on the [Pearson VUE website](#).

Questions?

Contact (ISC)² Candidate and Member Services

- Phone: +1.866-331-ISC2 (4722), press 1 for candidate support
- Email: membersupport@isc2.org

Get Ready for Test Day

- Familiarize yourself with the [\(ISC\)² candidate background qualifications](#). These are the standards you need to meet to become an (ISC)² member when you pass your exam.
- Each exam is computer-based. You can watch both a demo and a tutorial of the exam experience on the Pearson VUE website.
- By taking an (ISC)² exam, you are agreeing that you have read the [\(ISC\)² Examination Agreement](#) and fully understand and accept your obligations. Release of Pearson VUE credentials to unauthorized third parties is a violation of (ISC)² Non-Disclosure Agreement. Authorized third parties include Candidate, Pearson VUE and (ISC)². Violations of the (ISC)² Non-Disclosure Agreement may result in the immediate and permanent termination of your exam result or certification(s).
- If you are eligible for assistance covering your exam fee through the GI Bill, [learn more about Veteran Benefits](#).

Rescheduling or Cancelling an Exam

- (ISC)² provides reasonable and appropriate accommodations for its exams with people who have demonstrated a need for test accommodations. If you wish to request an accommodation, complete the [Accommodation Form](#) and return it to (ISC)² prior to registering for your exam with the following information to membersupport@isc2.org:
 - An explanation of the accommodations you need
 - Documentation supporting the accommodation

- The exam you want to take
- The exam location
- Test accommodations are individualized and considered on a case-by-case basis. Once an accommodation is approved by (ISC)² we'll send it to Pearson VUE Accommodations. Please allow two to three business days for Pearson VUE to get this information. Then, call Pearson VUE at +1.800.466.0450 or +1.952.905.7025, so you can schedule your exam. Please contact (ISC)² first. Do not start by scheduling through Pearson VUE's website or through their main registration phone line.
- Please note, that the purpose of test accommodations is to provide examinees with full access to the test. However, they are not a guarantee of improved performance or test completion.

Exam Format and Scoring

For answers to frequently asked questions about exam scoring, click [here](#).

Exam	Time Allotted	Items	Examination Availability
CISSP (English)	3 hours	100-150 multiple choice and advanced innovative items	English
CISSP (Non-English)	6 hours	250 multiple choice and advanced innovative items	French, German, Brazilian Portuguese, Spanish-Modern, Japanese, Simplified Chinese, Korean
SSCP	3 hours	125 multiple choice, 4 choices	English, Japanese and Brazilian Portuguese
CCSP	3 hours	125 multiple choice, 4 choices	English, Japanese
CAP	3 hours	125 multiple choice, 4 choices	English
CSSLP	3 hours	125 multiple choice, 4 choices	English
HCISPP	3 hours	125 multiple choice, 4 choices	English
CISSP-ISSAP	3 hours	125 multiple choice, 4 choices	English
CISSP-ISSEP	3 hours	125 multiple choice, 4 choices	English
CISSP-ISSMP	3 hours	125 multiple choice, 4 choices	English

There may be scenario-based items with more than one multiple-choice item. Each of these exams contains 25 pre-test items. They're included for research purposes only. The pre-test items aren't identified, so answer every item to the best of your ability.

You need to scale score of at least 700 out of a possible 1,000 points to pass your cybersecurity exam.

Familiarize Yourself with CISSP Computerized Adaptive Test - (ISC)² uses [Computerized Adaptive Testing \(CAT\)](#) for all English CISSP exams worldwide. Based on the same exam content outline as the linear, fixed-form exam, CISSP CAT is a more precise and efficient evaluation of your competency.

Policies and Procedures for Your Cybersecurity Exam

Rescheduling or Cancelling an Exam

- To reschedule or cancel your exam appointment, contact Pearson VUE by logging into your account or by phone (877-863-0386).
- Online at least 48 hours prior to your exam or by phone at least 24 hours before your exam.
- Pearson VUE charges a reschedule fee of U.S.\$50 and a cancellation fee of U.S.\$100.

Refunds

- There will be no refund of exam registration fees (telephone or via the Internet) for any reason, including, but not limited to:
 - Duplicate Registrations
 - Failure to reschedule and/or cancel your exam appointment outside of 24 business hours
 - Failure to appear for your exam appointment

Late Arrivals or No Shows

- Be sure to arrive at least 30 minutes before your exam start time.
- If you arrive within 15 minutes of your start time, you will be considered late. This means you may forfeit your assigned seat. It is up to the test center to decide whether to allow you to take the exam without affecting others' start times.
- Pearson VUE will make all attempts to accommodate you if you're late. But if they can't, you'll be turned away.
- If you're turned away because you're late or you didn't show up, your exam result will appear in the system as a no-show. You'll also forfeit your exam fee.

What You Need to Bring to the Test Center

- Proper Identification – (ISC)² requires two forms of identification (ID) to take your cybersecurity exam. You'll be asked to provide a primary and a secondary ID when you check in at your test center. (ISC)² also requires you to submit to a palm-vein scan.
 - Your IDs must be valid (not expired).
 - They must be original documents (not photocopies or faxes).
 - Your primary ID must include your photo and signature. (The photo needs to be a permanently affixed to the document.)
 - Your secondary ID must include your signature.
- Accepted Primary ID (contains photograph and signature; not expired)
 - Government issued driver's license or identification card
 - U.S. Department of State driver's license
 - U.S. learner's permit (card only with photo and signature)
 - National/state/country Identification card

- Passport
- Military ID / Military ID for spouses and dependents
- Alien registration card (green card; permanent resident visa)
- Government issued local language ID (plastic card with photo and signature)
- Employee ID
- School ID
- Credit Card* (A credit card can be used as your primary ID only if it contains both your photo and a signature. It can't be expired. Any credit card can be used as your secondary ID if your signature is on it and it isn't expired. This includes major credit cards, as well as department store and gasoline credit cards.)
- Accepted Secondary ID (contains signature; not expired)
 - U.S. Social Security card
 - Debit/ATM card
 - Credit card*
 - Any form of ID on the primary ID list

What You Shouldn't Bring Into the Test Center

- Weapons – weapons are not allowed at the test center. If you bring a weapon (or something your Test Administrator considers to be a weapon), you'll be asked to store it in your car. If you didn't drive to the test center, you can store it in the locker with your other personal belongings.
- There is one exception – if you are law enforcement or security personnel on site performing an official duty, you may carry a weapon. This exemption does not apply to law enforcement or security personnel who are scheduled to take exams.

Name Matching Policy

- The first and last name on your ID must exactly match the first and last name that you used to register with Pearson VUE. (For example, if your driver's license shows your name as Charles, be sure to register as Charles – not as Chuck or Charlie.)
- If your names don't match, you must bring proof of legal name change to the test center on your test day. Your document must be an original (not a photocopy or fax). The only legal documents that Pearson VUE will accept are:
 - Marriage licenses
 - Divorce decrees
 - Court-sanctioned legal name change documents
- If you made a mistake with how you registered your name with Pearson VUE, you must contact (ISC)² to make a correction before your test date.
- Name changes cannot be made on your test day, including at the test center. If your names don't match, you'll be asked to leave. You'll also forfeit your testing fee.

The Day of Your Exam

Check-In Process

Plan to arrive at your test center at least 30 minutes before your exam start time. To check in, you'll need to:

- Show two acceptable forms of ID.
- Provide your signature.
- Submit to a [palm vein scan](#) (unless it's prohibited by law).
- Have your photo taken. Hats, scarves and coats may not be worn for your photo. You also can't wear these items in the test room.
- Leave your personal belongings outside the testing room. You'll have access to secure storage. Storage space is small, so plan ahead. Pearson VUE test centers do not assume responsibility for your personal belongings.
- The Test Administrator (TA) will give you a short orientation. Then, the TA will escort you to a computer terminal.

Exam Assistance and Breaks

- You must remain in your seat during the exam, unless the staff says it's okay for you to get up. You may not change your computer terminal unless a TA directs you to do so.
- Raise your hand to notify the TA if you:
 - Believe you have a problem with your computer.
 - Need to change note boards.
 - Need to take a break.
 - Need the administrator for any reason.
- Your total exam time includes any unscheduled breaks you may take. All breaks count against your testing time. You must leave the testing room during your break. However, you may not leave the building or access any personal belongings unless absolutely necessary (such as for retrieving medication).
- When you take a break, you'll be required to submit to a palm vein scan before and after your break.

Testing Environment

- Pearson VUE test centers administer many types of exams. Some exams have written responses (such as essays). The test centers have no control over the sounds of people typing on keyboards next to you. Typing noise is a normal part of a computerized testing environment. It's like the noise of turning pages in a paper-and-pencil testing environment.
- Earplugs are available upon request.

When You Finish Your Exam

- After you finish, raise your hand to summon the TA. The TA will let you go when you've met all the requirements.
- Be sure to notify your TA before you leave the test center if:
 - You believe there was an irregularity in how your test was run or
 - Irregular testing conditions had a negative effect on the outcome of your exam

Technical Issues

- On rare occasions, the test center may have technical problems. You may need to reschedule your cybersecurity exam.
- If technical issues cause you to wait more than 30 minutes after your scheduled exam start time, or your exam starts and then stops with a delay of more than 30 minutes, you'll have the choice of continuing to wait or rescheduling with no additional fee:
 - If you choose not to reschedule and take the test after your delay, your test results will count. You'll have no further recourse.
 - If you choose to wait but change your mind before starting (or restarting) your exam, you can take the exam at a later date at no extra cost.
 - If you choose to reschedule or the technical problem can't be fixed, you'll be allowed to test at a later date at no extra charge.
- We know your time is valuable. If your test center identifies technical problems before your exam, they'll make every attempt to contact you.

Results Reporting

Receiving Your Results

- (ISC)² conducts a thorough statistical and psychometric analysis of the score data to establish the pass/fail score before releasing scores. We need a minimum number of test takers before this analysis can be completed.
- Depending on the volume of test takers for a given test, there may be times when scores are delayed for approximately six to eight weeks to complete this critical process.
- Your TA will give you an unofficial exam result when you check out at the test center. (ISC)² will email you the official result.
- In some instances, real-time results may not be available.
- All test results are subject to the (ISC)² psychometric and forensic evaluation. This evaluation could take place after you get your official results. (The timing is based on the number of tests taken.) If the psychometric and forensic evaluation affects your score, (ISC)² will notify you.
- Results will not be released over the phone. If you have any questions about this policy, contact (ISC)² before your exam.

Exam Irregularities and Results Invalidation

- If (ISC)² suspects that any irregularity, fraud or policy violation has taken place before, during or after an exam, (ISC)² will examine the situation and determine whether action is needed. (ISC)² may choose not to score the exam of the affected test taker(s). Or, (ISC)² may choose to cancel the results of the affected test taker(s).
- At (ISC)²'s sole discretion, we may:
 - Revoke any and all certifications you may have earned.
 - Ban you from earning future (ISC)² certifications.
 - Decline to score or cancel any exam under any of the circumstances listed in the [\(ISC\)² Examination Agreement](#).

Retake Policy

- For each the CISSP, CAP, CCSP, CSSLP, HCISPP, CISSP-ISSAP, CISSP-ISSEP, CISSP-ISSMP and SSCP certification programs, there are two independent rules that govern exam retake attempts:
 - **Test-free days between retake attempts:**
 - If you don't pass the exam on your first attempt, you may retest after 30 test-free days.
 - If you don't pass the exam on your second attempt, you may retest after 60 test-free days from your most recent exam attempt.
 - If you don't pass the exam on your third attempt and for all subsequent retakes, you may retest after 90 test-free days from your most recent exam attempt.
 - **Per certification program, at a maximum you may attempt an (ISC)² exam up to 4 times within a 12-month period.**
- Candidates may pursue multiple certifications simultaneously.

Recertification by Examination

- You may take an exam to recertify if you've become decertified due to:
 - Not meeting your required number of continuing professional education credits.
 - Having the time limit on your endorsement expire.

(ISC)² Pass or Fail Decision Rules

The decision as to whether a candidate passes or fails the CISSP CAT examination is governed by three different scenarios:

* However, for all other examinations pass or fail decision is made based on the number of correct responses provided. *

- Scenario # 1: The 95% Confidence Interval Rule
 - This scenario is the most common for candidates. The computer will stop administering items when it is 95% certain that the candidate's ability is either clearly above or clearly below the passing standard.
- Scenario #2: Maximum-Length Exam
 - Some candidate's ability levels will be very close to the passing standard. When this is the case, the computer continues to administer items until the maximum number of items is reached. At this point, the computer disregards the 95% confidence interval rule and considers only the final ability estimate:
 - If the final ability estimate is above the passing standard, the candidate passes.
 - If the final ability estimate is at or below the passing standard, the candidate fails.
- Scenario #3: Run-Out-of-Time Rule (R.O.O.T.)
 - If a candidate runs out of time before reaching the maximum number of items and the computer has not determined with 95% certainty whether the candidate has passed or failed, an alternate criteria is used.
 - If the candidate has not answered the minimum number of required items, the candidate automatically fails.
 - If at least the minimum number of required items were answered, the computer looks at the last 60 ability estimates:
 - If the last 60 ability estimates were consistently above the passing standard, the candidate passes.
 - If the candidate's ability estimate drops below the passing standard even once over the last 60 items, the candidate fails.
 - This does not mean that the candidate must answer the last 60 items correctly. Each ability estimate is based upon all previous items answered.

Alternate Item Formats

Candidates may be administered multiple-choice items as well as items written in alternate formats. These formats may include, but are not limited to: calculation, ordered response, drag and drop and/or hot spots. All item types may include multimedia such as charts and tables.

CISSP Passing Standard

The CISSP CAT and CISSP Fixed Form Linear examinations are the same examinations but administered in different formats. However, both exam forms use the same content and use the same passing standard. When a new exam form is created based on the results of the Job Task Analysis, a new passing standard for the exam needs to be set. Passing standard also called cut-score is set under the guidance of a psychometrician by a group of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) who are certified CISSPs and in good standing. The SME group goes through a rigorous process on a Modified Angoff method, one of the standard setting methods commonly used in certification examinations, where the group reviews each item on a test and estimate what proportion of a target group of Minimally Competent Candidates (MCC) will answer each item correctly. These item performance estimates for the target group are summed across items to obtain each SME's cut-score and the whole group's cut scores are averaged to obtain the estimated minimum passing score that a MCC would obtain. During the standard setting workshop, the psychometrician goes through in detail on how the MCC are defined and trains the SMEs for setting psychometrically valid cut-score in CISSP. To pass the CISSP exam, each candidate must score 700 or above on scaled score. There is NO predetermined fixed percentage of candidates who pass or fail the CISSP exam.

Similar Items

Occasionally, a candidate may receive an item that seems to be very similar to an item they received earlier in the examination. This could happen for a variety of reasons. For example, several items could be about similar situations, scenarios, or problems, yet address different phases of the security process. Alternatively, a pretest (unscored) item could be about content similar to an operational (scored) item. It is incorrect to assume that a second item, which is similar in content to a previously administered item, is administered because you answered the first item incorrectly. Always select the answer you believe to be correct for each item administered. All examinations conform to their respective test plan.

Guessing

Rapid guessing can drastically lower your score. Some test preparation companies have realized that on certain paper-and-pencil tests, unanswered items are marked as wrong. To improve the candidate's score when they are running out of time, these companies sometimes advocate rapid guessing (perhaps without even reading the item) in the hope that the candidate will get at least a few items correct. On any adaptive test to on the CISSP CAT exam, this can be disastrous. It has the effect of giving the candidate easier items, which lowers the candidate ability estimate further. The best advice is to:

1. Maintain a reasonable pace (spending no more than one to two minutes on each item)
2. Carefully read and consider each item before answering.

Additional Examination Information

Supplementary References

Candidates are encouraged to supplement their education and experience by reviewing relevant resources that pertain to the CBK and identifying areas of study that may need additional attention.

View the full list of supplementary references at www.isc2.org/certifications/References.

Examination Policies and Procedures

(ISC)² recommends that candidates review exam policies and procedures prior to registering for the examination. Read the comprehensive breakdown of this important information at www.isc2.org/Register-for-Exam.

Legal Info

For any questions related to [\(ISC\)²'s legal policies](#), please contact the (ISC)² Legal Department at legal@isc2.org.

Any Questions?

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