THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO THE CAP
Be the Expert in Risk Assessment and Security Authorization
You prove every day that you have what it takes to authorize and maintain information systems within the Risk Management Framework (RMF). 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 CAP covers everything to know about the security assessment and authorization certification. See how the CAP – and (ISC)² – can differentiate you as a globally respected security leader.
Is the CAP Right for Me?

The CAP is ideal for IT, information security and information assurance practitioners and contractors seeking to prove their understanding of the RMF. It shows you have the advanced knowledge and technical ability to formalize processes to assess risk and establish security documentation.

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

A candidate who doesn’t yet have the required experience to become a CAP may become an Associate of (ISC)² after successfully passing the CAP exam. The Associate of (ISC)² will then have three years to earn the experience needed for CAP certification.

Discover Your Path
See “Pathway to CAP Certification” for more information.

Jobs that Typically Use or Require the CAP

» The U.S. federal government, such as the U.S. Department of State or Department of Defense
» The military
» Civilian roles, such as federal contractors
» Local governments
» Private sector organizations
The CAP not only helps to explain how the federal government operates but lays the foundation for how you work and what to expect in the way of security and privacy controls and countermeasures.

Larry G. Wlosinski  
Senior Consultant  
Coalfire – Federal  
Washington, D.C., USA

CAP is a great certification to earn and have on your resume. It shows you understand what is required to secure IT systems. Also, understanding the Risk Management Framework will help you during the interview process.

Brian Braxton  
Information Security Analyst/ISSO  
Bethesda, MD, USA

I immediately got a raise and promotion after earning CAP certification. I also gained the knowledge and skills needed to perform my job as a security analyst.

Ernest Blankson  
Information Technology Specialist – Security  
Administrative Office of the US Courts  
Washington, D.C., USA

Join the (ISC)² Community!
Meet, learn from and ask questions of CAPs 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 CAP**

- Introduced in 2005
- Average CAP Salary: US $121,510
- The ONLY certification under the DoD8570 mandate aligns with each RMF step

**CAP ALIGNMENT WITH THE RMF**

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PREPARE
  Process Initiation

SELECT

IMPLEMENT

AUTHORIZE

ASSESS

MONITOR

CATAGORIZE
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- DoD Approved IAM Level I & IAM Level II
- Supported by a network of more than 150,000 professionals
**Benefits of Being CAP-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 CAP, 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 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
» Free online (ISC)² Professional Development Institute courses
» 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 CAP
The CAP exam evaluates your expertise across seven 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 to authorize and maintain information systems within the RMF.

**CAP Exam Overview**

- **Score you need out of 1,000 to pass the exam**: 700
- **Number of items on the CAP exam**: 125
- **Maximum amount of time for the CAP exam**: 3 hrs.
- **Exam availability**: English
- **Testing Centers**: Pearson VUE
Official CAP Training

With classroom based, online instructor-led and private on-site 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 CAP exam by reviewing relevant domains and topics.

CAP Study Resources

- Exam Outline
- Official (ISC)² Guide to the CAP CBK Second Edition
- Official CAP Flash Cards
- Suggested References

Create Your Plan

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

Obtain the Required Experience
To qualify for the CAP, candidates must have at least two years of cumulative, paid full-time work experience in one or more of the seven domains:

Domain 1. Information Security Risk Management Program
Domain 2. Categorization of Information Systems (IS)
Domain 3. Selection of Security Controls
Domain 4. Implementation of Security Controls
Domain 5. Assessment of Security Controls
Domain 6. Authorization of Information Systems (IS)
Domain 7. Continuous Monitoring

If you don’t have enough experience yet, you can still pass the CAP 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 CAP CBK – to help you prepare with confidence. Some CAP 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 CAP 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
(ISC)² 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 CAP 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 CAP

Attend Trainings & Events

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

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
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](http://www.isc2.org/development)
Get in Touch with Us

For more information about CAP 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

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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](http://www.isc2.org), follow us on Twitter or connect with us on Facebook and LinkedIn.