The
ULTIMATE
GUIDE *to the*

Entry-Level Cybersecurity Certification

*No Work Experience Required –
Just a Passion for Cybersecurity*

Entry-Level
Cybersecurity
Certification

An (ISC)²' Certification

Take the First Step Toward a Career that Matters

As cyberthreats continue to escalate worldwide, the need for security experts is at an all-time high. Yet talent is scarce. Research shows the cybersecurity workforce needs an influx of 2.7 million professionals to meet global demand.[1]

That's where the (ISC)² entry-level cybersecurity certification comes in. From the global leader in information security credentials, this new certification creates a clear pathway to an exciting and rewarding career in cybersecurity. It breaks down traditional barriers to entry, enabling you to build confidence and enter your first cybersecurity role ready for what's next.

Entry-level cybersecurity certification candidates include:

- IT professionals
- Career-changers
- College students or recent graduates
- Advanced high school students or recent graduates

Learn More

INSIDE…

Why Cybersecurity?

Because cybersecurity is in such high demand, choosing it as a career promises a bright future. The U.S. job market reflects the demand seen globally for cybersecurity professionals. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects the industry to grow 33% through 2030 — that's 25% higher than the 7.7% growth rate across all industries.[2]

As you plan your career in cybersecurity, you may be surprised to learn you don't need an IT background or degree to work in the field. In fact, more than half of current cybersecurity professionals got their start outside of IT, transitioning from unrelated career fields, gaining access through cybersecurity education and exploring cybersecurity concepts on their own.[3]

What isn't surprising — cybersecurity professionals say credentials like the entry-level cybersecurity certification are the most important way for career pursuers to break into the field.[4]

What Experience Is Required?

There are no specific prerequisites to take the exam. It is recommended that candidates have basic information technology (IT) knowledge. No work experience in cybersecurity or formal educational diploma/degree is required. If you're a problem-solver with an analytical mindset, entry-level cybersecurity certification is right for you.

Get Started

Potential Entry-Level Cybersecurity Job Roles

- Security analyst
- Industrial Controls Analyst
- Risk Analyst
- Incident Responder
- Forensic specialist/analyst
- Junior penetration tester
- Security engineer
- IT auditor
- IT security manager
- Systems administrator

The entry-level cybersecurity certification exam is currently in pilot testing.
See our FAQs for more information.

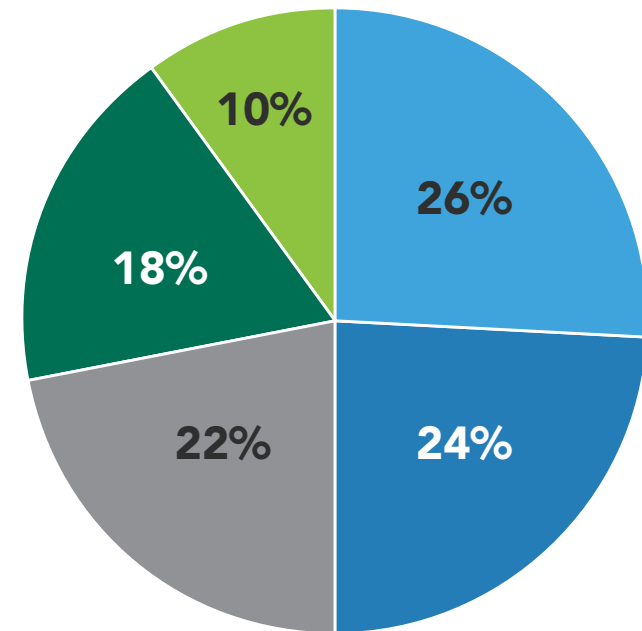[2] Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook
[3] 2021 Cybersecurity Workforce Study
[4] 2021 Cybersecurity Career Pursuers Study

Pilot Exam Overview

The (ISC)² entry-level cybersecurity certification exam evaluates expertise across five security domains. Learn more in the exam outline.

- 26% – Security Principles
- 24% – Network Security
- 22% – Access Controls Concepts
- 18% – Security Operations
- 10% – Business Continuity (BC), Disaster Recovery (DR) & Incident Response Concepts

Domain 1: Security Principles
Understand the security concepts of information assurance, the risk management process, security controls, the (ISC)² Code of Ethics and governance processes.

Domain 2: Business Continuity (BC), Disaster Recovery (DR) & Incident Response Concepts
Understand business continuity (BC), disaster recovery (DR) and incident response.

Domain 3: Access Controls Concepts
Understand physical access controls and logical access controls.

Domain 4: Network Security
Understand computer networking, network threats and attacks and network security infrastructure.

Domain 5: Security Operations
Understand data security, system hardening, best practice security policies and awareness training.

Prepare for the Exam

100	2 hr	$125 USD	2
Number of Exam Items	Administration Time	Pilot Exam Fee	Attempts to take the exam*

Exam Availability: English | Testing Centers: Pearson VUE

*For the duration of the pilot exam.

Pilot Exam Preparation

(ISC)² offers a [choice of flexible options](#) for entry-level cybersecurity certification exam preparation that will help you gain the solid foundation of knowledge employers are looking for, from an association they trust.

Online Instructor-Led

Participate in live sessions led by an (ISC)² Authorized Instructor and work on your own through an engaging self-paced experience. This 14-hour blended learning experience features:

- 8 hours of live instruction
- 6 hours of self-paced content in preparation of live sessions
- Peer discussions
- Pre- and post-course assessments
- Knowledge checks
- Chapter-by-chapter study sheets with key points, terms and definitions
- Flip cards
- 180-day access to recorded live sessions and self-paced content

Online Self-Paced

Learn at your own pace with recorded review sessions led by an authorized (ISC)² instructor. This is a lecture style learning experience with visual aids and features:

- Session recordings
- Practice questions
- 180-day access to course content

Exam Only

Do you already have some level of cybersecurity experience and/or knowledge? Consider purchasing your voucher and going right to the exam.

[Register now](#)

Why Choose (ISC)² Training?

When you choose (ISC)² Training, you benefit from:

- Curriculum developed in collaboration with cybersecurity experts and instructional design experts for effective learning engagement.

- Online instructor-led courses taught by top-notch (ISC)² Authorized Instructors who are highly experienced and effective at training on technical content.

- Comprehensive review of all current exam topic areas with a focus on real-world learning activities and scenarios.

Questions about training? We're here to help. Reach out anytime.

Benefits of (ISC)² Entry-Level Certification

Respect
Validate your knowledge and build credibility.

Pathway to cybersecurity careers and advanced certifications
Build a strong foundation for an infosec career and become familiar with exam formats for advanced (ISC)² certifications like CISSP.

Job offers and advancement
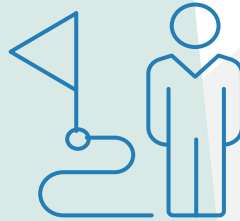Gain the solid foundation of cybersecurity knowledge employers are looking for, from an association they trust.

Community of professionals
Access a network of peers and CPE/learning opportunities.

Growth and learning
Develop new skills you can apply in day-to-day work.

Higher salaries
(ISC)² members report 35% higher salaries than non-members.

Start Your Journey

Cybersecurity Professionals In Their Own Words

How did you gain confidence in your first years that cybersecurity was right for you?

"At the end of my first year on the job, I got a large cash bonus that was bigger than anyone else's bonus."

"I learned by trial and error and was eventually able to handle any system breach."

"Our team was able to contain and cleanse a major malware attack within four hours of detecting it."

"As you start experiencing success, your confidence will grow — and it keeps growing from there."

Read more in the 2021 Cybersecurity Pursuers Study.

From the World's Leading Cybersecurity Professional Organization

(ISC)² information security certifications are recognized globally as the gold standards for excellence. They allow you to prove your expertise and highlight your skill mastery. Organizations value certified professionals on their teams because they are better prepared to protect critical assets and infrastructures.

Elite Cybersecurity Professionals

Our members represent an elite global network of information security professionals. They are top experts in their fields, dedicated to the highest ethical standards and best practices. Our members work for governments and highly respected companies around the world. Through certification, they show superior competency.

Members Around the World

(ISC)² is the world's leading cybersecurity professional organization, 168,000 members strong. Our member professionals work in high-level cyber, information, software and infrastructure positions all around world.

Far-Reaching Impact

The professionals who make up the (ISC)² community play a vital role. They not only protect the organizations they serve, they help keep society safe and secure. And they're in high demand, as organizations place more importance on information security.

Get in Touch with Us

For more information about the entry-level cybersecurity 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: +852-5803-5662 Email: isc2asia@isc2.org
Japan: Email: infoisc2-j@isc2.org
China: Email: isc2china@isc2.org