Cloud Security 1.0: Frequently Asked Questions

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Cloud Security Course

1. What will I learn in this course?

The aim of this course is to spark the student's interest in cloud security and familiarize the student with the universal concepts of cloud computing. In addition, the course provides students with a base of knowledge on cloud computing security theory and acquaints students with security threats and best practices for securing the cloud. This course also assists students as they prepare to take the CCSK exam.

2. How much does this course cost?

Cloud Security is offered through the Cisco Networking Academy program as an online self-paced course with instructor-mentorship. The course is free for academies. Learners can sign up with any academy across the globe offering this course.

3. How long will it take me to complete this course?

The average time to complete the course is 35 hours.

4. What am I required to do to complete this course?

Successful completion of the course includes watching all lecture videos, passing knowledge checks at the end of each unit with a score of 75% or higher, and completing the final knowledge check (practice exam) with a score of 80% or higher. The final knowledge check (practice exam) is a summative assessment covering all the material in the course.

5. What prerequisite knowledge do I need before I begin this course?

There is no official work experience required, however, it is helpful for attendees to have at least a basic understanding of security fundamentals such as firewalls, secure development, encryption, and identity and access management, which can be learned by taking the Cisco Networking Academy Introduction to Cybersecurity and Cybersecurity Essentials courses.

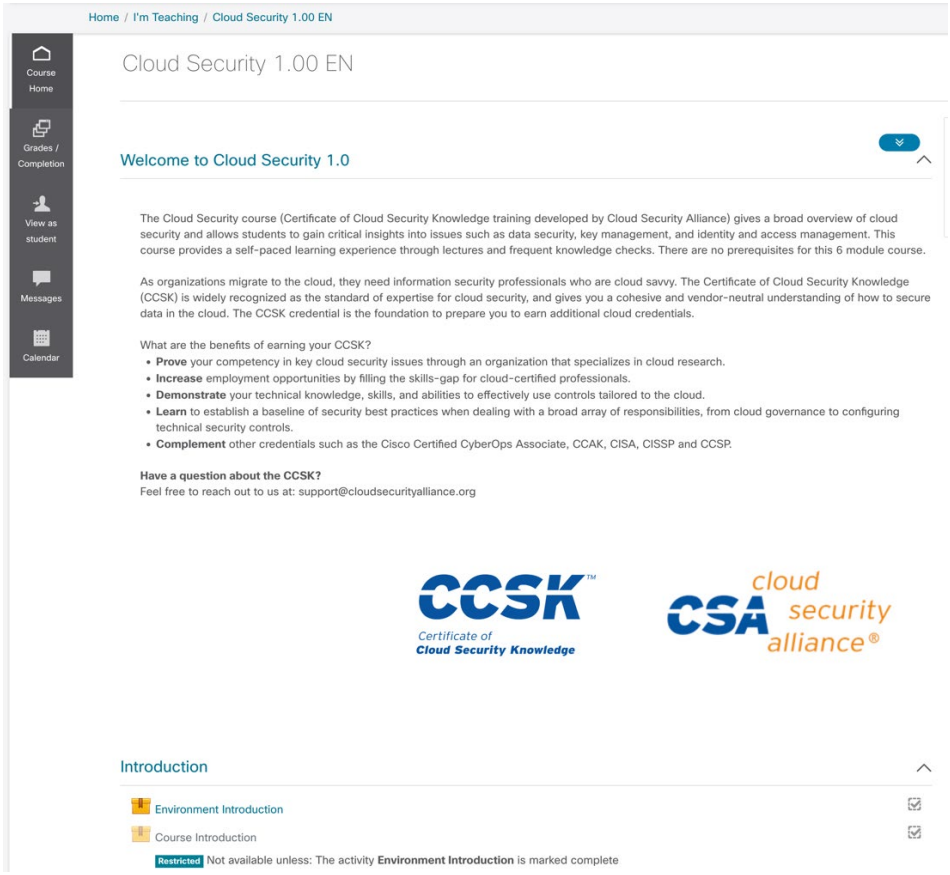
6. How should I progress through this course?

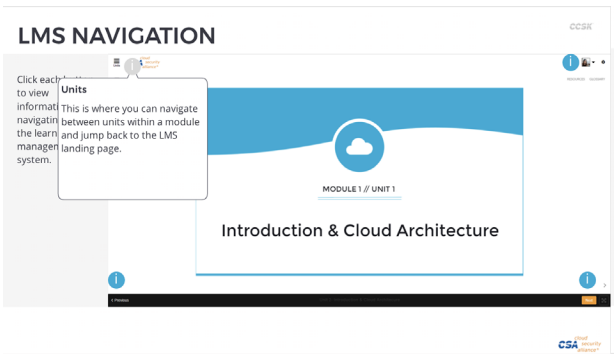
Progress through the course at your own pace. There are 6 modules, each with 6-8 units.

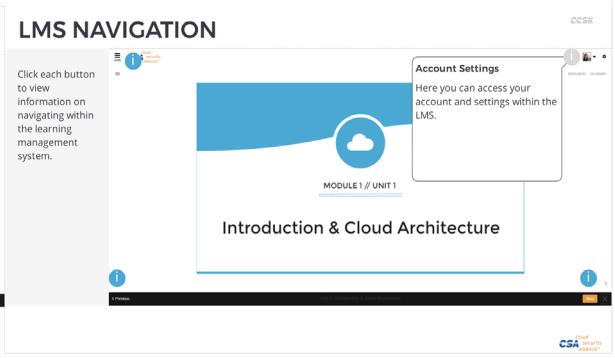
7. Is everything online?

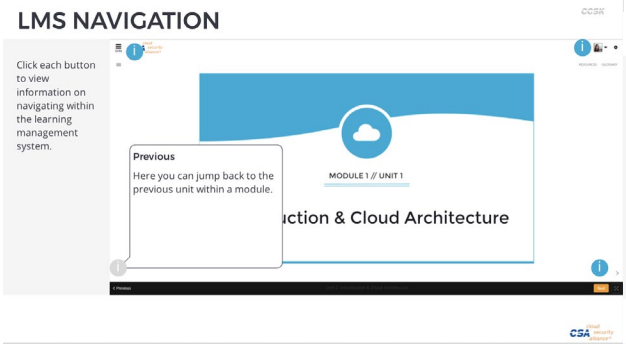
Yes. The entire course is accessed online.

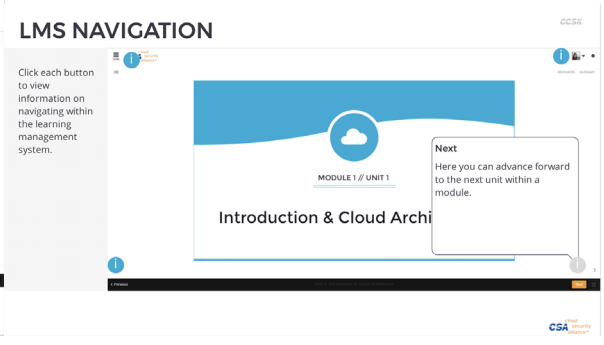
8. How do I navigate the course?

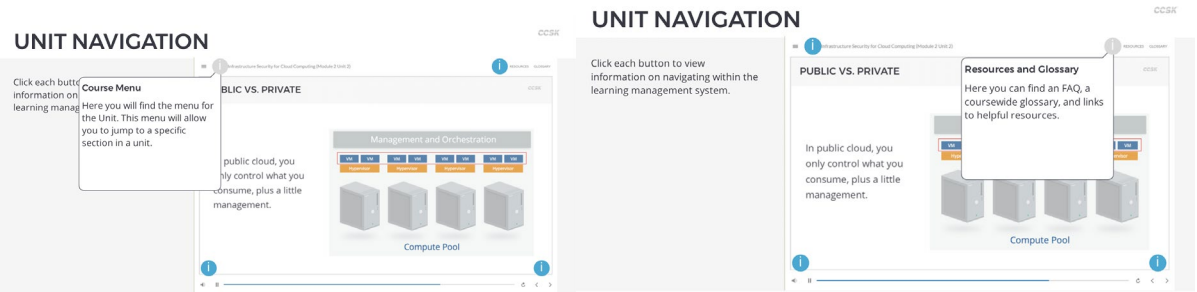


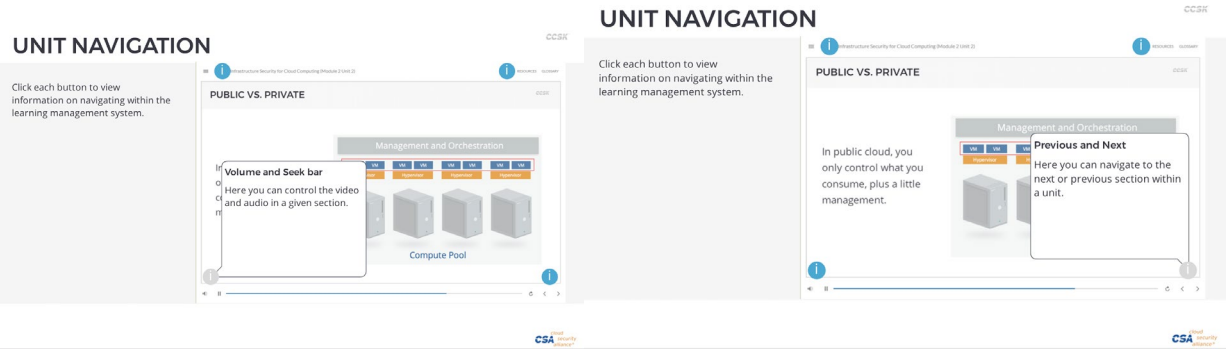












9. How do I track my progress in the course?

There are some features in the Learning Management System (LMS) that may help. As you complete each unit by passing the knowledge check, a checkmark will be placed by that unit on the right. You can see how many units are left from the Course Home page.

10. In what languages is this course offered?

The Cloud Security course is currently available in English.

11. Where do I go for help?

Students should direct all questions about the course content to their course instructor. Students and instructors who want to report an issue with the course or assessments can contact support@cloudsecurityalliance.org. You can also join the CSA Circle Community where you can interact with other students, ask our instructors questions, or network with other CCSK holders. Create an account on Circle to join.

12. Who is sponsoring the course?

Cloud Security Alliance (CSA), the world's leading organization dedicated to defining and raising awareness of best practices to help ensure a secure cloud computing environment.

13. What are the main features of the course curriculum?

This introductory course provides a broad overview of cloud security and allows students to gain critical insights into how security issues change in the cloud, including data security, key management, and identity and access management. This course provides a self-paced learning experience through lectures and frequent knowledge checks.

14. Is there a Statement of Achievement or Certificate of Completion for this course?

Yes, once a student completes the course, they will earn a certificate of attendance. Please note however that they are not considered a CCSK holder until they take and pass the CCSK exam (which is separate from the course).

15. Is there a Letter of Merit for this course?

No. Once a student completes the course, they will earn a certificate of attendance, not a Letter of Merit.

16. Is there a digital badge for this course?

No. Once a student successfully completes the Certificate of Cloud Security Knowledge exam, they will earn a PDF file to validate their completion of the Cloud Security course.

17. What jobs align with this course?

This course prepares learners for any career path where cloud and security overlap. Common fields include IT, cybersecurity, and cloud architecture, to name just a few. Example entry-level job titles include Cloud Security Specialist and Cloud Security Technician.

18. Does the course align with an industry-recognized certification?

Yes. After completing this course, students will be prepared to take the exam for the Certificate of Cloud Security Knowledge (CCSK). The Certificate of Cloud Security Knowledge (CCSK) is a widely recognized standard of expertise and is the industry's primary benchmark for measuring cloud security skill sets. The CCSK was recently recognized as the most valuable IT certification in terms of average salary by Certification Magazine.

19. What are the recommended browsers for the course?

We recommend Chrome, Firefox, or Edge. Internet Explorer is not recommended as issues may arise while running the training in this browser.

20. Do I need any additional equipment for the course?

This course is accessed online with no additional equipment or system requirements.

21. Does the course include quizzes or assessments?

Yes. At the end of each content unit is a knowledge check that students must pass before proceeding to the next unit. There is also a short exam preparation quiz (practice exam) at the end of the course that students must pass to complete the course.

22. How does this course differ from other online courses?

Unlike other security trainings out there, the CCSK is 100% focused on cloud security and architectural patterns as well as cloud-specific technologies, all of which are covered in great depth. Another differentiator is that it's consumed in a shorter time frame (due to aforementioned cloud focus).

23. What is the course delivery model?

This is an online self-paced course with instructor mentorship. This means that the format of the course is designed for learners to progress at their own pace, with additional support from an instructor. Students will need to find an academy to enroll in the course. Since the course materials are available online, they can sign up through any academy around the globe that offers this course.

24. Is instructor training required to teach this course?

No, there is no instructor training required to teach this course through Cisco Networking Academy. Instructors will have access to instructor resources through Networking Academy on NetAcad.com. In order to be officially recognized by Cloud Security Alliance as a CCSK instructor, see the CSA instructor training page.

CCSK Exam and Certificate

25. What is the Certificate of Cloud Security Knowledge (CCSK)?

The CCSK is a web-based examination of an individual's competency in key cloud security issues. Launched in 2010, the CCSK is a widely recognized standard of expertise and is the industry's primary benchmark for measuring cloud security skillsets. The CCSK was recently lauded as the most valuable IT certification in terms of average salary by Certification Magazine. Enterprises all over the world will need IT professionals who can help strengthen their security posture in the cloud. Be a part of a community of trained cloud security professionals by earning the CCSK.

26. Who should consider obtaining the CCSK?

The CCSK is intended to provide an understanding of security issues and best practices over a broad range of cloud computing domains. As cloud computing is becoming the dominant IT system, CCSK is applicable to a wide variety of IT and information security jobs in virtually every

organization. The CCSK is strongly recommended for IT auditors, and it is even required for portions of the CSA Security, Trust, Assurance, & Risk (STAR) Registry program.

27. Is the CCSK a viable substitute for other industry certifications?

The CCSK is not a substitute for other certifications in information security, audit, and governance. Many certification programs help personal development within specific professional roles and job duties and also provide vetting of individuals, which the CCSK does not do. The CCSK augments these other credentialing programs by encouraging a competency in cloud computing security best practices, which we believe will help individuals better cope with the increasingly pervasive cloud computing issues they are now facing. The Cloud Security Alliance is a strong supporter of popular professional certification programs within our industry and looks forward to developing formalized relationships with these programs in the future.

28. Does the CCSK have industry support?

The CCSK is strongly supported by a broad coalition of experts and organizations from around the world. Since its launch in 2010, the CCSK has been adopted around the world and is the gold standard for demonstration of cloud security competency. The collaboration with ENISA means that the world's two leading organizations for vendor neutral cloud security research are providing the foundation for the industry's first cloud security certification.

29. What is the latest version of the CCSK examination?

The latest CCSK version, v4 of the examination was made available on December 1, 2017.

30. How do I take the CCSK exam?

You can take the exam by completing the following steps:

1. Create an account or login
2. Purchase a CCSK exam token
    a. Make sure to enter your discount code that you requested at the end of the course!
3. Take the exam

31. Is the exam timed? How many questions is it? Is it open book?

The exam is 90 minutes with 60 questions. While it is open book, it is a timed test and some questions can be lengthy, so we recommend that you rely as little as possible on study materials.

32. Do I need to schedule a testing date or find a testing facility?

No, the exam is online. You can register here: CCSK Account Signup

33. What is the cost of the CCSK exam?

$395 USD. Discounts are available for Cisco Networking Academy learners.

34. Is there any discount for the certification exam?

Yes. Exam discounts are available for Cisco Networking Academy learners who score more than 80% in the practice exam and complete the end of course survey. After completing the course, students will be directed to a form where they can request their discount code for the CCSK exam. Instructions on how to use the voucher will be included when it is sent to the student. In addition, Veterans can take the CCSK exam for free. For more information on this visit our CCSK for Veterans page.

35. Is the CCSK exam token (test attempt) included in the course, or do I have to purchase that separately?

No, they are not. You must purchase them separately.

36. Will I ever have to take the CCSK exam again? Does my CCSK certificate expire?

No, your CCSK certificate will not expire. However, information technologies in general, and cloud computing in particular, are rapidly progressing fields, and it is advisable to stay up-to-date with the most current version of the CCSK certificate.

37. Can I retake the CCSK exam?

Yes. With the purchase of an exam token, test takers have two attempts at the exam. If the learner still does not pass, then they must purchase another token in order to try again. While there is no waiting period between attempts, we recommend taking at least a few days to review the material before attempting to take it again.

38. Why can't I see the correct answers once I have completed the exam?

In an effort to maintain the integrity of the CCSK exam the platform is designed to avoid giving out the answers to specific questions. In order to assist those that do not pass the test to study for future attempts the exam platform will provide the user with the number of questions asked from each domain and how many questions were answered correctly in each of the domains.

39. Are the results of the exam immediate?

Yes, the results are immediate. You will know your score after you finish the exam here: https://cloudsecurityalliance.org/education/training/

40. How long is my exam token valid?

CCSK exam tokens are valid for 2 years from the date of purchase. We do, however, recommend that you take the exam within one year of your token purchase.

41. Do I have to take the exam immediately after purchasing or redeeming a token?

No, you may use your attempts at any time before your token expiration date.

42. If I fail my first exam attempt, will I get another chance?

Yes, standard tokens are good for two attempts at the exam. If you fail a second time you will need to purchase another token at $395 USD should you wish to attempt the exam again.

43. Are there testing accommodations for individuals who need extra time on the exam?

Yes, please contact CSA at support@cloudsecurityallliance.org

44. Can my employer verify my certificate?

On the CCSK homepage under the "Redeem a Token" box, there is a "Validate a Certificate" box where your employer can put in the primary email address on your account and the code you were provided upon passing the exam.

CCSK Exam Study Materials

45. Are there study materials for the exam?

Yes, you can find all of the self study material free of charge here: CCSK Study Materials

46. What is the body of knowledge covered by CCSK? On what body of knowledge is the CCSK v4 exam based?

The CCSK v4 exam contains material sourced from the CSA Cloud Security Guidance v4, the CSA Cloud Control Matrix, and the ENISA Cloud Computing Risk Assessment report. Approximately 86% of the exam questions will be related to content included in the CSA Security Guidance. The test is comprised of a set of random questions that covers all of these documents. Each test is different. We suggest that you study the material and feel comfortable with all of it before you sit for the exam.

For questions not covered in this document, please contact support@cloudsecurityalliance.org **. Thank you!**