



CyberOps Associate Certification Guide

Top Cisco resources to plan
and prepare for certification

Get started



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Cisco Certified CyberOps Associate is about preparing you for the SOC

Today, every organization needs security expertise, before, during, and after an attack. Which is why the demand for cybersecurity operations (CyberOps) personnel keeps skyrocketing, with an estimated 3.5 million job openings in 2021. CyberOps teams guard business-critical infrastructure and applications. In real time, they protect digital assets, defend against threats, and respond to attacks.

How do you get started in a career in this exciting, high-energy field? With the updated Cisco Certified CyberOps Associate certification and training program. It's from Cisco, a leading, recognized provider of security solutions and certifications. And it validates the day-to-day, tactical knowledge and skills that Security Operations Center (SOC) teams need to detect and respond to cybersecurity threats.

This certification gives you a deep understanding of the fundamentals of cybersecurity operations, skills, and procedures. And the process couldn't be simpler: take one training course and pass one exam—and you're on your way to associate-level job roles with SOC teams worldwide.



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The Cisco Certified CyberOps Associate certification might be the one for you if:

- You know you want to specialize in cybersecurity
- You like working in a high-stakes environment and responding to challenges in real time
- You like games where you can apply your analytical skills to stay a step ahead of your opponents

Here are some job titles that CyberOps certification can help prepare you for:

- Security Operations Center (SOC) Analyst
- Cyber Security Engineer
- IT Security Operations Specialist

While you are developing your skills, you are also increasing your income. Here's proof.

[The Global Knowledge 2020 IT Skills and Salary Report](#) examines data from over 9,500 technology professionals. Those who obtained a new certification saw their salary increase by nearly \$13,000—a strong indication that training and certifications pay off.

According to the same report, 87 percent of IT professionals hold at least one certification, up from 85 percent in 2019 and just behind the all-time high of 89 percent in 2018. And 99 percent of organizations use technical certifications to make hiring decisions.

The network is under constant assault—and it needs you. Cybersecurity is full of rewarding, meaningful, challenging work. Earning your Cisco Certified CyberOps Associate certification can help your résumé stand out and give you a foot in the door.

Here's what you need to know to get started.

[CyberOps At a Glance](#)

[Cisco Certified CyberOps Associate](#)

[Cisco Security Certifications and Training Infographic](#)

[Security page](#)

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Look ahead - Certification Tracks



The graphic illustrates the Cisco certification tracks, categorized into Entry, Associate, Professional, and Expert levels. It includes a sidebar with navigation links and a 'Download poster' button.

Cisco
The bridge to possible

Cisco Certifications Power the Teams of the Future
Be job ready today, tomorrow and beyond with Cisco Certifications. Fuel your career with the new learning portfolio that unlocks possibilities for both network engineers and software developers. You control where to start and how you learn.

Entry
Starting point for individuals interested in starting a career as a networking professional.
[Cisco Certification Technician \(CCT\)](#)
Cisco Certification Technician (CCT)
CCT Collaboration
Required Exam: 100-490 CUECH
CCT Data Center
Required Exam: 010-151 DCTCH
CCT Routing and Switching
Required Exam: 100-450 RSTCH

Associate
Master the essentials needed to launch a rewarding career and expand your job possibilities with the latest technologies.
[CCNA](#)
Required Exam: 200-301 CCNA
[Cisco Certified DevNet Associate](#)
Required Exam: 200-901 DEVASC
[Cisco Certified CyberOps Associate](#)
Required Exam: 200-201 CIBRPS

Professional
Select a core technology track and a focused concentration exam to customize your professional-level certification.
[Cisco Certified DevNet Professional](#)
Required Exam: 350-901 DEVCOR
Concentration exam (choose one): 300-435 ENAUTO, 300-435 ENAUTO, 300-435 ENAUTO, 300-435 ENAUTO, 300-910 DEVOPS, 300-910 DEVOPS, 300-910 DEVOPS
[CCNP Enterprise](#)
Required Exam: 350-401 ENCOR
Concentration exam (choose one): 300-410 ENARSI, 300-415 ENDSM, 300-420 ENGLD, 300-425 ENWLSI, 300-430 ENWLSI, 300-435 ENAUTO
[CCNP Collaboration](#)
Required Exam: 350-801 CLCOR
Concentration exam (choose one): 300-810 CLICA, 300-815 CLACM, 300-820 CLCIE, 300-820 CLCNP, 300-835 CLAUTO
[CCNP Data Center](#)
Required Exam: 350-601 DCCOR
Concentration exam (choose one): 300-610 DCCD, 300-615 DDCI, 300-620 DDCI, 300-625 DDCSI, 300-630 DDCSI, 300-635 DCAUTO
[CCNP Security](#)
Required Exam: 350-701 SCOR
Concentration exam (choose one): 300-710 SMCY, 300-715 SSE, 300-720 SESA, 300-725 SWSA, 300-730 SWPN, 300-735 SAUTO
[Cisco Certified CyberOps Professional](#)
Required Exam: 350-201 CIBRPS
Concentration exam: 300-215 CIBRPS

Expert
This certification is accepted worldwide as the most prestigious certification in the technology industry.
[CCDE](#)
Required Exam: 400-007 CCDE Written Exam, CCDE v3.0 Practical Exam
[Cisco Certified DevNet Expert](#)
Required Exam: DEVCOR 350-901, DevNet Expert v1.0 Lab Exam
[CCIE Enterprise Infrastructure](#)
Required Exam: ENCOR 350-401, CCIE Routing and Switching lab, CCIE Enterprise Infrastructure v1.0 lab
[CCIE Enterprise Wireless](#)
Required Exam: ENCOR 350-401, CCIE Wireless v2.1 lab, CCIE Enterprise Wireless v1.0 lab
[CCIE Collaboration](#)
Required Exam: CLCOR 350-801, CCIE Collaboration v2.0 lab, CCIE Collaboration v3.0 lab
[CCIE Data Center](#)
Required Exam: DCCOR 350-601, CCIE Data Center v2.0 lab, CCIE Data Center v3.0 lab
[CCIE Security](#)
Required Exam: SCOR 350-701, CCIE Security v5.0 lab, CCIE Security v6.0 lab
[CCIE Service Provider](#)
Required Exam: SPCOR 350-501, CCIE Service Provider v4.0 lab, CCIE Service Provider v5.0 lab

Specialist
Collaboration
[Cisco Unified Contact Center Enterprise Specialist](#)
Required Exam: 500-440 UCCED, 500-450 UCCES
Data Center
[Cisco and NetApp FlexPod Design Specialist](#)
Required Exam: 500-173 FPDESIGN
[Cisco and NetApp FlexPod Implementation and Administration Specialist](#)
Required Exam: 500-174 FPAIACM
Customer Success
[Cisco Customer Success Manager](#)
Required Exam: 500-600 CSM
[Cisco Renewals Manager](#)
Required Exam: 700-800 CRM
[Meraki Solutions Specialist](#)
Required Exam: 500-220 ESMR

TIP
Download poster

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As you can see, a Cisco Certified CyberOps Associate certification is one of many steps you can take on your learning journey. With each step, you build your knowledge base—and your reputation—to become increasingly valuable to any IT organization.

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Cisco certifications are available in multiple levels of expertise and various professional areas.

Earning the Cisco CyberOps certifications you need can lead you to the career you want. And you'll be more competitive in a field where 87% of IT professionals hold certifications.

Cisco's certification portfolio offers more options than ever, empowering you to customize your learning path to your career, interests, and aspirations. Since every Cisco exam you pass earns you a certification, each milestone tells a new chapter in your story.

Here are the different levels of Cisco certifications you can earn:



Associate

Proof that you've mastered the essentials to build your IT career



Professional

Focus on a core technology track to sharpen your specialized expertise



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If you're just starting out on your Cisco Certified CyberOps Associate certification journey, get to know these key terms:

Attack surface

Collection of all the possible paths a hacker or a malware application might follow to compromise protected data.

Malware analysis

The process of determining the functionality, origin, and potential impact of a given malware.

Role-based access control

Access to data given to a person based on their job function or role.

Security Incident and Event Management (SIEM)

An approach to security management that gathers data from multiple sources (such as syslog, device events, and error logs), processes the data (including correlation to identify potential threats), and raises an alert or ticket for further investigation if the threat is deemed to be real.

Security Orchestration and Automation Response (SOAR)

An approach that enables SOC teams to manage tickets raised through SIEM for threat response. SOAR enables automated workflows for responding to the threats.

Threat intelligence

Evidence-based knowledge, including context, mechanisms, indicators, implications, and action-oriented advice about an existing or emerging hazard to assets.

Threat hunting

The process of proactively and iteratively searching through networks to detect and isolate advanced threats.

Time-based access control

Temporary access to data given to a person on need basis for a period of time.

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This is where the real work happens. You'll need two things: the exam blueprint, and a strategy for learning, studying, and practicing.

The Cisco Certified CyberOps Associate certification exam [blueprint](#) is the basis for the exam. It defines the contents of both the exam and the official training course, and it should be your roadmap for studying. If you can successfully complete the tasks defined for each topic on the blueprint, you're ready for the exam.



Keep in mind: when the verb for a topic area is “describe,” you won’t need the same depth of knowledge for that topic as when the verbs are “configure,” “troubleshoot,” and “design.”

There are no formal prerequisites for the Cisco CyberOps Associate certification, but you should understand the exam topics before taking the exam—and develop a strategy for how you're going to master them.

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Here are several training options to help you prepare:

- [Cisco Guided Study Group-CyberOps](#) offers you a 12-week journey toward certification, where you'll join a mix of participants from various backgrounds and skill levels, with guidance from a live coach.
- Use the [Cisco Learning Locator](#) to find instructor-led courses, both in-person and virtual.
- If books are your thing, check out the [Cisco Press Cisco CyberOps Associate CBROPS 200-201 Official Cert Guide](#), a perfect addition to your self-study plan.



Regardless of how you prepare for the exam, it's crucial for you to get your hands on the gear to practice. This is called "labbing," as in "practicing in a lab environment." Your ability to execute critical tasks will be tested on the exam, so you need to practice. Lab early. Lab often. Then lab some more.

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Cisco certification exams are all administered as proctored exams by our testing partner, [Pearson VUE](#). When you take the exam, you'll be in a controlled environment to ensure fairness and to give you the best, most consistent experience.

During the exam, it will be just you and your knowledge and experience versus the test. Keep track of the time, read each question carefully, answer each one (and if you don't know the answer, try to eliminate one or more options and then guess), and keep moving to the end.

After you pass the exam, you can link your digital certification badge to all your social media profiles to tell the world what you've achieved.

And now, you can take [certification exams online](#), so you can stay on track, even when you can't travel to a testing center.



[Perform a system check](#) before taking your exam.



To view a walk-through demonstration of the various exam question types and how they function, check out the [Cisco Certification Exam Tutorial Videos](#) page.



[Understanding Cisco Cybersecurity Operations Fundamentals v1.0 \(200-201 CBROPS\) Exam Topics](#)

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[CyberOps
Associate Essentials](#)

Still thinking about getting certified? Click CyberOps Associate Essentials for more details about the program. It will help you make the best decision.



[CyberOps
Associate Prep](#)

Already decided to get certified, and want to start studying? Click CyberOps Associate Prep to find the ultimate resources to develop your self-study plan.

Other CyberOps resources include:

- [Cisco Certified CyberOps Associate Training Videos](#)
- [Certification Blogs](#)
- [Associate Certifications](#)
- [CyberOps Certification](#)
- [Cisco Learning Network CyberOps community](#)
- [CyberOps Training Videos](#)

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The complexity of cyberthreats has evolved. Cybercriminals are weaponizing data. Ransomware is on the rise. And security breaches are increasing operating expenses at companies large and small.

These organizations all rely on SOC teams to vigilantly watch security systems, rapidly detect breaches, and respond quickly and effectively. To succeed, SOC teams desperately need qualified cybersecurity professionals.

Which is why right now is the perfect time for you to launch your career in cybersecurity operations.

With the Cisco Certified CyberOps Associate certification, you can secure your position in this new, fast-paced era of cybersecurity. It prepares you to begin a career working as a highly in-demand associate-level cybersecurity analysts within SOC teams.

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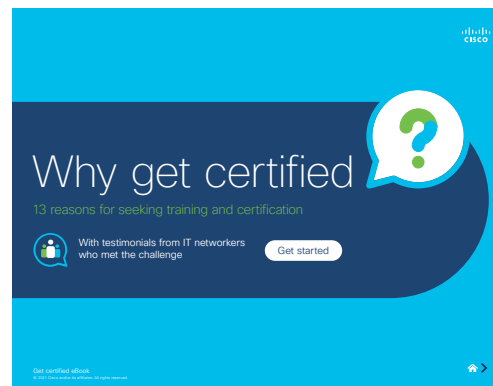
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Use this [email template](#) to let your manager know why training and certification is so beneficial for you-and for them. Get the help you need to transform your career, your income, and your skill set.

Take this important first step to master the essentials to prevent, detect, and respond to cybersecurity threats and breaches. You'll upgrade your resume, with training and certification on cybersecurity operations. And you'll boost your confidence by gaining real-world knowledge.



Ask your manager to sponsor your training. Once they understand the benefits to your organization, they will be eager to learn more and support you with next steps.



[Download eBook](#)



Use code CBROPS40 to save 40% on Cisco CyberOps Associate CBROPS 200-201 Official Cert Guide by Omar Santos from ciscopress.com/CBROPS.