



**Certified in Governance,  
Risk and Compliance**

**ISC2 Certification**



# The Ultimate Guide to the **CGRC**

Be the expert in governance, risk and compliance



**ISC2**



# Achieve More in Your Career

You prove every day that you have what it takes to help an organization align its information technology with business objectives, while managing risk and meeting regulatory compliance requirements. But our profession is always changing and even the brightest minds can benefit from having a guide on the journey to success. ISC2 is here to help you discover the right path, create your plan and thrive throughout your career.

The Ultimate Guide to the CGRC covers everything to know about the risk management certification. See how the CGRC – and ISC2 — can differentiate you as a globally respected security leader.

## Inside...

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- » CGRC Fast Facts
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# Is CGRC Right for Me?

The Certified in Governance, Risk and Compliance (CGRC) is an information security practitioner who champions system security commensurate with an organization's mission and risk tolerance, while meeting legal and regulatory requirements.

CGRC, a vendor-neutral cybersecurity credential, 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.

CGRC is particularly well-suited for IT, information security and cybersecurity practitioners who manage risk in information systems. It is also recommended for any practitioner involved in authorizing and maintaining information systems.

## As a first step – become an ISC2 Candidate

Begin your journey by joining ISC2, the world's leading cybersecurity professional organization. As a Candidate, you'll access a full range of benefits, including 10% off Online Self-Paced Training to help you on your path to CGRC certification.

**Sign up now.** Your first year is free — no cost to you.\*

\*If you choose to renew after the first year, U.S. \$50 due annually.

## Acquire two years of experience

To qualify for the CGRC, candidates must have at least two years of cumulative, paid work experience in one or more of the seven domains of the current ISC2 CGRC Exam Outline.

If you don't yet have the required experience, you may become an [Associate of ISC2](#) after successfully passing the CGRC exam. The Associate of ISC2 will then have three years to earn the experience needed for the CGRC certification.

## Discover your path

See "[Pathway to certification](#)" for more information.





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## Jobs that typically use or require CGRC certification

- Authorizing Official
- Cyber GRC Manager
- Cybersecurity Auditor/Assessor
- Cybersecurity Compliance Officer
- Cybersecurity Architect
- GRC Architect
- GRC Information Technology Manager
- GRC Manager
- Cybersecurity Risk & Compliance Project Manager
- Cybersecurity Risk & Controls Analyst
- Cybersecurity Third Party Risk Manager
- Enterprise Risk Manager
- GRC Analyst
- GRC Director
- GRC Security Analyst
- System Security Manager
- System Security Officer
- Information Assurance Manager
- Cybersecurity Consultant



# CGRCs in the Community



*"CGRC 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 Risk Management Lead  
Rockville, MD, USA



*"The CGRC 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 Wlosinski**

Senior Associate  
Veris Group, Woodlawn, MD, USA



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

**Ernest Blankson**

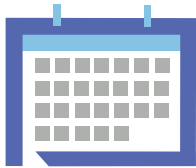
Senior Risk Advisor  
Administrative Office of the United States Courts, Washington, D.C., USA

## Become an ISC2 Candidate

You'll access a full range of benefits as you pursue the CGRC, including 10% off Online Self-Paced Training to help you prepare.

[Sign up now.](#)

# CGRC Fast Facts



Introduced in 2005



CGRCs are part of a network of over 675,000 cybersecurity professionals



ANAB  
accredited

DoD-approved



Average CGRC Salary:  
U.S. \$118,980

## Shout-outs

CGRC  
**Ranked #34** on the  
**Certification Salary  
Survey 75 list** with an  
annual salary of \$118,980  
(U.S) in 2023.

— *Certification Magazine*

CGRC ranks on  
**'The Next Big Thing'**  
list as a certification  
survey respondents plan  
to earn this year.

— *Certification Magazine*



# Benefits of CGRC Certification

Career opportunities and advancement  
Raise visibility and credibility and create new career opportunities.



Versatile skills  
Build vendor-neutral skills that can be applied to different technologies and methodologies.

Credibility  
Demonstrate a solid foundation to mitigate and respond to cyberthreats.



Solid foundation  
Be better prepared to stem cyberattacks and inspire a safe and secure cyber world.

Membership in a strong peer network  
Become an ISC2 member, unlocking exclusive resources, educational tools and peer-to-peer networking opportunities.



Higher salaries  
Earn more. In 2023, Certification Magazine's annual survey lists an average salary of \$118,980 (in U.S.) and

Expanded knowledge  
Reach a deeper, better and broader understanding of the exam outline.



Stronger skill set  
Expand the skills and knowledge needed to fulfill organizational duties.

# Benefits of **ISC2 Membership**

Once you earn your CGRC, you'll become an ISC2 member and part of a professional community that never stops learning and growing. You'll also gain access to a full suite of benefits and resources for continuing education and development, many that will help you earn CPE credits to maintain your certification:

- Discounts on [ISC2 Certificates, Courses and Express Courses](#)
- Discount pricing for [ISC2 events](#) and industry events including [ISC2 Security Congress](#)
- Free access to [ISC2 webinars](#) on cybersecurity topics, tools and trends
- Invitation to join or start a [local ISC2 Chapter](#)
- [Volunteer opportunities](#)
- Access to the [Center for Cyber Safety and Education](#)
- Professional recognition through [ISC2 Global Achievement Awards](#)

## **Sign up now to become an ISC2 Candidate**

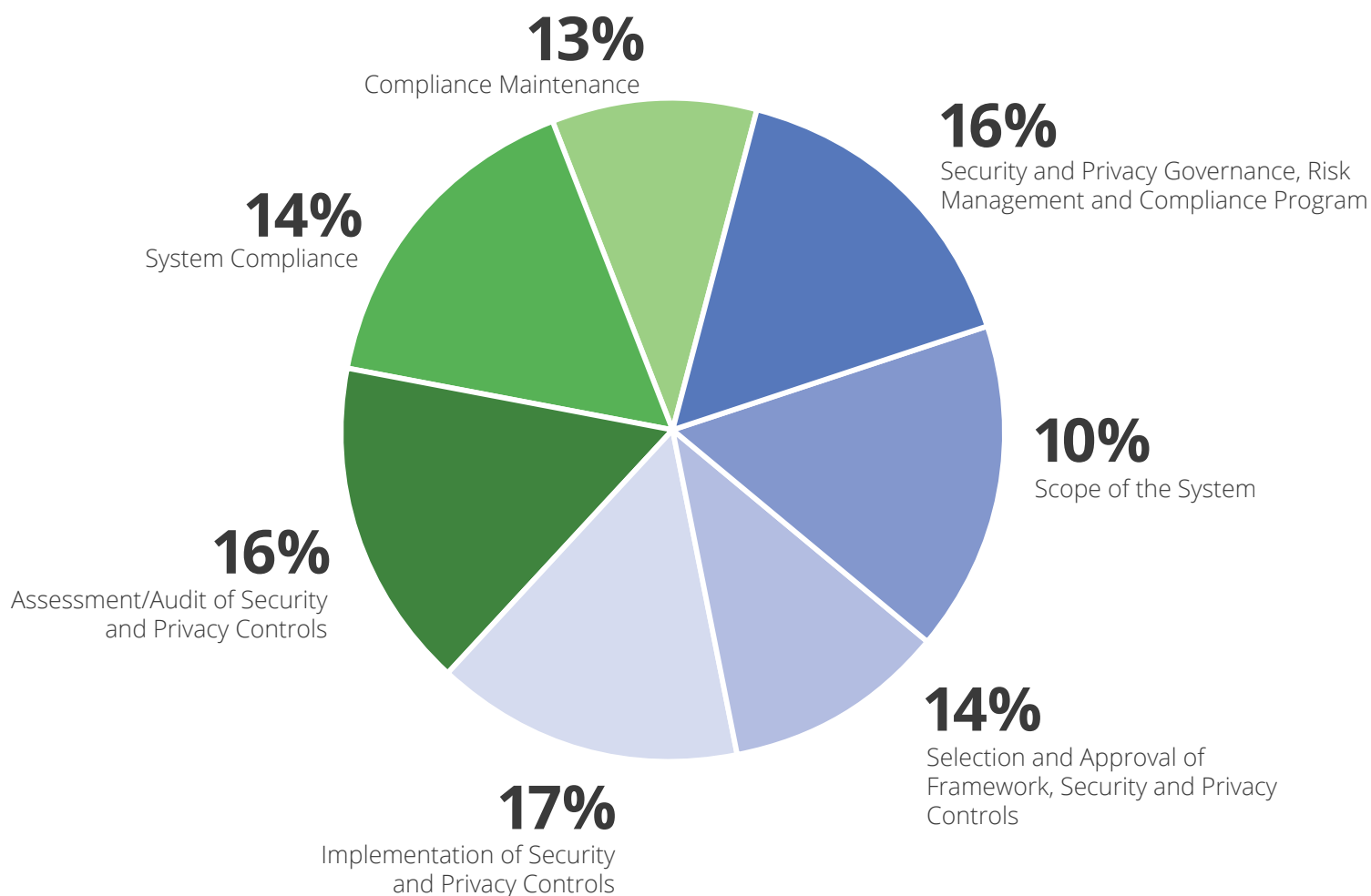
Your first year is free — no cost to you.\* You'll enjoy most of these benefits as you prepare for certification — plus 10% off Online Self-Paced Training for CGRC.

\*If you choose to renew after the first year, U.S. \$50 due annually.



# Exam Overview

The CGRC exam evaluates expertise across seven domains. (Think of domains as topics you need to master based on your professional experience and education.) Passing the exam demonstrates that you have the advanced technical skills and knowledge to understand governance, risk and compliance, and can authorize and maintain information systems utilizing various risk management frameworks, as well as best practices, policies and procedures.



**125** Number of items on the CGRC exam

**3 hrs.** Maximum amount of time for the exam

**700** Score you need out of 1,000 to pass the exam

View the CGRC [exam outline](#).

Exam availability:  
[English](#)

Testing Centers:  
[Pearson VUE](#)

# Official **Exam Prep**

ISC2 offers Official Exam Prep for CGRC. 10% off Official ISC2 Online Self-Paced Training when you sign up to be an **ISC2 Candidate**.

Everyone has their own style of learning. That's why we offer three options to help guide you in CGRC certification. Experience new learning with recently enhanced Official ISC2 CGRC Exam Prep options. **Find Exam Prep**.

## **1. Online Self-Paced - Register Now**

Your self-guided tour toward certification - now featuring adaptive learning for a streamlined experience customized to each individual. Leveraging the power of AI, the training guides learners through a self-paced learning experience adaptive to their individual needs.

- Flexibility to study on your own time and at your own pace
- Personalized learning that adapts to your needs
- Interactive, engaging courseware
- Analytics dashboard to track learning progress
- Education Guarantee

## **2. Online Instructor-Led – Register now**

Progress through the course domain by domain with the most current content that aligns to the CGRC exam outline to be easy-to-follow in live virtual learning sessions from an ISC2

- 180-day access to the most up-to-date course content — straight from the source
- Virtual live instruction and access to recordings if you miss a session
- Official ISC2 Student Training Guide (electronic format)
- Interactive content
- Online interactive flash cards
- 24x7x365 chat technical support
- Education Guarantee
- And more!

## **3. Classroom – Learn more**

Your guided small group tour (10 or more students) toward certification

- Learn in-person at your office or a private venue near you
- Interact with an ISC2 Authorized Instructor and students

### **CGRC Self-Study Resources**

We offer a variety of **Self-Study Resources** to supplement your coursework and reinforce key concepts. Choose from options for every schedule and learning style.



# Pathway to Certification

## 1 Become an ISC2 Candidate

Begin your journey by joining ISC2, the world's leading cybersecurity professional organization. As a candidate, you'll access a full range of benefits, including 10% off Online Self-Paced Training to help you on your path to CGRC.

[Sign up now.](#)

## 2 Obtain the required experience

[To qualify for the CGRC](#), candidates must have at least two years of cumulative, paid work experience in one or more of the seven domains of the current ISC2 CGRC Exam Outline.

- **Domain 1:** Security and Privacy Governance, Risk Management and Compliance Program
- **Domain 2:** Scope of the System
- **Domain 3:** Selection and Approval of Framework, Security and Privacy Controls
- **Domain 4:** Implementation of Security and Privacy Controls
- **Domain 5:** Assessment/Audit of Security and Privacy Controls
- **Domain 6:** System Compliance
- **Domain 7:** Compliance Maintenance

If you don't yet have the required experience, you may become an Associate of ISC2 after successfully passing the CGRC exam. [The Associate of ISC2](#) will then have three years to earn the experience needed for the CGRC certification.



# Pathway to Certification

## 3 Study for the exam

Many [self-study resources](#) are available from ISC2 – the creator and keeper of the CGRC Exam Outline – to help you prepare with confidence. Some CGRC candidates pass the exam with self-study, and many choose to attend an [Official ISC2 Training](#) to review and refresh their knowledge before sitting for the exam.

## 4 Pass the exam

You have a maximum of three hours to complete the 125-item exam. Ready for the exam? [Register now](#) and get it on your calendar.

## Get endorsed

## 5

After you pass the exam, you have nine months from the date of the exam to complete the [ISC2 endorsement process](#).

## Earn CPE credits

## 6

Once you are certified, you become a member of ISC2 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** CPE credits  
over 3 years

U.S. **\$135** AMF

Members with multiple ISC2  
certifications only pay a single AMF.



# Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Opportunities

The Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credit 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.

## Join webinars

- Think Tanks
- Security Briefings
- Knowledge Vault
- Security Congress

## Read and write

- Read a book directly related to CGRC 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 CGRC

## Attend trainings and events

- ISC2 Chapter meetings
- Prepare or attend an educational presentation related to the CGRC exam outline domains
- ISC2 Certificates - Grow your skills with quick learning averaging 3.5 hours per certificate that focuses on high demand subject matter.
- ISC2 Courses - Dive deeper into learning with actionable strategies you can apply immediately to strengthen your organization's security.
- ISC2 Express Courses - Grow your cybersecurity knowledge at home or on the go with fast, flexible learning that delivers real-world results.
- Discount pricing for ISC2 events and industry events, including ISC2 Security Congress

## Volunteer

- Become a Safe and Secure Online Ambassador and spread your knowledge about cyber safety in your community
- Volunteer to help develop ISC2 certification exams

CPE

# Grow Your Cybersecurity Skills and Knowledge

Cybersecurity never stands still – it's a constantly evolving field that requires continuing education. ISC2 Certificates, Courses and Express Courses will help you stay in front of cyberthreats and on top of trends.

## Explore ISC2 Continuing Education Now

Learn on demand anytime, anywhere with Certificates, Courses and Express Courses created by industry experts

### ISC2 Certificates

Advance your skills in high-demand cybersecurity areas of focus with [ISC2 Certificates](#). Move your career forward and gain the competencies you need for certification.

ISC2 Certificates turn a laser focus on the subject matter. And with courseware created on the hottest topics by cybersecurity's most respected certifying body, you're assured the most current and relevant content.

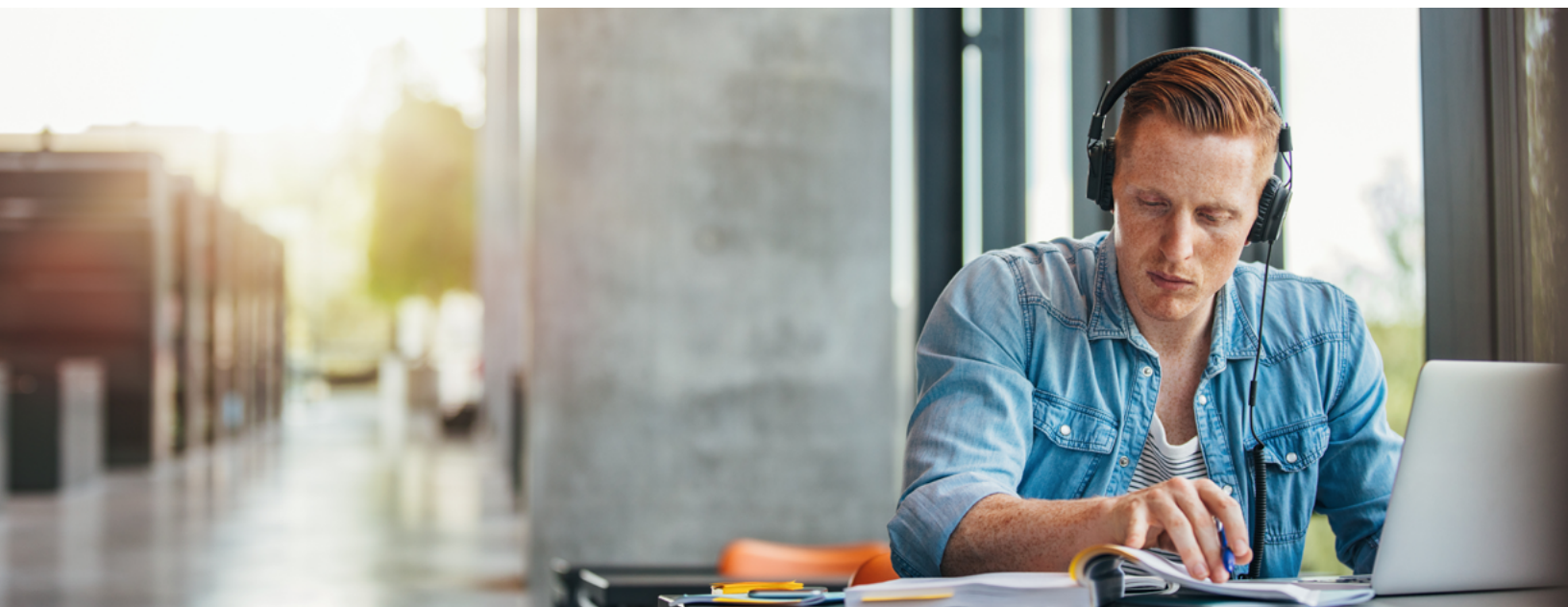
You'll earn digital badges you can share when you pass the assessments.

### ISC2 Courses

Demonstrate your knowledge of the latest cybersecurity principles and best practices with [ISC2 Courses](#), created by industry experts and available online. Access practical learning with actionable strategies that deliver measurable results for organizations around the globe.

### ISC2 Express Courses

Stay in front of the hottest cybersecurity topics, challenges and emerging trends with [ISC2 Express Courses](#). Quickly grow what you know with short-format, on-demand learning designed to fit your busy schedule.





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# Get in touch with us

For more information about CGRC certification and training, contact an Education Consultant in your region:

**Americas** — Phone: +1.866.331.4722, Email: [training@ISC2.org](mailto:training@ISC2.org)

**Europe, Middle East and Africa** — Phone: +44.203.960.7800, Email: [info-emea@ISC2.org](mailto:info-emea@ISC2.org)

**Asia-Pacific** — Phone: +852.5803.5662, Email: [ISC2asia@ISC2.org](mailto:ISC2asia@ISC2.org)

## About ISC2

**ISC2** is the world's leading member organization for cybersecurity professionals, driven by our vision of a safe and secure cyber world. Our more than 265,000 certified members, and associates, are a force for good, safeguarding the way we live. Our award-winning certifications – including cybersecurity's premier certification, the CGRC® – enable professionals to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and abilities at every stage of their careers. ISC2 strengthens the influence, diversity and vitality of the cybersecurity profession through advocacy, expertise and workforce empowerment that accelerates cyber safety and security in an interconnected world. Our charitable foundation, **The Center for Cyber Safety and Education**, helps create more access to cyber careers and educates those most vulnerable. Learn more, get involved or become an ISC2 Candidate to build your cyber career at [ISC2.org](https://www.isc2.org). Connect with us on [X](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).



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03/2025