ISC2

Candidate Information Bulletin (CIB)

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About Certifications

Cybersecurity skills are in higher demand than ever before. But these days, knowledge, experience, and skills are not enough. Employers want proof that you have the expertise they need. They want to see your cybersecurity certifications. They want to know you are continually improving your skills to stay up to date with the latest threats and technology. Certify your skills through ISC2 - the global leader in cybersecurity certifications, which are known as the gold standard of the industry.

Why Certify? Become a Better Version of Yourself

When you earn one of our certifications, you:
- Confirm you're a leader and expert in your field.
- Differentiate yourself from other candidates for desirable job openings.
- Validate the knowledge and skills you've gained through your years of hard work.
- Gain entry into ISC2 membership. It's a unique community of thought leaders in cybersecurity, so you can collaborate and hone your craft.
- Get insider access to peer networking, mentoring, educational tools, and global resources. You can grow and challenge yourself. ISC2 is on the forefront of helping professionals – like you – learn, certify, and grow throughout their careers.
- Gain the power, education, and networking system to face security threats head on.

Which Certification is Right for You?

- <u>CISSP (Certified Information Systems Security Professional):</u> The CISSP recognizes cybersecurity leaders who have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to understand cybersecurity strategy, as well as hands-on implementation. It shows they have the knowledge and experience to design, develop and manage the overall security posture of an organization.

  o **Experience Required:** Candidates must have a minimum of five years cumulative, full-time experience in two or more of the domains of the current CISSP Exam Outline. Earning a post-secondary degree (bachelors or masters) in computer science, information technology (IT) or related fields may satisfy up to one year of the required experience or an additional credential from the ISC2 approved list may satisfy up to one year of the required experience. Part-time work and internships may also count towards the experience requirement.

- <u>SSCP (Systems Security Certified Practitioner):</u> The SSCP recognizes systems security practitioners who have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to implement, monitor and administer information technology (IT) infrastructure using cybersecurity policies and procedures — ensuring the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of data.

  o **Experience Required:** Candidates must have a minimum of one-year full-time experience in one or more of the domains of the current SSCP Exam Outline. Part-time work and internships may also count towards the experience requirement.

- **CCSP (Certified Cloud Security Professional):** The CCSP recognizes information technology (IT) and cybersecurity leaders who have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to apply best practices to cloud security architecture, design, operations, and service orchestration.
  - o **Experience Required:** Candidates must have a minimum of five years cumulative, full-time experience in information technology. Three years must be in cybersecurity, and one year must be in one or more of the domains of the current CCSP Exam Outline. Earning a post-secondary degree (bachelors or masters) in computer science, information technology (IT) or related fields may satisfy up to one year of the required experience. Earning an additional credential from the ISC2 approved list may be substituted for one year of experience in one or more of the domains of the CCSP Exam Outline. An active CISSP credential may be substituted for the entire CCSP experience requirement. Part-time work and internships may also count towards the experience requirement.

- **CGRC (Certified in Governance, Risk and Compliance):** The CGRC recognizes information technology (IT) and cybersecurity leaders who have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to authorize and maintain information systems, as well as how to use formalized processes to assess risk and establish security documentation.
  - o **Experience Required:** Candidates must have a minimum of two years cumulative, full-time experience in one or more of the domains of the current CGRC Exam Outline. Part-time work and internships may also count towards the experience requirement.

- **CSSLP (Certified Secure Software Lifecycle Professional):** The CSSLP recognizes information technology (IT) and cybersecurity leaders who have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to incorporate security practices — authentication, authorization, and auditing — into each phase of the secure software lifecycle.
  - o **Experience Required:** Candidates must have a minimum of four years cumulative, full-time experience in one or more of the domains of the current CSSLP Exam Outline. Earning a post-secondary degree (bachelors or masters) in computer science, information technology (IT) or related fields may satisfy up to one year of the required experience. Part-time work and internships may also count towards the experience requirement.

- **ISSAP (Information System Security Architecture Professional):** The ISSAP recognizes information technology (IT) and cybersecurity leaders who have the advanced knowledge, skills, and abilities to develop, design, and analyze security solutions. They also excel at giving risk-based guidance to senior management to meet organizational goals.
  - o **Experience Required:**
    - o Candidates must be a CISSP in good standing and have two years cumulative, full-time experience in one or more of the domains of the current ISSAP Exam Outline.

    Or

    - o Candidates must have a minimum of seven years cumulative, full-time experience in two or more of the domains of the current ISSAP Exam Outline. Earning a post-secondary degree (bachelors or masters) in computer science, information technology (IT) or related fields or an additional

credential from the ISC2 approved list may satisfy one year of the required experience. Part-time work and internships may also count towards the experience requirement.

- **ISSEP (Information Systems Security Engineering Professional):** The ISSEP recognizes information technology (IT) and cybersecurity leaders who have the advanced knowledge, skills, and abilities to practically apply systems engineering principles and processes to develop secure systems.
  - o Experience Required:
    - o Candidates must be a CISSP in good standing and have two years cumulative, full-time experience in one or more of the domains of the current ISSEP Exam Outline.

    Or

    - o Candidates must have a minimum of seven years cumulative, full-time experience in two or more of the domains of the current ISSEP Exam Outline. Earning a post-secondary degree (bachelors or masters) in computer science, information technology (IT) or related fields or an additional credential from the ISC2 approved list may satisfy one year of the required experience. Part-time work and internships may also count towards the experience requirement.

- **ISSMP (Information Systems Security Management Professional):** The ISSMP recognizes information technology (IT) and cybersecurity leaders who have the advanced knowledge, skills, and abilities to establish, present, and govern cybersecurity programs. They also demonstrate deep management and leadership skills.
  - o Experience Required:
    - o Candidates must be a CISSP in good standing and have two years cumulative, full-time experience in one or more of the domains of the current ISSMP Exam Outline.

    Or

    - o Candidates must have a minimum of seven years cumulative, full-time experience in two or more of the domains of the current ISSMP Exam Outline. Earning a post-secondary degree (bachelors or masters) in computer science, information technology (IT) or related fields or an additional credential from the ISC2 approved list may satisfy one year of the required experience. Part-time work and internships may also count towards the experience requirement.

- **CC (Certified in Cybersecurity):** A foundational cybersecurity certification designed to help recipients build a pathway to a rewarding career in cybersecurity. Once earned, this entry-level certification will demonstrate to employers the foundational knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for an entry- or junior-level cybersecurity role. It proves a willingness and ability to learn and grow on the job.
  - o **Experience 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 any formal educational diploma/degree is required. The next step in the candidate's career would drive to earning ISC2 expert-level certifications, which require experience in the field.

- <u>**Associate of ISC2:**</u> A unique designation to validate skills and rapidly advance toward certification. The Associate of ISC2 proves one's knowledge in cybersecurity.
  - o **Experience Required:** Candidates can take an ISC2 certification exam without the minimum work experience. Once passed, Associates need to meet continuing professional education (CPE) requirements, while working to obtain the experience needed to certify as a CISSP, SSCP, CCSP, CGRC, CSSLP, ISSAP, ISSEP, or ISSMP.

Exam outlines are available for all ISC2 certifications, and they provide details on the domains covered by each exam.

Experience hours calculations:

- **Full-Time Experience**: Your work experience is accrued monthly. Experience must be accrued at a minimum of 35 hours/week for four weeks to achieve one month of experience.
  - **Part-Time Experience**: Your part-time experience cannot be less than 20 hours a week.
    - o 1040 hours of part-time = 6 months of full-time experience
    - o 2080 hours of part-time = 12 months of full-time experience
  - **Internship:** Internship, paid or unpaid, is acceptable for the certification expertise requirement. You will need primary source documentation on organization letterhead (company or academic institution) confirming your position and detailed experience.

Path to Certification

To qualify for any of ISC2's cybersecurity certifications, you must pass the exam and meet the experience requirements or become an Associate of ISC2.

Complete the Endorsement Process

Once you receive notification informing you that you have successfully passed the exam, you can start the online endorsement process. The application must be endorsed and digitally signed by an ISC2 certified professional. If you do not know an ISC2 certified professional in good standing, ISC2 can act as an endorser for you. The ISC2 certified professional is anyone who:

- Is able to attest to your professional experience
- Is an active ISC2 credential holder in good standing

The endorser will attest that your assertions regarding professional experience are true to the best of the endorser's knowledge, and that you are in good standing within the cybersecurity industry. You will need the endorser's member/certification number when filling out the online application.

Please note: if you have passed the Certified in Cybersecurity (CC) exam, your endorsement is a short application containing ethics questions and agreements. No experience or endorser are required.

Application & Endorsement Time Limit

All candidates who pass the exam must complete the application & endorsement process within a period of no longer than nine months.

Please note: A percentage of the candidates who pass the exam and submit an endorsement will be randomly selected for audit and required to submit additional information, as required, for verification. You will be notified via email if your application is selected for audit.

Agree to the ISC2 Code of Ethics

All cybersecurity professionals who are certified by ISC2 recognize that such certification is a privilege that must be both earned and maintained. All ISC2 members are required to commit to fully supporting the ISC2 Code of Ethics Canons:

- Protect society, the common good, necessary public trust and confidence, and the infrastructure.

- Act honorably, honestly, justly, responsibly, and legally.

- Provide diligent and competent service to principles.

- Advance and protect the profession.

Pay Your First Annual Maintenance Fee

Once your endorsement application has been approved, the final step in the process is to pay your first Annual Maintenance Fee (AMF). If you already hold an ISC2 certification you will not have to pay an additional AMF for your latest certification.

The Annual Maintenance Fee (AMF) for Certified in Cybersecurity is U.S. $50. This is due upon certification.

Certified Members' AMFs

ISC2 certified members pay a single AMF of U.S.$135 which is due each year upon the anniversary of their certification date. Members only pay a single AMF of U.S.$135 regardless of how many certifications they earn. AMFs for members with multiple certifications are due on their earliest certification anniversary.

Associates of ISC2 AMFs

Associates of ISC2 pay an AMF of U.S.$50 which is due each year upon the anniversary of achieving their associate status.

Recertification by Examination

To be reinstated once a certification or designation is suspended, certified members and associates of ISC2 are required to submit all outstanding CPE credits and pay all past due AMFs. Certified members and associates of ISC2 are given a 90-day grace period from the end of their certification cycle to fulfill outstanding CPE credits and past due AMFs. Suspension status may be maintained for up to two consecutive years. After two years, certified members and associates of ISC2 will be terminated, and all membership rights will be revoked. Terminated certified members and associates wishing to be reinstated will be required to retake and pass the examination.

Benefits of ISC2 Membership

ISC2 is an international, nonprofit membership association for cybersecurity leaders like you. We are committed to helping our members learn, grow, and thrive. With more than 500,000 members strong, we empower professionals who touch every aspect of cyber, information, software, IT and infrastructure security.

With an ISC2 certification, you join a globally recognized family of cyber and IT security professionals. You will have access to a broad array of exclusive resources, educational tools and peer-to-peer networking opportunities, conferences, and event discounts, and much more to help strengthen your career while helping us accomplish our mission of inspiring a safe and secure cyber world.

The Value of Certification and Membership

ISC2 is acknowledged as the global, nonprofit leader in educating and certifying professionals throughout their careers. Our reputation has earned our cyber and IT security certifications and training programs recognition as the industry Gold Standard.

When you become certified through ISC2, you earn tested and verifiable proof of proficiency in your field, leading to career advancement and new professional growth opportunities.

Unmatched Member Benefits

As an ISC2 member, you never stop learning and growing. We provide access to a full suite of benefits and resources to help enable your continuing education and development to keep you ahead of the latest cyberthreats, best practices, and industry trends.

Members and associates enjoy access to a full spectrum of resources and exclusive benefits that enable them to expand their skillset and earn CPEs, including enriching professional development and volunteer opportunities;

peer-to-peer networking and best-practice sharing; ISC2's Security Congress annual cybersecurity conference; professional recognition and awards programs; industry event and learning materials discounts, and more.

Professional Development
Free, immersive continuing education courses to help members and associates earn rewarding CPEs while keeping their skills sharp and curiosity piqued. Available at no additional cost to members and associates, the professional development library now includes 35 express learning, immersive and lab-style courses valued at more than $10,000.

CPE Opportunities
We offer a wide array of rewarding CPE opportunities that help members and associates evolve and grow as security professionals. Our thought-provoking events, webinars, publications, and volunteering for exam development workshops are a great way to earn CPEs and stay current on the latest issues and best practices in cybersecurity.

Manage Your Membership
Download your digital certificate, claim your digital badge, review your CPEs, update your communication preferences and more. Make sure you're taking full advantage of your ISC2 membership.

Engage, Volunteer & Grow
Learn about the many opportunities to grow professionally, share best practices, become a mentor, recognize achievements and more.

- Exam Development: Ensure ISC2 certifications remain up-to-date and relevant to the industry through participating in various exam development workshops, including item writing to earn CPEs while providing invaluable input to the certifications you've earned.

- Security Congress: Attend ISC2 Security Congress and take advantage of the powerful collaboration that you can only find at a conference of your peers who are dedicated to helping one another solve the challenges we all face.

- Center for Cyber Safety & Education: Find opportunities to volunteer in your community to keep children, parents, and the elderly safe and secure online. Plus, learn about scholarships and get resources to share with your employer.

- Community: Connect with cybersecurity professionals from around the world in our online Community. Collaborate, share knowledge, and develop best practices required to manage the ever-evolving needs and interests of the cyber industry.

- Chapters: ISC2 Chapters provide the opportunity to build a local network of peers to share knowledge, exchange resources, collaborate on projects and create new ways to earn CPE credits.

- ISC2 Blog: The ISC2 Blog covers topics facing cybersecurity professionals. Read the posts to learn about new research, reports, and certification news. ISC2 members can write their own posts and earn CPEs.

Discount, Perks & Resources
Take advantage of a wide array of exclusive member discounts and perks, ranging from savings on training materials to discounts on professional services.

About the Exam

Registering for the Exam

1. Visit the ISC2 website https://www.isc2.org/Register-for-Exam

2. Create and account and review the Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA). Pearson VUE is the exclusive, global administrator of all ISC2 exams.

3. Select exam type.

4. Schedule your exam and testing location.

5. Pay for your exam.

6. Look for email confirmation from Pearson VUE with your appointment details, test center location and any other instructions, if any.

7. Pearson VUE will transfer your registration information to ISC2. All communication about the testing process will be sent to you via email. You may register by phone instead; you can find the phone number for your region on the Pearson VUE website.

Questions?

Contact ISC2 Candidate and Member Services

- Phone: +1.866-331-ISC2 (4722), press 1 for candidate support

- Email: membersupport@isc2.org

Get Ready for Test Day

- Familiarize yourself with the ISC2 candidate background qualifications. These are the standards you need to meet to become an ISC2 member when you pass your exam.

- Each exam is computer-based. You can watch both a demo and a tutorial of the exam experience on the Pearson VUE website.

- By taking an ISC2 exam, you are agreeing that you have read the ISC2 Examination Agreement and fully understand and accept your obligations. Release of Pearson VUE credentials to unauthorized third parties is a violation of ISC2 Non-Disclosure Agreement. Authorized third parties include Candidate, Pearson VUE and ISC2. Violations of the ISC2 Non-Disclosure Agreement may result in the immediate and permanent termination of your exam result or certification(s).

- If you are eligible for assistance covering your exam fee through the GI Bill, learn more about Veteran Benefits.

Rescheduling or Cancelling an Exam

- ISC2 provides reasonable and appropriate accommodations for its exams with people who have demonstrated a need for test accommodations. If you wish to request an accommodation, complete the [Accommodation Form](#) and return it to ISC2 prior to registering for your exam with the following information to membersupport@isc2.org:

  o An explanation of the accommodations you need

  o Documentation supporting the accommodation

  o The exam you want to take

  o The exam location

- Test accommodations are individualized and considered on a case-by-case basis. Once an accommodation is approved by ISC2, we'll send it to Pearson VUE Accommodations. Please allow two to three business days for Pearson VUE to get this information. Then, call Pearson VUE at +1.800.466.0450 or +1.952.905.7025, so you can schedule your exam. Please contact ISC2 first. Do not start by scheduling through Pearson VUE's website or through their main registration phone line.

- Please note, that the purpose of test accommodations is to provide examinees with full access to the test. However, they are not a guarantee of improved performance or test completion.

Exam Format and Scoring

For answers to frequently asked questions about exam scoring, click [here](#).

Exam	Time Allotted	Items	Examination Availability
CISSP CAT	3 hours	100-150 multiple choice and advanced innovative items	English, German, Spanish-Modern, Japanese, Simplified Chinese
SSCP	4 hours	150 multiple choice*, 4 choices	English, Spanish-Modern, Japanese
CCSP	4 hours	150 multiple choice**, 4 choices	English, German, Japanese, Simplified Chinese,
CGRC	3 hours	125 multiple choice, 4 choices	English
CSSLP	3 hours	125 multiple choice, 4 choices	English
ISSAP	3 hours	125 multiple choice, 4 choices	English
ISSEP	3 hours	125 multiple choice, 4 choices	English
ISSMP	3 hours	125 multiple choice, 4 choices	English
CC	2 hours	100 multiple choice, 4 choices	English, Chinese, Japanese, German, Spanish-Modern

Note – Effective 15 September 2024, the SSCP exam will be compromised of 125 multiple choice items and 3 hours of time allotted.

**Note – Effective 1 August 2024, the CCSP exam will be comprised of 125 multiple choice items and 3 hours of time allotted.*

There may be scenario-based items with more than one multiple-choice item. Each of these exams contains 25 pre-test items. They're included for research purposes only. The pre-test items aren't identified, so answer every item to the best of your ability.

You need a scaled score of at least 700 out of a possible 1,000 points to pass your cybersecurity exam.

Familiarize yourself with CISSP Computerized Adaptive Test - ISC2 uses Computerized Adaptive Testing (CAT). CISSP CAT is a more precise and efficient evaluation of your competency.

Policies and Procedures for Your Cybersecurity Exam

Rescheduling or Cancelling an Exam

- To reschedule or cancel your exam appointment, contact Pearson VUE by logging into your account or by phone (877-863-0386).
- Online at least 48 hours prior to your exam or by phone at least 24 hours before your exam.
- Pearson VUE charges a reschedule fee of U.S.$50 and a cancellation fee of U.S.$100.

Refunds

- There will be no refund of exam registration fees (telephone or via the Internet) for any reason, including, but not limited to:
  - Duplicate registrations
  - Failure to reschedule and/or cancel your exam appointment outside of 24 business hours
  - Failure to appear for your exam appointment

Late Arrivals or No Shows

- Be sure to arrive at least 30 minutes before your exam start time.
- If you arrive within 15 minutes of your start time, you will be considered late. This means you may forfeit your assigned seat. It is up to the test center to decide whether to allow you to take the exam without affecting others' start times.
- Pearson VUE will make all attempts to accommodate you if you're late. But if they can't, you'll be turned away.
- If you're turned away because you're late or you didn't show up, your exam result will appear in the system as a no-show. You'll also forfeit your exam fee.

What You Need to Bring to the Test Center

- Proper Identification – ISC2 requires two forms of identification (ID) to take your cybersecurity exam. You will be asked to provide a primary and a secondary ID when you check in at your test center. ISC2 also requires you to submit to a palm-vein scan.
  - Your IDs must be valid (not expired).
  - They must be original documents (not photocopies or faxes).

- Your primary ID must include your photo and signature. (The photo needs to be permanently affixed to the document.)
- Your secondary ID must include your signature.
- Accepted Primary ID (contains photograph and signature; not expired)
  - Government issued driver's license or identification card
  - U.S. Department of State driver's license
  - U.S. learner's permit (card only with photo and signature)
  - National/state/country Identification card
  - Passport
  - Military ID / Military ID for spouses and dependents
  - Alien registration card (green card; permanent resident visa)
  - Government issued local language ID (plastic card with photo and signature)
  - Employee ID
  - School ID
  - Credit Card* (A credit card can be used as your primary ID only if it contains both your photo and a signature. It can't be expired. Any credit card can be used as your secondary ID if your signature is on it and it isn't expired. This includes major credit cards, as well as department store and gasoline credit cards.)
- Accepted Secondary ID (contains signature; not expired)
  - U.S. Social Security card
  - Debit/ATM card
  - Credit card*
  - Any form of ID on the primary ID list

What You Shouldn't Bring into the Test Center

- Weapons – weapons are not allowed at the test center. If you bring a weapon (or something your Test Administrator considers to be a weapon), you'll be asked to store it in your car. If you didn't drive to the test center, you can store it in the locker with your other personal belongings.

- There is one exception – if you are law enforcement or security personnel on site performing an official duty, you may carry a weapon. This exemption does not apply to law enforcement or security personnel who are scheduled to take exams.

Name Matching Policy

- The first and last name on your ID must exactly match the first and last name that you used to register with Pearson VUE. (For example, if your driver's license shows your name as Charles, be sure to register as Charles – not as Chuck or Charlie.)

- If your names don't match, you must bring proof of legal name change to the test center on your test day. Your document must be an original (not a photocopy or fax). The only legal documents that Pearson VUE will accept are:

  o Marriage licenses

  o Divorce decrees

  o Court-sanctioned legal name change documents

- If you made a mistake with how you registered your name with Pearson VUE, you must contact ISC2 to make a correction before your test date.

- Name changes cannot be made on your test day, including at the test center. If your names don't match, you'll be asked to leave. You'll also forfeit your testing fee.

The Day of Your Exam

Check-In Process

Plan to arrive at your test center at least 30 minutes before your exam start time. To check in, you'll need to:

- Show two acceptable forms of ID.

- Provide your signature.

- Submit to a palm vein scan (unless it's prohibited by law).

- Have your photo taken. Hats, scarves, and coats may not be worn for your photo. You also can't wear these items in the test room.

- Leave your personal belongings outside the testing room. You'll have access to secure storage. Storage space is small, so plan ahead. Pearson VUE test centers do not assume responsibility for your personal belongings.

- The Test Administrator (TA) will give you a short orientation. Then, the TA will escort you to a computer terminal.

Exam Assistance and Breaks

- You must remain in your seat during the exam unless the staff says it's okay for you to get up. You may not change your computer terminal unless a TA directs you to do so.

- Raise your hand to notify the TA if you:
  - Believe you have a problem with your computer.
  - Need to change note boards.
  - Need to take a break.
  - Need the administrator for any reason.

- Your total exam time includes any unscheduled breaks you may take. All breaks count against your testing time. You must leave the testing room during your break. However, you may not leave the building or access any personal belongings unless absolutely necessary (such as for retrieving medication).

- When you take a break, you'll be required to submit to a palm vein scan before and after your break.

Testing Environment

- Pearson VUE test centers administer many types of exams. Some exams have written responses (such as essays). The test centers have no control over the sounds of people typing on keyboards next to you. Typing noise is a normal part of a computerized testing environment. It's like the noise of turning pages in a paper-and-pencil testing environment.

- Earplugs are available upon request.

When You Finish Your Exam

- After you finish, raise your hand to summon the TA. The TA will let you go when you've met all the requirements.

- Be sure to notify your TA before you leave the test center if:
  - You believe there was an irregularity in how your test was run or

- Irregular testing conditions had a negative effect on the outcome of your exam

Technical Issues

- On rare occasions, the test center may have technical problems. You may need to reschedule your cybersecurity exam.
- If technical issues cause you to wait more than 30 minutes after your scheduled exam start time, or your exam starts and then stops with a delay of more than 30 minutes, you'll have the choice of continuing to wait or rescheduling with no additional fee:
  - If you choose not to reschedule and take the test after your delay, your test results will count. You'll have no further recourse.
  - If you choose to wait but change your mind before starting (or restarting) your exam, you can take the exam at a later date at no extra cost.
  - If you choose to reschedule or the technical problem can't be fixed, you'll be allowed to test at a later date at no extra charge.
- We know your time is valuable. If your test center identifies technical problems before your exam, they'll make every attempt to contact you.

Results Reporting

Receiving Your Results

- ISC2 conducts a thorough statistical and psychometric analysis of the score data to establish the pass/fail score before releasing scores. We need a minimum number of test takers before this analysis can be completed.

- Depending on the volume of test takers for a given test, there may be times when scores are delayed for approximately six to eight weeks to complete this critical process.

- Your TA will give you an unofficial exam result when you check out at the test center. ISC2 will email you the official result.

- In some instances, real-time results may not be available.

- All test results are subject to the ISC2 psychometric and forensic evaluation. This evaluation could take place after you get your official results. (The timing is based on the number of tests taken.) If the psychometric and forensic evaluation affects your score, ISC2 will notify you.

- Results will not be released over the phone. If you have any questions about this policy, contact ISC2 before your exam.

Exam Irregularities and Results Invalidation

- If ISC2 suspects that any irregularity, fraud, or policy violation has taken place before, during or after an exam, ISC2 will examine the situation and determine whether action is needed. ISC2 may choose not to score the exam of the affected test taker(s). Or, ISC2 may choose to cancel the results of the affected test taker(s).

- At ISC2's sole discretion, we may:
  - Revoke any and all certifications you may have earned.
  - Ban you from earning future ISC2 certifications.
  - Decline to score or cancel any exam under any of the circumstances listed in the ISC2 Examination Agreement.

Retake Policy

- For each CC, CISSP, CGRC, CCSP, CSSLP, ISSAP, ISSEP, ISSMP and SSCP certification programs, there are two independent rules that govern exam retake attempts:
  - **Test-free days between retake attempts:**
    - If you don't pass the exam on your first attempt, you may retest after 30 test-free days.
    - If you don't pass the exam on your second attempt, you may retest after 60 test-free days from your most recent exam attempt.
    - If you don't pass the exam on your third attempt and for all subsequent retakes, you may retest after 90 test-free days from your most recent exam attempt.
  - **Per certification program, at a maximum you may attempt an ISC2 exam up to 4 times within a 12-month period.**
- Candidates may pursue multiple certifications simultaneously.

Recertification by Examination

- You may take an exam to recertify if you've become decertified due to:
  - Not meeting your required number of continuing professional education credits.
  - Having the time limit on your endorsement expire.

ISC2 Pass or Fail Decision Rules

The decision as to whether a candidate passes or fails the CISSP CAT examination is governed by three different scenarios:
* However, for all other examinations pass or fail, the decision is made based on the number of correct responses provided. *

- Scenario # 1: The 95% Confidence Interval Rule

  - Once the minimum exam length (100 items) is satisfied, an exam will end when a candidate's ability estimate excludes the pass point with 95% statistical confidence.

  - For candidates with ability estimates that statistically exceed the passing standard, the exam will result in a pass.

  - For candidates that have ability estimates that are statistically below the standard, the exam will result in a fail.

- Scenario #2: Maximum-Length Exam

  - If the Confidence Interval Rule has not been invoked prior to a maximum length examination (150 items), the candidate's ability estimate will be evaluated against the passing standard.
    - If the final ability estimate is at or above the passing standard, the candidate passes.
    - If the final ability estimate is below the passing standard, the candidate fails.

- Scenario #3: Run-Out-of-Time (R.O.O.T.) Rule

  - If the Confidence Interval Rule has not been invoked prior to a maximum time of the examination (3 hours), the candidate's ability estimate will be evaluated against the passing standard.

  - If, for the last seventy-five (75) operational items answered, the candidate's ability estimate is consistently above the passing standard, then the exam result is a pass.

  - If, at any point over those seventy-five (75) items the candidate's ability estimate falls below the passing standard, the result is a fail. The evaluation of the ability estimate in relation to the passing standard does not take the confidence interval into account.

  - If a candidate does not answer seventy-five (75) operational items within the maximum time of the examination (3 hours), the candidate will automatically fail the exam.

Alternate Item Formats

Candidates may be administered multiple-choice items as well as items written in alternate formats. These formats may include, but are not limited to: calculation, ordered response, drag and drop and/or hot spots. All item types may include multimedia such as charts and tables.

CISSP Passing Standard

When the CISSP CAT exam form is created based on the results of the Job Task Analysis, a new passing standard for the exam needs to be set. Passing standard, also called cut-score, is set under the guidance of a psychometrician by a group of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) who are certified CISSPs and in good standing. The SME group goes through a rigorous process on a Modified Angoff method, one of the standard setting methods commonly used in certification examinations, where the group reviews each item on a test and estimate what proportion of a target group of Minimally Competent Candidates (MCC) will answer each item correctly. These item performance estimates for the target group are summed across items to obtain each SME's cut-score and the whole group's cut scores are averaged to obtain the estimated minimum passing score that a MCC would obtain. During the standard setting workshop, the psychometrician goes through in detail on how the MCC are defined and trains the SMEs for setting psychometrically valid cut-score in CISSP. To pass the CISSP exam, each candidate must score 700 or above on a scaled score. There is NO predetermined fixed percentage of candidates who pass or fail the CISSP exam.

Similar Items

Occasionally, a candidate may receive an item that seems to be very similar to an item they received earlier in the examination. This could happen for a variety of reasons. For example, several items could be about similar situations, scenarios, or problems, yet address different phases of the security process. Alternatively, a pretest (unscored) item could be about content similar to an operational (scored) item. It is incorrect to assume that a second item, which is similar in content to a previously administered item, is administered because you answered the first item incorrectly. Always select the answer you believe to be correct for each item administered. All examinations conform to their respective test plan.

Guessing

Rapid guessing can drastically lower your score. Some test preparation companies have realized that on certain paper-and-pencil tests, unanswered items are marked as wrong. To improve the candidate's score when they are running out of time, these companies sometimes advocate rapid guessing (perhaps without even reading the item) in the hope that the candidate will get at least a few items correct. On any adaptive test such as the CISSP CAT exam, this can be disastrous. It has the effect of giving the candidate easier items, which lowers the candidate ability estimate further. The best advice is to:

1. Maintain a reasonable pace (spending no more than one to two minutes on each item)

2. Carefully read and consider each item before answering.

Additional Examination Information

Supplementary References

Candidates are encouraged to supplement their education and experience by reviewing relevant resources that pertain to the CBK and identifying areas of study that may need additional attention.

View the full list of supplementary references at www.isc2.org/certifications/References.

Examination Policies and Procedures

ISC2 recommends that candidates review exam policies and procedures prior to registering for the examination. Read the comprehensive breakdown of this important information at www.isc2.org/Register-for-Exam.

Legal Info

For any questions related to ISC2's legal policies, please contact the ISC2 Legal Department at legal@isc2.org.

Any Questions?

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