

The Go-To-Guy That's an Information Security Must-Have

If you are currently working in the information security field or IT with some responsibilities or even interest in security, then you should be seriously considering the Systems Security Certified Practitioner (SSCP®) credential from (ISC)²®. With as little as one year's work experience you can become certified and be on your way down a meaningful career path.

The SSCP certification is the ideal credential for those who are the hands-on practical technicians; the enforcers who everyone goes to for answers. You would implement the plans and policies designed, planned and managed by the CISO or CSO who would typically hold the more advanced Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP®) Gold Standard certification from (ISC)² and operate in a managerial capacity as opposed to hands-on like you.

The SSCP is ideal for those working towards positions such as Network Security Engineers, Security Systems Analysts or Security Administrators. This is also the perfect course for personnel in many other non-security disciplines that require an understanding of security but do not have information security as a primary part of their job description. This large and growing group includes information systems auditors; application programmers; system, network and database administrators; business unit representatives and systems analysts.

SSCP experience includes:

- Work requiring special education or intellectual attainment, usually including a technical school, liberal education or college degree.
- Work requiring habitual memory of a body of knowledge shared with others doing similar work.
- Management of projects and/or other employees.
- Supervision of the work of others while working with a minimum of supervision of one's self.
- Work requiring the exercise of judgment, management decision-making, and discretion.
- Creative writing and oral communication.
- Teaching, instructing, training and the mentoring of others.
- Research and development.
- The specification and selection of controls and mechanisms (i.e. identification and authentication technology, not the mere operation of these controls).



SSCP® candidates must meet the following requirements prior to taking the SSCP examination:

- Subscribe to the (ISC)²® Code of Ethics.
- Have at least one year of cumulative work experience in one or more of the seven domains in information security.

(ISC)² SSCP CBK® topics are listed here, but explained in more detail in the SSCP Review Seminar brochure:

- Access Controls
- Cryptography
- Malicious Code and Activity
- Monitoring and Analysis
- Networks and Communications
- Risk, Response and Recovery
- Security Operations and Administration

If you're working on building your experience right now, you may earn the Associate of (ISC)² designation by passing the required SSCP examination. As an Associate, you receive all the member benefits that are afforded to our certified members. Having passed the 3-hour, 125 multiple choice SSCP examination, completed the endorsement process, attained the relevant experience and paid the annual maintenance fee (AMF), you will hold the SSCP credential.

Because the SSCP certification can be used to waive one year of experience for the CISSP credential, SSCP is frequently viewed as the first step on an information security career path leading to CISSP and the more advanced concentrations. However for many professionals, having a more vibrant, hands-on participation in company security, as an SSCP, is even more challenging. It all depends on which part of the (ISC)² career path best suits your goals and personality.

Maintenance Requirements

To remain in good standing with (ISC)², you must recertify every three years to maintain your SSCP credential. This is primarily accomplished by acquiring 60 continuing professional education (CPE) credits every three years, with a minimum of 10 CPEs earned each year after certification. You must also pay an annual maintenance fee of USD65.

For more information on the SSCP certification, visit www.isc2.org/sscp.

(ISC)² is the premier not-for-profit organization dedicated to certifying information security professionals around the world. With tens of thousands of credentialed specialists worldwide, (ISC)² is dedicated to helping both the certified individual and their organization be successful in the information security industry. Indeed, our credentials are considered the Gold Standard in information security. So (ISC)² is the logical first contact for anyone serious about protecting information assets at an unsurpassed level of excellence.