



Frequently Asked Questions

What are the job prospects for information security professionals?

Information security professionals plan and execute security measures to protect an organization's computer systems and networks from infiltration and cyberattacks. They hold a variety of titles, such as Information Security Analyst, Security Architect, Security Manager, and Network Engineer.

According to many experts, demand for information security professionals far exceeds their supply.

- The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts growth in information security analyst jobs will surge by 18% between 2014 and 2024.
- A recent study by a major job market analytics firm found that openings for cybersecurity workers have grown three times as fast as openings for IT jobs overall -- and these jobs pay an average of \$6,500 more annually than other IT jobs.
- **Networkcomputing.com** stated: "The demand for information security far exceeds the number of qualified professionals who can fill the roles, and employers are eager to fill the skills gap."

How does this course differ from "CISSP boot camp" courses that focus solely on exam prep?

The course content is highly relevant for those seeking to expand their knowledge and understanding of information security best practices. The instructor for this 78-hour course has served in top-tier security management positions US Army Intelligence and for several global organizations. His goal is to help you master the broad knowledge necessary to perform well and to progress in a security career.

Most CISSP courses, on the other hand, are shorter exam preparation courses that fall into the "boot camp" category. They typically do not provide in-depth instruction on the material; rather, they mainly review the types of questions likely to be asked on the exam--often adding little value over what a student can get by just studying an exam prep book.



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There are many types of certifications available in the cyber-security field. What are the advantages of the CISSP credential?

This credential is awarded by the International Information Systems Security Certification Consortium, known as (ISC)2.

Because CISSP verifies one's mastery of eight domains of professional knowledge, it is highly regarded by employers and highly requested in their job openings. If you are committed to progressing in the information security profession, CISSP is the most valuable credential you can earn. According to itcareerfinder.com, "CISSPs are policy-makers and thought leaders in today's hottest security domains, including mobile device security, applications development security, cryptography, security architecture & operations, cloud security and risk management."

CISSP is also considered the most difficult security credential to earn. You must have at least five years of security-specific experience to be eligible for the title.

Is there any value in taking the test long before I will have the required experience to become a CISSP?

Yes! By passing the CISSP exam, you become an Associate of (ISC)2. This designation allows those just starting out in the information security workforce to demonstrate their competence in

the field. Associate of (ISC)2 status enhances your marketability by demonstrating your commitment to understanding and applying security best practices. Once you have gained the required experience, you'll become certified as a CISSP.

How much IT background should I have to take this course?

Enrollment in the course does not require any specific job experience. However, IT experience is highly beneficial. Some background in network operations will make learning the material much easier.

If I have little or no IT experience, should I take a more basic course first, such as Security+?

The answer depends mainly on your motivation, your career goals, and your available time. It is possible to do well in this course with minimal IT background if you are willing to make an extra effort. Undoubtedly, with light IT experience, you face a tougher challenge than students with IT backgrounds. Consequently, you'll need to work harder and study longer to overcome your current shortfall in knowledge and experience.

There are less rigorous approaches that award vendor-neutral certificates in information security, but these credentials are less valued by employers. For example, the Security+ certificate (see UGA's Security+ course) has no experience requirement.



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