BREAKING into CYBERSECURITY

Get your strongest start as an

ISC2 Candidate

Now is the time for a career in cybersecurity

Cybersecurity is a constantly evolving and growing field. At the same time, there simply are not enough people to fill the jobs that are out there for cybersecurity professionals.

ISC2 research shows the shortage of cybersecurity professionals is 3.4 million globally.[1] And ongoing demand for cybersecurity roles is expected to grow because the challenges we face are here to stay. Now and in the future, organizations need talented people to help secure their critical assets and make our cyber world safer for all. That means now is the perfect time to begin pursuing a career in cybersecurity.

[1] **2022 Cybersecurity Workforce Study**

How can you get started?

Maybe you've considered a career in cybersecurity but don't know where to begin. Cybersecurity professionals were surveyed on the top barriers to entry in their career path. Results included high expectations for prior training or work experience, as well as a lack of diversity, equity and inclusion.[2] ISC2 is addressing these and other barriers with the creation of **ISC2 Candidate**.

Becoming a Candidate allows those interested in pursuing an ISC2 certification or a career in cybersecurity to get started. If you're looking to join the cybersecurity workforce, this program is ideal for you. If you've been working in cybersecurity and are looking to earn your first ISC2 certification, the Candidate program will give you the strongest start in your certification journey.

[2] **The Cybersecurity Skills Gap and Barriers to Entry**

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Who should pursue a career in cybersecurity?

There's no doubt about it — cybersecurity is a hot field. Under constant threat of data breaches and cyberattacks in our increasingly connected world, organizations in all sectors need professionals to help keep their data safe. Demand for cybersecurity talent is at a record high, making now an ideal time to set yourself up for success in this rewarding and lucrative career.

To mitigate risks, organizations are actively recruiting certified cybersecurity professionals to design, implement and manage their security programs.

These days, the kinds of skills and backgrounds that can lend to a successful career in cybersecurity are varied. You don't have to come from a background or education in cybersecurity to get your foot in the door.

Every cybersecurity role requires a fundamental set of skills that go beyond technical knowledge. Successful cyber professionals have nontechnical skills that are essential to thrive in the field. Do the following attributes describe you? If yes, a career in cybersecurity could be a great fit.

An attitude for teamwork - It is crucial for cybersecurity professionals to exhibit a teamwork ethic to gain buy-in from everyone on the mission.
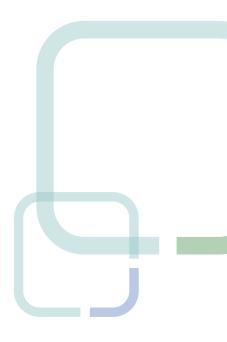
Independent nature - Alongside collaboration, working independently is equally important. Cybersecurity is a round-the-clock role, and professionals should be able to work alone and with minimal supervision at times to accomplish their work.

Leadership - Cybersecurity is now regarded as a key leader in an organization. Professionals must demonstrate credibility, responsiveness and ethics to build trust among senior management and peers.

Communication - Strong communication and presentation skills are important in cybersecurity. Professionals are expected to showcase returns on investment and present trends to the board and executive management.

Passion for learning - Cybersecurity is always evolving. Professionals are expected to continuously learn the latest cyber trends, technologies and security challenges facing organizations.

Analytical thinking - Cybersecurity professionals must have a keen analytical mindset to understand how incidents occur, identify attack surfaces that are susceptible to exploitation and develop strategies to reduce cyberthreats.

Where do I start on my path?

Now that you've established that you're interested in cybersecurity, what's the next step? In a field that's as dynamic as it is challenging, there is no single path to entry. People enter it from diverse backgrounds and experiences. What they all have in common is a shared interest in technology and how it works. Here are some tips to get you started.

Know the technical basics

Not everyone in cybersecurity comes from a deep technical background, but it's important to know the basics. Some industry experts advise starting on a more general technical path and then focusing on cybersecurity later once the basics are mastered.

Consider training in general IT

Finding an internship, apprenticeship or entry-level job in IT is a great launch pad. Consider data entry, help desk or any other ground-level technical position to learn IT fundamentals. You'll get a hands-on sense of technical processes and real-world business scenarios that will serve you well in cybersecurity.

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Focus your area of interest

What does your ideal cybersecurity career look like? Your path in the short term will springboard your future. Areas of focus that can serve as starting points include entry-level cybersecurity, cloud security; governance; risk and compliance; software security; security operations; network security; and cybersecurity leadership.

Learn independently

There are many ways to learn the technical skills used in cybersecurity, including books, self-directed learning, online courses and guided training. Whichever you choose, these fundamentals will be essential as you get deeper into security work.

Get certified

ISC2 Certified in Cybersecurity (CC) entry-level certification breaks down traditional barriers to entry, enabling you build confidence and start your first cybersecurity role prepared for what's next. Certification demonstrates that you have the key technical foundational concepts in cybersecurity. There are no specific prerequisites to take the CC exam and no work experience in cybersecurity, formal diploma or degree is required. **You can get free CC training and an exam right now - get instructions on how to register on page 11.**

Landing a job in cybersecurity

Once you have the opportunity to interview for a role, make sure you put your best foot forward.

Incoming professionals should absorb as much information as possible about the roles and responsibilities associated with the job titles that intrigue them most. That way, once you get in front of a recruiter or hiring manager, you're ready to:

- Ask questions and share opinions that demonstrate knowledge of the profession, as well as the current threat landscape.

- Emphasize an understanding of the skills required to mitigate risk, such as problem solving, communication and critical thinking.

- Show a willingness to learn as much as possible about cybersecurity through training, mentoring, on-the-job learning, webinars and self-guided online courses.

Make sure prospective employers see you're serious about a career in cybersecurity. Part of that is learning about the industry and the language used by cybersecurity professionals. Like any other profession, there's a lexicon and in-the-know vernacular you need in order to walk the talk.

- Demonstrate an understanding of the threat landscape by keeping up with news of evolving attack methods.

- Articulate the important nuances between threats, threat actors, attacks, breaches and the concepts of risk and risk management.

- Keep current with new and existing technologies, tools and practices used to mitigate risk.

- Demonstrate knowledge of industry priorities like cloud security and top threats like ransomware.

- Get certified. ISC2 Certified in Cybersecurity CC entry-level certification demonstrates to employers that you have the key foundational concepts in information security, determined by experts and practitioners working in the field. **You can get free CC training and an exam right now - get instructions on how to register on page 11**.

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Get an edge as an ISC2 Candidate

ISC2 is committed to helping new talent get into to the field to help answer the critical need for cybersecurity professionals worldwide. As an ISC2 Candidate, you'll build connections with a global membership of leading minds that will open doors far into your future. You'll also gain access to a wide range of benefits for support along the way.

That includes the opportunity to take part in the **ISC2 One Million Certified** in Cybersecurity pledge.

Once you're a **Candidate**, you'll gain free access to online self-paced training and an exam voucher for the accredited Certified in Cybersecurity (CC) entry-level certification. To meet every learner's needs, ISC2 also offers **CC Training Bundles** with special extras.

CC starts newcomers on their path to advanced certifications like the CISSP®, cybersecurity's gold standard credential, and future leadership roles.

Advance your cybersecurity career goals as you work toward certification. Once certified, you'll become an ISC2 member with full access to all the benefits it brings. Plus, you will be noticed by hiring managers with your ISC2 Candidate digital badge.

CANDIDATE

The benefits of becoming an ISC2 Candidate

As an ISC2 Candidate, you'll have access to a wealth of benefits that can help you launch your career in cybersecurity. These include:

- Access to a global network of cybersecurity professionals and industry leaders

- Free access to online self-paced training for the entry-level Certified in Cybersecurity certification

- One free exam voucher for the Certified in Cybersecurity certification

- Discounted bundles for other training formats, including Online Instructor-Led Training and Classroom Training

- 20% off online training and 30%-50% off textbooks

- Digital badges to showcase your knowledge and skills to potential employers

But the benefits of becoming an ISC2 Candidate go beyond the tangible. You'll also have the support of a community of like-minded professionals who are committed to advancing the field and helping others succeed.

What to do next

Step 1: Become an ISC2 Candidate.

The first step on your path to certification is to become an ISC2 Candidate. This is a simple and straightforward process that begins with signing up for a **free account**.* Once you've registered, you'll have access to all of the benefits of being a Candidate, including free online training and discounted bundles.

Step 2: Get Certified in Cybersecurity.

Certified in Cybersecurity (CC) certification is an entry-level certification that provides a clear pathway to a career in cybersecurity. As an ISC2 Candidate, you'll have access to **free online self-paced training for CC and one free exam voucher**.

Step 3: Start the journey to advanced certification.

ISC2 offers a **portfolio of globally recognized credentials** that are part of a holistic, pragmatic approach to cybersecurity. ISC2 certifications, including the gold standard CISSP®, are the industry's most widely recognized and sought-offer achievements for professionals at all stages of their cybersecurity careers. Areas of focus include **Cybersecurity Leadership**, **Cloud Security**, **Governance, Risk and Compliance**, **Entry-Level Cybersecurity**, **Software Security**, **Security Operations** and **Network Security**.

Step 4. Keep growing with continuous professional development.

Available to you anytime, anywhere, **ISC2 Certificates** will advance your skills in areas employers are seeking to move your cybersecurity career forward and provide pathways towards gaining the competencies you need for the journey to ISC2 Certification. All ISC2 Certificates turn a laser focus on the subject matter. Learning is quick, averaging just 3.5 hours per certificate to complete. And with courseware created on the hottest topics by cybersecurity's most respected certifying body, you're assured the most current and relevant content.

ISC2 Skill-Builders help you build your knowledge and earn CPE credits with short-format learning designed to fit your busy schedule. Created by industry experts and available now on demand, they help professionals stay in front of the hottest topics and trends impacting their current roles and cybersecurity careers.

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

Becoming an ISC2 Candidate is the first step on your path to a rewarding career in cybersecurity. Whether you're just starting out or looking to advance your career, ISC2 offers the support and resources you need to succeed. **Sign up today** to start your journey and take advantage of all the benefits of being an ISC2 Candidate.

About ISC2

ISC2 is an international nonprofit membership association focused on inspiring a safe and secure cyber world. Best known for the acclaimed Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP®) certification, ISC2 offers a portfolio of credentials that are part of a holistic, pragmatic approach to security. Our association of candidates, associates and members, nearly 600,000 strong, is made up of certified cyber, information, software and infrastructure security professionals who are making a difference and helping to advance the industry. Our vision is supported by our commitment to educate and reach the general public through our charitable foundation – The Center for Cyber Safety and Education™.