



**Certified Secure Software  
Lifecycle Professional**

**ISC2 Certification**



# The Ultimate Guide to the **CSSLP**

Lead the way in developing secure software

**ISC2™**

# Achieve more in your career

You prove every day that you have what it takes to secure critical assets. 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 CSSLP covers everything to know about the secure software practices certification. Inside, see how CSSLP and ISC2 help distinguish you as a top-level cybersecurity expert.

## Inside...

- » Is CSSLP right for me?
- » CSSLPs in the community
- » CSSLP fast facts
- » Benefits of CSSLP certification
- » Benefits of ISC2 membership
- » Exam overview
- » Official training
- » Pathway to certification
- » CPE opportunities
- » Continuing professional development



# Is CSSLP right for me?



As organizations continue to pursue digital transformation initiatives, the threat landscape is always expanding. Yet cybersecurity leadership talent is scarce. That's where CSSLP from ISC2 comes in — to help fill the gap. Once certified, the opportunities for certified professionals are near limitless.

The CSSLP is ideal for software development and security professionals responsible for applying best practices to each phase of the Software Development Lifecycle (SDLC). It shows your expertise and ability to incorporate security practices - authentication, authorization and auditing - into each phase of Software Development Lifecycle.

## 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 many of the benefits our certified members enjoy, including 20% off online training and 30% - 50% off textbooks to help you on your path to CSSLP 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 four years experience

To qualify for the CSSLP, candidates must have a minimum of four years of cumulative paid Software Development Lifecycle (SDLC) professional work experience in one or more of the eight domains of the ISC2 CSSLP Common Body of Knowledge (CBK).

If you don't yet have the required experience to become a CSSLP, you may become an Associate of ISC2 after successfully passing the CSSLP exam. The **Associate of ISC2** will then have five years to earn the experience needed for the CSSLP certification.

# Discover your path

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





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## Jobs that typically use or require CSSLP certification

- Software Architect
- Software Engineer
- Software Developer
- Application Security Specialist/  
Manager/Architect
- Software Program Manager
- Quality Assurance Tester
- Penetration Tester/Testing  
Manager
- Software Procurement Analyst
- Project Manager
- Security Manager
- IT Director/Manager

# CSSLPs in the community



*"Earning the CSSLP has fostered trust and collaboration in circumstances where I previously had no relationship or history to build upon. I frequently leverage the knowledge I gained while preparing for the exam."*

**John Kent**  
Manager IT  
FedEx, Plano, TX



*"The CSSLP has enhanced my credibility among the stakeholders who rely on my recommendations for security best practices. ISC2 has also provided a good platform to connect with like-minded individuals who inspire me to learn more."*

**Prasanna Padmarajulu**  
AVP Application Security (Cybersecurity Services)  
Standard Chartered Bank, Chennai, India



*"Since passing the CSSLP exam, I have become one of the lead security champions in the business, which gives me more responsibility within my team and allows me input into how the secure development lifecycle works across our organization."*

**Gavin Johnson-Lynn**  
Principal Offensive Security Specialist  
Sage, Newcastle, England



*"The CSSLP has brought me numerous job offers from international companies around the world. Being a member of ISC2 has also been valuable, providing access to useful benefits and development resources."*

**Reimo Reisberg**  
Lead Developer  
Helves, Tallinn, Estonia

## Become an ISC2 Candidate

You'll access a full range of benefits as you pursue the CSSLP, including 20% off online training and 30% - 50% off textbooks to help you prepare. [Sign up now.](#)

# CSSLP Fast facts



Introduced in 2008



ISC2 certified members work in more than 170 countries globally



CSSLPs are part of a network of over 500,000 cybersecurity professionals

DoD-approved



Average CSSLP Salary:  
U.S. \$119,350

ANAB/ANSI  
accredited



## Shout-outs

Named among the  
**8 MOST IN-DEMAND  
IT SECURITY  
CERTIFICATIONS.**

— CIO

**RANKED #1**  
among 20 technology  
certifications that are  
**PAYING OFF IN HIGHER  
COMPENSATION.**

— Foote Partners, ZDNet.com

# Benefits of CSSLP certification

## Career opportunities and advancement

Raise visibility and credibility, improve job security and create new opportunities.



## Credibility

Demonstrate a solid foundation to mitigate and respond to cyberthreats.



## Membership in a strong peer network

Become an ISC2 member, unlocking exclusive resources, educational tools and peer-to-peer networking opportunities.



## Expanded knowledge

Reach a deeper, better and broader understanding of the Common Body of Knowledge (CBK®) in cybersecurity.



## Versatile skills

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



## Leadership

Develop a broad set of technical and nontechnical skills that job experience alone doesn't provide.



## Higher salaries

In 2023, Certification Magazine's annual survey lists an average salary of \$119,350 (in U.S.) and \$108,570 (globally).



## Stronger skill set

Expand the skills and knowledge needed to fulfill organizational duties.

# Benefits of **ISC2** membership

Once you earn your CSSLP, 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:

- Free online [continuing professional development](#) courses
- Discount on [ISC2 Certificates](#)
- Discount pricing for [ISC2 events](#) and industry events including [ISC2 Security Congress](#)
- Discounts on select publications including CBK books, practice test books and study guides.
- Free access to [ISC2 webinars](#) on cybersecurity topics, tools and trends
- Free access to [ISC2 Security Congress](#) webinar channel, containing breakout sessions from past conferences
- 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**

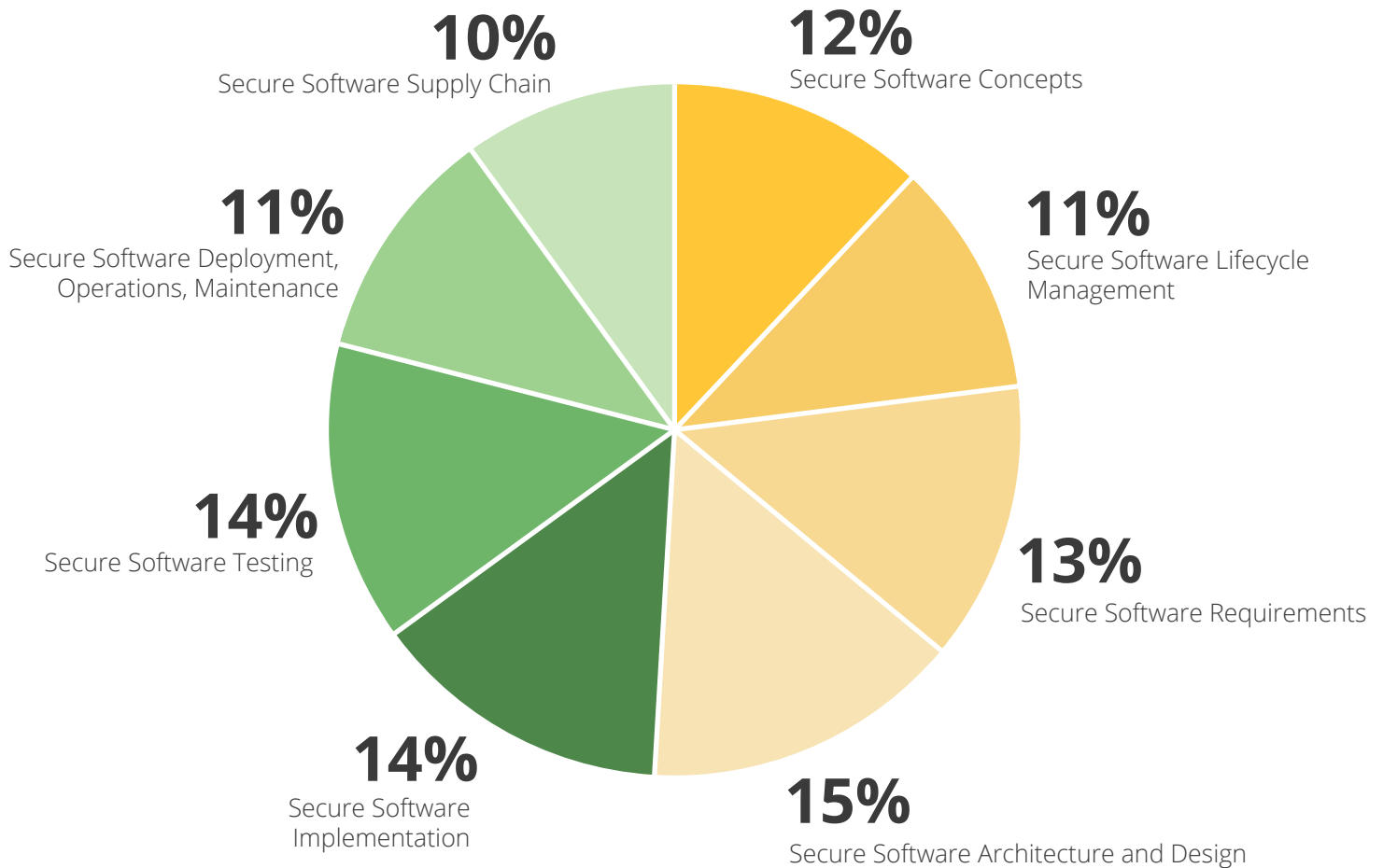
Your first year is free — no cost to you.\* You'll enjoy most of these benefits as you prepare for certification — plus 20% off Online Instructor-Led Training for CSSLP.

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



# Exam overview

The CSSLP exam evaluates expertise across eight security domains. (Think of domains as topics you need to master based on your professional experience and education.) Passing the exam proves you have the advanced knowledge and technical skills to effectively design, develop and implement best security practices within each phase of the software lifecycle.



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

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

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

View the CSSLP [exam outline](#).

Exam availability:  
**English**

Testing Centers:  
**Pearson VUE**

# Official **training**

ISC2 offers Official Training for CSSLP. Save 20% on Official ISC2 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 CSSLP certification. **Find training**.

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

Progress through the course domain-by-domain with content that aligns specifically to the CBK® domains to be easier-to-follow.

- Learn online at your own pace
- Download videos from an ISC2 Authorized Instructor
- Access instructor support (48-hour email response time)
- New digital eTextbook
- New glossary
- Key takeaway resources for each domain

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

Progress through the course domain-by-domain with content that's organized to align specifically to the CSSLP CBK® domains to be easier-to-follow.

- Live virtual instruction from an ISC2 Authorized Instructor
- Virtual Collaboration with classmates
- Interactive, engaging courseware
- New digital eTextbook
- Addition of glossary
- Key takeaway resources for each domain
- Education Guarantee

## 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
- Coordinate training around your schedule

## **CSSLP self-study tools**

We offer a variety of **self-study tools** 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 many of the benefits our certified members enjoy, including 20% off training and 30% - 50% off textbooks to help you on your path to CSSLP.

[Sign up now.](#)

## 2 Obtain the required experience

To qualify for the CSSLP, candidates must have a minimum of four years of cumulative paid Software Development Lifecycle (SDLC) professional work experience in one or more of the eight domains of the ISC2 CSSLP Common Body of Knowledge (CBK).

- **Domain 1:** Secure Software Concepts
- **Domain 2:** Secure Software Lifecycle Management
- **Domain 3:** Secure Software Requirements
- **Domain 4:** Secure Software Architecture and Design
- **Domain 5:** Secure Software Implementation
- **Domain 6:** Secure Software Testing
- **Domain 7:** Secure Software Deployment, Operations, Maintenance
- **Domain 8:** Secure Software Supply Chain

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



# Pathway to certification

## 3 Study for the exam

Many [self-study resources](#) are available from ISC2 – the creator and keeper of the CSSLP CBK – to help you prepare with confidence. Some CSSLP 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 CSSLP exam. Ready for the exam? [Register now](#) and get it on the calendar.

## 5 Get endorsed

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

## 6 Earn CPE credits

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.



**90** CPE credits  
over 3 years

.....

U.S. **\$125** AMF

.....

Members with multiple ISC2 certifications only pay a single AMF.

# CPE opportunities

The 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 CSSLP 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 CSSLP

## Attend trainings and events

- ISC2 Chapter meetings
- Prepare or attend an educational presentation related to the CSSLP CBK domains
- ISC2 Skill-Builders – grow your knowledge with short-format learning on demand
- ISC2 Certificates – Grow your skills with quick learning averaging just 3.5 hours per certificate that focuses on high demand subject matter
- 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



# Continuing professional development

**ISC2 Certificates** allow you to advance your skills in areas employers are seeking and provide pathways toward gaining the competencies you need for the journey to ISC2 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. Current ISC2 Certificates include:

- Cloud Security
- Risk Management
- CISO Leadership
- Healthcare Security
- Security Administration and Operations
- Security Engineering

Stay in front of the hottest topics and trends impacting your current role and your cybersecurity career with **ISC2 Software Security Skill-Builders**, created by industry experts and available now on demand. Learn how to apply best practices throughout the software development lifecycle, from design and implementation to testing and deployment.





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Lifecycle Professional**  
ISC2 Certification

# Get in touch with us

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

**Americas** — Phone: +1.866.331.4722 ext. 2, 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 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, more than 500,000 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™](#). For more information on ISC2, visit [isc2.org](https://isc2.org), follow us on [X](#) or connect with us on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Youtube](#).



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