

Top 5 CYBER SECURITY CERTIFICATIONS

A Timely Comparison for Growing Your Security Talent

\$4.24 Million
average costs
of data breaches
globally.¹

Having the right cyber security strategy, processes, and talent in place has never been more critical. Certifications play a key role and have become a must-have vs. nice to have.

But which Cyber certifications make sense for whom and when?

To help you develop your career path or grow top cyber security talent in your organization, compare these top five trending certifications.

	ADVANTAGES	COMPARISON
FOUNDATIONAL	<p>CompTIA Security+ (Crs 446)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too many organizations focus on infosec after damage has been done. This cert deals with key concepts in IT security to demonstrate that they know how to respond to security incidents and identify and mitigate risks before security problems occur. • Security+ is foundational and provides a broad understanding of InfoSec, builds on existing networking skills. 	<p>Comparable to (ISC)²* SSCP (Course 2060). Security+ is significantly more popular.</p>
INTERMEDIATE	<p>ISC2® CCSP (Crs 1213)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical assets are more easily secured, while assets in the cloud are often overlooked – and security issues abound. • This Cloud Cyber Security Professional (CCSP) Cert advances knowledge to design, manage and secure data, applications and infrastructure in the cloud. 	<p>Comparable to CCSK, which is not as popular (does not appear in job ads as frequently as CCSP).</p>
INTERMEDIATE	<p>ISACA® CISA (Crs 2040)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance and risk management are top of mind in both the business and IT sectors. Too often, vendors are utilized when this skillset should be embedded in the IT Infrastructure. • This Certified Information Security Auditor (CISA) cert covers audit, control and disseminating IT information skills. 	<p>Comparable to CPA - more for the business/finance side of auditing. Also Microsoft has introduced new Security, Compliance & Identity Certs (noted below).</p>
ADVANCED	<p>ISACA® CISM (Crs 2036)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too often, IT is run independently of the business. You need people who can identify issues and adapt business practices to allow the management of information technologies. • This Certified Information Security Manager (CISM) Cert provides an understanding of to bridge the relationship gap between an IS program and business objectives. 	<p>CISM vs. CISSP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both popular requirements in key job roles. • Many cyber professionals start with CISSP and then get CISM later, but not required. • CISM is good for those who aspire to leadership roles. • CISSP is designed for executive leaders and DoD requirements mean many get this cert even if they're not on a management track. • Both are useful even for non-leaders to help them understand how a comprehensive security risk management program works.

ISC2®
CISSP
(Crs 2058)

- Ensure at least one individual in an organization understands how the aspects of the InfoSec environment **interact with the overall organizational ecosystem**.
- A **Certified Information Security Professional (CISSP)** individual understands all the fundamental elements of the entire cybersecurity field – from security and risk management to communication and network security to security testing and operations.

CISM vs. CISSP (continued)

- CISSP is designed for executive leaders and DoD requirements mean many get this cert even if they're not on a management track.
- Both are useful even for non-leaders to help them understand how a comprehensive security risk management program works.

¹IBM 2021 Cost of Data Breach Report

NEW! Microsoft Security, Compliance and Identity Certifications – [Learn More](#)

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Cyber Curriculum Dean

Aaron Kraus is not only a Learning Tree instructor and Infosec and Cybersecurity executive, as our Dean, he ensures that our programs help you stay ahead of emerging trends and include blended learning into actionable, data-driven information security management solutions. He brings 15 years of experience across diverse industries including government, healthcare, financial services, and tech startups, and literally wrote the book on Cybersecurity as an author on the CISSP CBK Reference Guide.

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