



Cybersecurity skills are in high demand, as threats continue to plague enterprises around the world. Attuned to this new reality, an overwhelming majority (88 percent) of students surveyed in ISACA's Student Member Survey said they plan to work in a position that requires cybersecurity knowledge.

According to an Intel study, [Hacking the Skills Shortage](#), only 23 percent of respondents said education programs are preparing students to enter the workforce. Cybersecurity as an academic discipline or program of study is often inaccessible to students. Only 7 percent of top universities in the countries researched offer an undergraduate major or minor in cybersecurity. As for graduate work, about a third of top (global) universities offer a master's degree in some cybersecurity field.

To fill this gap, ISACA developed the [Cybersecurity Fundamentals Certificate](#) to provide education and verification of skills in this increasingly important arena. The Cybersecurity Fundamentals Certificate is a knowledge-based certificate offered by ISACA.

The certificate is particularly relevant for recent college/university graduates and those looking for a career change to cybersecurity. The certificate is aligned with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE), which is compatible with global cybersecurity issues, activities and job roles. The certificate also is aligned with the Skills Framework for the Information Age (SFIA).

Cybersecurity Fundamentals Certificate Requirements

To earn the Cybersecurity Fundamentals Certificate, candidates are required to:

- Pass the Cybersecurity Fundamentals examination
- Adhere to ISACA's [Code of Professional Ethics](#)

The Cybersecurity Fundamentals Certificate exam tests for foundational knowledge in cybersecurity across five key areas:

- Cybersecurity concepts
- Cybersecurity architecture principles
- Cybersecurity of networks, systems, applications and data
- Incident response
- Security of evolving technology

The Cybersecurity Fundamentals exam is a remotely proctored online exam. It can be purchased for US \$150 at www.isaca.org/cybersecuritycertificate. Exam preparation opportunities include:

- A [Cybersecurity Fundamentals study guide](#) available now for purchase at <https://cybersecurity.isaca.org> under Resources/Publications.
- Cybersecurity Fundamentals Certificate workshops are offered at select ISACA conferences. Information is available at <https://cybersecurity.isaca.org>.

Cybersecurity Nexus (CSX)

The Cybersecurity Fundamentals Certificate is part of ISACA's Cybersecurity Nexus. CSX was created to provide guidance, career development, education and community for cybersecurity professionals at every stage of their careers, and represents ISACA's solid commitment to helping address the global need for skilled cybersecurity professionals.

Every year in the United States, 40,000 jobs for information security analysts go unfilled, and employers are struggling to fill 200,000 other cyber-security related roles, according to cyber security data tool [CyberSeek](#). The skills deficit is confirmed by ISACA's [State of Cyber Security 2017](#) research, where 37 percent of surveyed organizations stated that fewer than 1 in 4 candidates have the qualifications employers need to keep companies secure.

The persistent threat of cyber attacks – and their associated costs – are not likely to decrease. According to a [2017 study](#) by Accenture and the Ponemon Institute LLC on the cost of cyber-crime, ransomware attacks increased significantly from 13 percent to 27 percent since 2015, while 69 percent experienced phishing and social engineering, and 67 percent had web-based attacks. Companies spent an average of US\$2.4 million and US\$2 million on malware and web-based attacks, respectively, alone.

Through CSX, ISACA commits to doing for cybersecurity professionals what it has done, and will continue to do, for IT audit, control and governance professionals for nearly 50 years.

Note: For more information on the certificate exam, contact training@isaca.org.

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