CISA Certified Information Systems Auditor
An ISACA Certification

Battlecard

Elevator Pitch

CISA®—Certified Information Systems Auditor is designed for those who audit, control, monitor and assess an enterprise's information technology and business systems. CISAs are recognized internationally as professionals with the assurance knowledge, skills, experience and credibility necessary to leverage standards, manage vulnerabilities, ensure compliance, offer solutions, validate controls and deliver value to the enterprise. The increased dependence on technology and information ensures that CISA certification-holders will continue to be in demand for assurance and security functions.

Features

- CISA covers 5 practice domain areas: Process of Auditing Information Systems; Governance and Management of IT; Information Systems Acquisition, Development and Implementation; Information Systems Operations, Maintenance and Service Management; Protection of Information Assets
- CISAs identify and assess IT risk and ensuring compliance with IT-related regulations
- CISAs review processes, procedures and controls to ensure that IT systems in place will mitigate IT risk, i.e., no unauthorized people have access to their systems
- CISAs assess vulnerabilities, report on compliance and validate and enhance controls will ultimately improve organization's image

Benefits

- **Reduce risk:** CISAs provide assurance that the organization's IT and business systems are effectively monitored, managed and protected.
- **Create a common language:** CISAs serve as trusted business advisors by assuring that the necessary leadership and organizational structures and processes are in placed to achieve business objectives and support the enterprise's strategy.
- **Drive business successes:** Regulators and clients look for a CISA designation and many businesses and government agencies require it.
- **Be prepared:** Research has shown that businesses lose up to 5% of their annual revenue to fraud and irregularities. This reality is prompting leadership to hire CISAs to implement preventive controls and provide assurance on information security and risk management.

Description

CISA is the globally recognized gold standard for IS audit, control, and assurance, in demand and valued by leading global brands. It's often a mandatory qualification for employment as an IT auditor. CISA professionals offer the credibility to leverage standards, manage vulnerabilities, ensure compliance, offer solutions, institute controls and deliver value to organizations.

Target Audience

Designed for mid-career IS audit, control and assurance professionals looking to leverage career growth including:

- IT Audit Directors/Managers/Consultants
- IT Auditors
- Compliance/Risk/Privacy Directors
- IT Directors/Managers/Consultants

Differentiators

The CISA certification was first offered in 1978, and has been earned by over 164,000 IT audit, security and control professionals. Over 96,000 currently hold it, with an average annual renewal of 94% and an average annual salary of $140K in North America. CISA is often a mandatory requirement for an information system auditor.

Industry Trends

- 49% of CISA's say they use the skills learned through certification several times a day in their current position and 40% agree that becoming certified has increased their problem solving skills
  (Source: Cert Mag Salary Survey, 2021)

- 87% say rapid shift to work from home increased risk of data privacy and protection issues
  (Source: ISACA COVID-19 Study, April 2020)

- Security complexity and cloud migration increased the average cost of a data breach by $292K
  (Source: IBM Security Cost of a Data Breach, 2020)

Competitive Landscape

- Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) – IIA and the IPPF Standard (more general audit focused as opposed to specific to IT Audit)

- Certified Information Technology Professional (CITP) – AICPA (is a more generalized less focused certification and requires a CPA designation)

- CompTIA and ISC2 also offer competitive products but they are more focused on information security, not audit.

CPEs

- **To maintain your CISA, you must earn and report a minimum of 120 CPE hours every 3-year reporting cycle and at least 20 hours annually.**

- CISA awards up to 1 hour of CPE for every 1 hour of instructor led training.

- Earn 28 CPEs for online CISA review course

- See **isaca.org/credentialing/how-to-earn-cpe** for additional information.

Pain Points

- Denial of service, ransomware, phishing, spam, zero-day attacks and other threats are becoming rampant, causing extensive losses to individuals and businesses

- Board doesn't understand complexity and implications of compliance
  (Source: ACA Risk and Compliance Conference, 2020)

- Organizations not properly assessing risk in each department (Source: ACA Risk and Compliance Conference, 2020)

- The IT skills gap is increasing and many IT security positions are unfilled

Objection Handling

Q: Why should I get a CISA certification?

A: Getting a CISA certification shows that you are serious about working as an IT auditor & and dedicated to a career in the industry.

Q: Is a CISA certification necessary?

A: Regulators and organizations look for a CISA designation; many businesses and government agencies require it.

Awards and Recognitions

- Named among the 10 highest paying certifications of 2020, *PC magazine*

- One of the "11 Hottest Cybersecurity Certifications in 2020 by CRN

- Ranked Among the Highest Paying IT Certifications in the Foote Partners LLC IT Skills and Certifications Pay Index™ Q1 2022 Research Update

- CISA was ranked as the most popular cyber certification in all regions outside North America in Global Knowledge's 2019 IT Skills and Salary Report

"CAEs and IT Audit Directors are much more inclined to hire the professional with the CISA. It is fair to say that at this point in time, not having the certification can be a significant barrier."

— Caitlin McGaw, President and Chief Recruiting Officer, Candor McGaw Inc.

ISACA

ISACA connects you to what's next

Connecting more than 165,000 professionals in over 180 countries, ISACA® is a global leader in certification, training and education. We provide knowledge, standards, networking and career development for information systems audit, control, security, cybersecurity, risk, privacy and governance professionals. We advance and validate business-critical skills and knowledge through our globally respected CISA and other certifications.