

Essential Credentials: Understanding the IT Security Certification Hierarchy



For IT professionals, training does not end after college. These individuals must stay on top of the latest technological best practices and industry standards via certification programs, to truly achieve sustainable success.

An estimated **86%** of IT recruiters take professional credentials into account when evaluating applicants.



Foundational

CompTIA A+



Intermediate

CompTIA Network+

CompTIA Server+

CompTIA Security+

CompTIA CSA+

CCNA

MCSA

CEH



Expert

MCSE

CASP

CISA

CISSP

Foundational



CompTIA A+

- Ideal for IT professionals just entering the workforce
- The average salary for a Comp TIA A+ is \$67,000 per year

- Covers basic enterprise hardware and software deployment and management techniques
- 1 million IT professionals hold the CompTIA A+ certification

Intermediate



CompTIA Network+

- Covers vendor-neutral data networking techniques, data security and troubleshooting
- The average salary for a Network+-certified IT professional is \$74,000

CCNA (Cisco Certified Network Associate)

- Ideal for IT professionals with some work experience under their belts
- 95% of organizations use the cloud, which is why CCNA programs educates IT professionals on this essential subject

CompTIA Server+

- Perfect for IT professionals focusing on environment planning, security and maintenance
- Participants explore enterprise IT trends such as software-defined networking and virtualization

MCSA (Microsoft Certified Solutions Associate)

- Gain the expertise to configure, manage, and maintain a Windows 10 enterprise system
- MCSA is a prerequisite for more advanced Microsoft certifications

CompTIA Security+

- Offers techniques that meet security standards set out by the Department of Defense
- Data security administrators and specialists make an average of \$86,000 per year

CEH (Certified Ethical Hacker)

- Perfect for IT professionals with advanced coding skills
- The EC-Council CEH program teaches participants how to lawfully pinpoint system vulnerabilities and resolve them

CompTIA CSA+

- Ideal for IT professionals who wish to specialize in Big Data security
- Participants learn how to leverage behavioral analytics to fend off malware and other advanced threats

Expert



MCSE (Microsoft Solutions Expert)

- Ideal for IT professionals specializing in Microsoft technology
- Offers 5 specialized instructional tracks: business applications, cloud platform and infrastructure, data management and analytics, mobility and productivity

CASP

(CompTIA Advanced Security Practitioner)

- More than 42,000 enterprise networks attacks occurred in 2016
- An advanced training track focusing on threat prevention and mitigation tactics
- Ideal for expert IT professionals with at least 5 years of experience

CISA (Certified Information Systems Auditor)

- A globally recognized certification for IS audit control, assurance and security professionals.
- Showcases your audit experience, skills and knowledge, and demonstrates you are capable to assess vulnerabilities, report on compliance and institute controls within the enterprise

CISSP (Certified Information Systems Security Professional)

- Covers 8 central data security domains
- The average CISSP holder makes more than \$121,000 per year