

Exam Candidate Information Guide

CSX | Practitioner



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ISACA CSX Practitioner (CSXP) Exam Candidate Information Guide

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Introduction

ISACA's Cybersecurity Nexus (CSX) certification program supports cybersecurity professionals throughout their career by assessing a candidate's current technical abilities and skills using freely available open source security tools.

ISACA's CSX Practitioner exam was developed utilizing existing global cybersecurity frameworks and input from hundreds of subject matter experts. The CSXP exam is conducted in a sandbox using realistic scenarios intended to measure and evaluate a candidate's ability to perform cybersecurity tasks aligned to the [Exam Content Outline](#).

Summary of Certification Program

Exam Availability	September 2018
Exam Description	The ISACA CSX Practitioner (CSXP) certification verifies that successful candidates have the knowledge and skills required to identify and remediate vulnerabilities; configure and implement protective technologies; and detect, respond and recover from incidents.
Content Areas	<i>Domain 1-Business and Security Environment (23%)</i> <i>Domain 2-Operational Security Readiness (23%)</i> <i>Domain 3-Threat Detection and Evaluation (27%)</i> <i>Domain 4-Incident Response and Recovery (27%)</i>
Certification Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Pass CSX Practitioner examination- Compliance with ISACA's Code of Professional Ethics- Compliance with ISACA's CSXP CPE Policy is required to maintain certification
Type of Exam	Remotely proctored performance exam delivered by PSI Testing Solutions
Number of Tasks	30
Length of Exam	4 hours (240 minutes) to complete <u>and</u> score their exam. Candidates are strongly encouraged to submit their exam for scoring at 3 hours 45 minutes. Proctors will communicate when 15 minutes remain.
Languages	English only
Price	\$400 member / \$500 non-member
Re-certification Requirements	Attain and report 30 qualifying CPEs annually In year 3 of certification cycle: Retake and pass CSX Practitioner exam.

About the Exam

The ISACA CSX Practitioner examination is a performance examination consisting of 30 tasks aligned to the [Exam Content Outline](#). Each exam item consists of a prompt presented to examinees, whose responses are then evaluated against a pre-defined scoring criterion.

Purchase and Scheduling

Purchase

The ISACA CSXP exam can only be purchased online at <https://cybersecurity.isaca.org/csx-certifications/csx-practitioner-certification>. Prior to purchase, we recommend candidates review hardware and software requirements outlined in [Remote Proctoring Requirements](#). Candidates must perform compatibility checks on the computer being used to take the exam, as directed by PSI.

Exams are valid for 4 months from the purchase date. Exams not taken within this period will result in forfeiture of fee. Membership pricing is based on membership status at time of exam voucher purchase. If you are not an ISACA member, consider joining during the registration process to enjoy the member discount on your exam detailed at www.isaca.org/benefits. Membership purchase requires at least 1 business day prior to exam purchase to receive the discounted rate. Exam fees are not refundable nor transferrable.

Scheduling

To schedule your remotely proctored exam, you will need to do the following:

- Sign-in to your Nexus account at <https://nexus.isaca.org>
- Click on “My Nexus” (top right), select “Exam Access and Scheduling” in the dropdown menu to access your CSXP exam voucher.
- Click on “Access Exam Dashboard” and you will be taken to the PSI site to schedule your exam.
- Click on “Schedule Exam”
- Select “English” as the language, enter your “Country” and “Time Zone” then on the calendar choose an available “date” and “time”, then click “Continue”.
- Confirm the “Schedule Details” and click “Continue”.
- You will receive a confirmation email from no-reply@psiexams.com confirming your exam appointment.

Be sure to read through the important information regarding Exam Day Expectations, Cancellation and Rescheduling Policy, No-Show Policy and Equipment Needs.

Rescheduling

Exams must be rescheduled at least 48 hours in advance of the originally scheduled exam to avoid fees. Directions to reschedule are available in the FAQs located on our CSX Website at <https://cybersecurity.isaca.org/csx-certifications/csx-practitioner-certification>.

Fee schedule:

- At least 48 hours prior to scheduled exam: no fee
- Within 48 hours: forfeit exam fees
- Exams may not be cancelled at any time

Exam Day Information

Confidentiality

By taking an ISACA exam, the candidate understands and agrees that the exam (which includes all aspects of the exam, including, without limitation, the test, scenarios/questions, responses, examples and other information presented or contained in the exam and exam materials) belongs to ISACA and constitutes ISACA’s confidential information (collectively, “Confidential Information”). At time of purchase, the candidate agrees to maintain the confidentiality of ISACA’s Confidential Information at all times and understands that any failure to maintain the confidentiality of ISACA’s Confidential Information may result in disciplinary action against the candidate by ISACA or other adverse consequences, including, without limitation, nullification of his/her exam, loss of his/her credentials, and/or litigation. Specifically, the candidate understands that he/she may not, for example, discuss, publish or share any exam scenarios/question(s), his/her responses or thoughts on any questions(s) or the exam’s format in any forum or media (e.g., via email, Facebook, LinkedIn).

If Absent or Late for the Appointment

Candidates MUST access the online exam environment 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time, to allow enough time to connect with the remote proctor and launch the exam properly.

Candidates who miss their appointment or log in more than 15 minutes late are not allowed to test and must purchase another exam prior to scheduling a new appointment. If candidates are unable to attend the scheduled exam due to personal hardship, please refer to the guidelines below. ISACA reserves the right to request documentation to support any personal hardship.

Remote Proctoring Requirements

Candidates are responsible for ensuring the computer used to take the exam meets the following requirements which can be verified with a compatibility check, as directed by PSI.

- Supported OS: Windows XP, Vista, 7, 8, Mac OS X and above, Linux, and Chrome OS
- Web browser: Google Chrome or Chromium version 32 and above
- Browser settings: browser must accept 3rd party cookies for the duration of the exam ONLY.
- Webcam/Microphone: Minimum VGA 640 x 480 resolution, enabled built in or external microphone
- Google Chrome Extension: Requires installation. (click [here](#) for instructions)
- Bandwidth: Minimum 1mb/s download and 1mb/s upload
- Hardware Requirements: 1GB RAM & 2GHz dual core processor, minimum 1280 x 800 resolution

Candidates are responsible for choosing a suitable test environment. The following will minimize issues on exam day. Failure to comply will result in your exam being voided with no refund given.

- Choose a **quiet area** to take the exam. Avoid choosing an area that may contain loud noises (i.e. TV, family, music, pets, visitors, etc.), and public places (i.e. coffee shops, restaurants, parks, etc.).
- You will need a **valid photo ID** (see Identification Requirements below). If your ID has expired, the proctor will ask that you reschedule the exam, so you can provide a valid photo ID. Your photo on the ID should be made clearly visible to the camera when prompted by the proctor.
- You will need a **web cam** and **microphone**.
- You will need to have a **clean work area** with **no reference materials** available.
- You **MUST** access the online exam environment **15 minutes prior** to the scheduled start time. It is recommended you do so to connect with the remote proctor and launch the exam properly.
- Be sure your computer has **sufficient battery life** and/or is plugged into a power source for the duration of the exam.
- You must have **stable Internet connectivity** for the duration of the exam. If you lose Internet connectivity during the exam, your session may be terminated, and results voided.
- You must take the exam in **full screen mode**.

Identification Requirements

Candidates are required to present acceptable identification as outlined below. Failure to provide sufficient identification prohibits testing and constitutes forfeiture of exam fees. The form of identification must bear the candidate's signature and a recent photograph. The name on the identification must be the same as the name that appears in the candidate's *Nexus and ISACA* profile.

Identification must be from the following list of forms of identification (ID) and must include the candidate's signature and a recent recognizable photograph. The Primary ID must be valid and current (not expired):

- Valid driver's license with photo
- State identity card (non-driver license)
- Military ID card with photo
- National ID card with photo
- Green card, alien registration, permanent resident card
- Valid passport or passport card with photo

Candidates will not be allowed to take the exam if the remote proctor believes they have not sufficiently proven their identity and there will be no refund of the test fee. Being allowed to take the exam and completion of the examination does not imply that the identification is valid or that the score will be official. ISACA reserves the right to review all exam irregularities brought to our attention.

Exam Rules

The exam is an online, closed-book, remotely proctored exam. Cheating is not tolerated. The proctor will stop the exam immediately if he/she observes any rules violations. Failure to comply will result in the exam being voided with no refund given. All exams are continuously monitored by audio and video by a remote proctor. The remote proctor is authorized to terminate the exam for rule and regulation violations.

To ensure that all candidates are tested under equally favorable conditions, the following are **NOT** allowed during testing:

- Candidates are not allowed to bring reference materials, written notes, published materials, testing aids, blank paper, note pads or language dictionaries into the testing area.
- Using an instant messenger tool/system
- Note taking or taking screen captures of the computer screen/exam content
- Eating or drinking
- Walking around the room
- Other people standing in or walking through your testing area
- Unauthorized personal items may not be brought into the testing area. Such items include, but are not limited to: outerwear, hats, food, drinks, purses, briefcases, notebooks, pagers, watches, cell phones, recording devices and photographic equipment.
- Candidates are not allowed to bring or use a calculator in the testing area.
- Electronic equipment is not permitted in the testing room at any time. This includes, but is not limited to, cameras, surveillance or recording devices, pagers, cell phones, etc.
- Unscheduled breaks (without approval from the proctor)
- Accessing other programs on your system such as viewing documents, web browsing, email access, etc.

Personal Hardship Guidelines

One of the following events must have occurred less than three days before the scheduled appointment and require documentation noted. ISACA reserves the right to request documentation to support any personal hardship. All hardship requests must be communicated to ISACA within 48 hours of the exam date. Such requests should be sent to csxexam@isaca.org.

- Candidate Illness: Doctor's note, emergency room admittance, etc.
 - Must be signed by a licensed doctor
 - Must include the date of medical visit
 - Must include contact information for the licensed doctor
 - Does not need to give details of the illness or emergency, but the doctor should indicate that the candidate should not test
- Death of an immediate family member:
 - Must include the date of death and deceased name and relationship to the deceasedPlease note: immediate family member is defined as spouse, child/dependent, parent, grandparent or sibling
- Traffic Accidents: Police report, receipt from the mechanic or towing company
 - Must include the date
 - Must include contact information
- Court Appearance: Court or jury summons, subpoena
 - Must include the date
 - Must specifically name the candidate
- Call to Active Military Duty
 - Military documentation **MUST** be provided

Exam Information

Exam Type

The CSXP certification exam is a performance assessment of a candidate's ability to perform tasks in accordance with the respective job practice. There are no multiple-choice questions.

Exam Content Outline

1	Business and Security Environment (ID)	23%
1A	Business Environment	
1A1	Digital Infrastructure	
1A2	Enterprise Architecture	
1A3	Data and Digital Communication	
1B	Security Environment	
1B1	Network	
1B2	Operating Systems	
1B3	Applications	
1B4	Virtualization and Cloud	
2	Operational Security Readiness (PR)	23%
2A	Protection	
2A1	Digital and Data Assets	
2A2	Ports and Protocols	
2A3	Protection Technologies	
2A4	Identity and Access Management	
2A5	Configuration Management	
2B	Preparedness	
2B1	Threat Modeling	
2B2	Contingency Planning	
2B3	Security Procedures	
3	Threat Detection and Evaluation (DE)	27%
3A	Monitoring	
3A1	Vulnerability Management	
3A2	Security Logs and Alerts	
3A3	Monitoring Tools and Appliances	
3A4	Use Cases	
3A5	Penetration Testing	
3B	Analysis	
3B1	Network Traffic Analysis	
3B2	Packet Capture and Analysis	
3B3	Data Analysis	
3B4	Research and Correlation	
4	Incident Response and Recovery (RS&RC)	27%
4A	Incident Handling	
4A1	Notifications and Escalation	
4A2	Digital Forensics	
4B	Mitigation	
4B1	Containment	
4B2	Attack Countermeasures	
4B3	Corrective Actions	
4C	Restoration	
4C1	Security Functions Validation	
4C2	Incident Analysis and Reporting	
4C3	Lessons Learned and Process Improvement	

Exam Environment Familiarization

Candidates unfamiliar with Lab on Demand's platform are encouraged to view this [lab tutorial](#). After the tutorial loads, you will notice a blue task bar at the bottom of the screen. Instructions for each task within the exam will be included within this blue task bar.

Once you have been admitted into the exam, the exam environment will launch automatically and may take several minutes. Exam time begins after launch. Network disconnects will suspend exam timer.

Exam Results

You must grade your exam prior to time expiring. To initiate, enter your Nexus/ISACA login credentials (username & password) prior to clicking "SUBMIT SCORE". Preliminary results are displayed on screen. These results are NOT official.

Official results are communicated within 10 business days of exam to the email address listed in candidate's ISACA profile. To ensure the confidentiality of scores, exam results are not reported by telephone or fax. To prevent email notification from being sent to spam folders, candidates should add csxexam@isaca.org to their address book, whitelist or safe-senders list. Once released, results will also be available on the [MyCertifications](#) page of the ISACA web site. Candidates who pass the CSXP exam earn certification without further action. A PDF containing a printable certificate of certification will be available at [MyCertifications](#).

Retesting Policy

Candidates who are unsuccessful may purchase subsequent exam attempts.

Exam Day Comments

Exams are only administered via remote proctoring. Candidates who wish to address comments or concerns about their experience, including exam day issues or content, must contact ISACA by email (csxexam@isaca.org) within 48 hours of their exam date. ISACA will review complaints prior to the release of official exam scores. Correspondence shall include: Full name, ISACA ID number, exam day and time, and any relevant details on the specific issue. Only those comments received by ISACA within 48 hours of the exam date will be considered in the final scoring of the exam.

Misconduct

Candidates who are discovered in violation of the exam rules or engaging in any kind of misconduct including but not limited to the activities listed below will be subject to disqualification including voiding of their exam results. All cases of misconduct will be reported to ISACA for review to render any decision necessary.

- Giving or receiving help; using notes, papers or other aids
- Attempting to take the exam for someone else
- Possession of communication, surveillance or recording device, including, but not limited to, cell phones, tablets, smart glasses, smart watches, mobile devices, etc., during the exam administration
- Attempting to share test information contained in the exam (as such are the confidential information of ISACA); including sharing test information after the exam
- Leaving the testing area without permission (these individuals will not be allowed to return to the work area)
- Accessing items or personal belongings without notice and approval of the remote proctor or bringing items into the testing area that are not permitted
- Attempting to alter, bypass, or otherwise defeat scoring mechanisms

ISACA Code of Professional Ethics

ISACA sets forth a Code of Professional Ethics to guide the professional and personal conduct of members of ISACA and/or its certification holders. ISACA certification holders are required to abide by the Code. Failure to comply with this Code of Professional Ethics can result in an investigation into a certification holder's conduct and, ultimately, in disciplinary measures. The ISACA Code of Professional Ethics can be viewed online at www.isaca.org/ethics.

ISACA CSX CPE Policy and Recertification

All CSXP certification holders must meet recertification requirements annually. These requirements are detailed within the [CSXP CPE Policy](#).

Open Badges/Digital Certificates

ISACA offers digital badges to all that hold an ISACA certification as validation of certification. An additional email will be sent from ISACA containing information on how to accept the CSXP digital badge. The badge, once accepted, provides a link to a page that verifies that you have earned the certification as well as provides an explanation of the achievement. Open badges are also able to be shared through social networking. Please go to www.isaca.org/badges to read more.

CSXP Exam Contact Information

If you have questions regarding your CSXP Certification or your ISACA Membership, contact us at:

ISACA Support

<https://support.isaca.org>