

UNCLASSIFIED

Know Your Center for Development of Security Excellence (CDSE): Certification

DEFENSE COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY AGENCY

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Topics



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SPeD Certification Program Overview



The SPeD Certification Program is part of the Department of Defense's (DoD) initiative to professionalize the security workforce. This initiative ensures there exists a common set of competencies among security practitioners that:

- Promotes interoperability
- Facilitates professional development and training
- Develops a workforce of certified security professionals

The SPeD Certification Program has seven certifications and one credential.



Accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies



Target Audience

SPēD Certification Program:

DoD employees, federal employees, and contractors **assigned** to a **security** function and employed by an agency **accepted** for participation in the SPēD Certification Program.



Adjudicator Professional Certification (APC) Program:

Personnel security adjudicators employed by the DoD and/or the DoD Intelligence Community (IC) Central Adjudications Facilities (CAFs) or a federal government employee working as a **personnel security adjudicator** and employed by an agency **accepted** for participation in the APC Program.

Candidates must also meet the following training, experience, and testing requirements for certification as outlined in the APC Handbook.



Certification Benefits

For Individuals

- Fosters understanding of the concepts and principles deemed critical to protect the Nation's assets.
- Assures skills, enhances credibility while certifying capability.
- Provides nationally-accredited and recognized credential transportable across the DoD, Federal Government, and Industry.

For Employers

- Provides a reference to determine an individual's understanding of the concepts and principles deemed critical to protect the Nation's assets and a source to increase workforce productivity.
- Identifies competent, mission-ready professionals and promotes interoperability.

For the Profession

- Defines consistent standards which builds upon professionalizing the workforce.
- Provides a structure for certificants to maintain competencies and assures their mission readiness.



Getting Started

- Create a My SPēD Certification (MSC) account
 - MSC is the system of record for the SPēD Certification Program. Before scheduling your SPēD certification assessment, you must establish an active and up-to-date MSC account. Your MSC account is where you will manage all of your SPēD certification activity.
- Request authorization to test and schedule your assessment
- Cancel or reschedule a SPēD certification assessment
- Retake a SPēD certification assessment

A screenshot of the CDSE (Center for Development of Security Excellence) login page. The header shows "CDSE Center for Development of Security Excellence". Below this, the title "My SPēD Certification" is displayed in a large, bold, yellow font. The login form includes a "Username:" label followed by a text input field and a link for "First Time Users". Below that is a "Password:" label followed by a text input field and a link for "Forgot your password?". At the bottom of the form is a "Login" button.

CDSE Center for Development
of Security Excellence

My SPēD Certification

Username: [First Time Users](#)

Password: [Forgot your password?](#)

Maintaining a SPēD Certification



Candidates must **submit 100** professional development units (PDUs) into a completed Certification renewal Form (CRF) **before** the end of their SPēD certification expiration date to renew each certification.

At least **50** of the 100 PDUs **must** be related to security.

Certification holders who successfully retest or obtain a new SPēD certification will **no** longer be required to submit a CRF.

PDUs can be earned in the following categories:

Category 1: Non- SPēD certification

Category 2: Security-related Training, Education, or Certification Program and Higher Education

Category 3: Non-Security-related Training, Education, or Certificate Program and Higher Education

Category 4: Conferences and Workshops

Category 5: SPēD Certification Projects

Category 6: Experience and Achievements

Digital Credentials



As of June 1, 2020, the SPeD Certification Program Management Office (PMO) no longer mails certificates and lapel pins.

Digital credentials, also referred to as digital badges, are electronic representations of a certification or credential, traditionally acknowledged with a paper certificate.

Digital credentials are awarded to individuals as proof the certificant has been conferred a SPeD certification or credential.

Certificants will receive a digital badge within 48 duty hours after successfully passing and being conferred a SPeD certification. Your digital credentials will be provided through Credly's Acclaim platform.




Security Fundamentals Professional Certification (SFPC)
Issued by Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency

Earners of the Security Fundamentals Professional Certification (SFPC) have an understanding of foundational concepts, principles, and practices to successfully protect Department of Defense (DoD) assets. They are competent in skills such as information security, personnel security, physical security, industrial security, and general security.

Skills

- Department Of Defense
- General Security
- Government
- Industrial Security
- Information Security
- Personnel Security
- Physical Security
- Security
- Security Manager
- Security Professional
- Security Specialist

Earning Criteria

- Be in good standing by having your Department of Defense (DoD) employment status or affiliation confirmed by your Security Professional Education Development (SPEED) Component Service Representatives (CSR).
- Pass a proctored exam on Security Fundamentals complete with identity verification at a Pearson VUE Testing Center.



Test Center Availability

Candidates should contact the appropriate testing centers to check availability of services. The most up-to-date information regarding the status of global test delivery and regional test center operations is available on the Pearson VUE COVID-19 update page (<https://home.pearsonvue.com/coronavirus-update>).

Pearson Professional Centers **will** continue to follow guidance from public health officials and are re-opening as local conditions allow.

Components are responsible to make decisions regarding waivers and/or extensions for candidates that do not fulfill their conditions of employment.



Subscription Service

Sign up to get the latest CDSE news and updates delivered straight to your inbox!

The screenshot shows the footer of the CDSE website, divided into three columns: 'ABOUT CDSE', 'ABOUT THIS SITE', and 'CONNECT'. A blue arrow points from the 'Information Quality' link in the 'ABOUT THIS SITE' column to a 'NEWSLETTER' sign-up form on the right. The form includes a text input field for an email address and a blue 'Submit' button.

ABOUT CDSE	ABOUT THIS SITE	CONNECT
Awards	A-Z Listing of Terms	✉ Contact CDSE
Customer Base	Accessibility/Section 508	🐦 Follow us on Twitter
Frequently Asked Questions	Disclaimer	📺 See us on YouTube
History	FOIA	📡 Subscribe to our RSS Feeds
Information for Visitors	Information Quality	📘 Visit us on Facebook
Mission/Vision	No FEAR Act	
News	Open GOV	
Products and Services	Plain Writing Act	
Professional Affiliations	Privacy Policy	
Year End Reports	Sitemap	
	USA.gov	

NEWSLETTER
Sign-up for emails from CDSE to get the latest news and updates in your inbox.

Enter your email address

Submit



<https://www.cdse.edu/news/index.html>

Social Media



Make sure to check out our social media accounts!



CDSE – Center for
Development of
Security Excellence

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Facebook!*



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*Follow us on
Twitter!*



Center for
Development of
Security Excellence

*Subscribe to our
channel on YouTube!*

Upcoming CDSE Webinars



CDSE launched a “Know Your CDSE” Speaker Series featuring a different security or functional area focus each webinar. CDSE invites you to participate in our upcoming Speaker Series which will feature training and resources:

Date	Title
October 1	Know Your CDSE: Cybersecurity
October 8	Know Your CDSE: Industrial Security
October 27	Know Your CDSE: Personnel Security

For more information and to register for these webinars, visit <https://www.cdse.edu/catalog/webinars/index.html>





Questions

If you have any other questions, issues, or concerns, email the SPēD Certification PMO at dcsa.spedcert@mail.mil.

