

SPēD Webinar FY24 Q & A

1. What happens after 8th testing attempt?
 - You will no longer be allowed to take the assessment.
2. Can lapel pins be ordered through American Registry?
 - Unfortunately, American Registry does not offer lapel pins, nor can they be ordered from any other entity, to include our office.
3. Are digital badges issued to individuals who originally were mailed a certificate?
 - Yes. If an individual earned a certification and/or credential prior to June 2020 and have successfully maintained it since, then they can retrieve their digital badges from Credly.
4. How are we able to find out who our CSR is if we are active-duty military?
 - Your CSR can be located on this site: <https://www.cdse.edu/Certification/Additional-Certification-Credential-Assistance/>
5. If you have 2 certifications. Do you need to get 100 PDUs per certification or 100 in total?
 - 100 total, submitted on a single Certification Renewal Form (CRF).
6. Is the ISP Certification from NCMS accepted as a Security certification for us?
 - A new ISP Certification can be used as 50 PDUs for renewal under 'Category 1c: Obtain a non-SPēD Certification'. The ISP must be earned during your renewal window to be eligible.
7. For CAT 4 PDUs, The Army AT Seminar is 4 days not 5 (aka a week). How many points are awarded (40 or less)? Can I upload two annual Seminars from HQDA Seminars within the two-year maintenance cycle?
 - Annual seminars, as with annual training, can only be claimed once within a 2 year renewal maintenance cycle. Please review the Handbook for more information: <https://www.cdse.edu/Portals/124/Documents/certification/DOD-Professional-Certification-and-Credentialing-Handbook.pdf>
8. Are all CDSE event conferences considered in the security conferences?
 - That is dependent on the subject, however most are security related.
9. What documentation is required for PDUs if you are a presenter at a security conference or security training event?
 - Supporting documentation can be an email, outline of presenters, etc.
10. Is the annual SPēD Overview webinar worth 2 security conference PDUs?
 - There are no PDUs awarded for this webinar, as it is informational and targeted to new candidates, not current certificants.

SPēD Webinar FY24 Q & A

11. How will SPēD PDUs be tracked if they are a condition of employment? Will the SPēD program office send out information or will DOD agencies have access to track progress?
 - In the event that SPēD PDUs are stated as a condition of employment, it is incumbent on the individual to provide that to their component. Generally speaking, a condition of employment is usually related to the attainment and maintenance of a required certification and/or credential. If proof of attainment and maintenance is required, you can retrieve proof through Credly and send a direct email from the system to your component POC.
12. Is there a pre-test or a sample test to gauge training progress prior to taking the certification exam?
 - CPTs and courses can be accessed through the Security Training, Education, and Professionalization Portal: <https://cdse.usalearning.gov/login/index.php>
13. When using PDU's for training are there time constraints? What I mean is can all the training I took in 2024 or earlier be used? Can you use several years of training or is there limits on when the training is taken?
 - All training needs to have taken place and earned during your two year maintenance window.
14. If we attend a training, like FDO training, and don't receive a certificate? How do we get those training hours to count towards security PDUs?
 - You may use a registration email or any documentation related to and validating your attendance.
15. My employer has an eLearning platform which logs all mandatory/elective trainings... would submitting the Transcript suffice as proof of training?
 - No, you must submit proof of the individual training in the correct PDU category.
16. What documentation is required for PDUs if you are a presenter at a security conference or security training event?
 - Supporting documentation can be an email, outline of presenters, etc.
17. How does the SPēD PMO solicit certified SMEs from the field for Security related projects. How are personnel solicited? Is there a nomination process that has to be submitted? Is there an email sent out to those personnel solicited/selected?
 - SMEs are recruited annually via email from our certified population. To volunteer, you must complete a form indicating your experience and your supervisor must attest to your experience. Once we close the solicitation window, all volunteers are submitted to their respective component DSTC representative for approval.
18. For non-security PDUs can it be any type of continuing education that you complete? If I also hold nursing license could my required nursing/medical education hours be put towards the 50 non security related PDUs?
 - Yes. For all non-security related education, you must submit supporting documentation indicating the institution, length of course, and proof of completion. It is capped at 50 PDUs if not security related.

SPēD Webinar FY24 Q & A

19. Does annual security training specifically OPSEC count towards PDUs?
- Annual training can only be used once per renewal cycle.
20. Do test results identify your strengths and weaknesses?
- After completing and submitting the assessment, candidates will receive a feedback report. These indicators also allow candidates to see which topic area(s) they performed well on, and which topic area(s) they can improve on. While this feedback may be helpful to candidates, it is suggested that candidates pursue improvement in all topic areas since this comparative performance metric is not definitive and subject to change based on those who take the assessment.
21. What is the reasoning for taking the SPēD Certification test and not just confer the 100 PDU's that are taken.
- The intent of taking an assessment, as with any test, is to gauge and prove you meet the specific standards of knowledge required of a specific topic. Once you have successfully obtained a certification or credential, then you move to the maintenance phase as a certification/credential holder.
22. If an employee encounters issues while trying to enter their renewal information, is there someone to provide assistance to the employee?
- Certificants should review available tools/products available to them via <https://www.cdse.edu/Certification/SP%C4%93D-Resources/>. If they are still unable to to bypass an issue, they can contact their agency Component Service Representative, who can be found at: <https://www.cdse.edu/Certification/Additional-Certification-Credential-Assistance/>.
23. Other certified certs in industry (ISP, or ASIS certs) have put together rigorous bootcamps or study guides. Does SPēD ever foresee moving in this direction, as just taking CDSE courses seem to not be enough based on the pass rate issued by DCSA.
- Due to accreditation requirements, these types of offerings are not authorized and can jeopardize the integrity of the assessment(s). SPēD Certifications are considered 'training-agnostic', which generally require a strong foundational base (normally done through training), practioner experience, and the use of critical thinking skills to successfully pass an assessment.
24. Are the courses in STEPP Instructor led?
- STEPP is a separate LMS and we do not manage their courses. However, yes, some of their courses are in person, or virtual.
25. Can you still round up PDU to an hour, for example 90min to 2hrs?
- Yes
26. In terms of training materials/resources all we have are CPTs and the D-SEBOK?
- The D-SEBOK and CPTs are the only approved materials that SPēD provides to prepare for an assessment. It is highly discouraged to seek outside commercial training materials as our assessment content is constantly changing based on policy and procedures.

SPeD Webinar FY24 Q & A

27. Do I have to send you my certificate as an ACEO even if it has become public?
- If you are intending to use this certificate as part of your maintenance renewal, then a copy is required to be submitted as proof. Please ensure any certifications submitted must have been originally obtained during that 2-year renewal window.
28. Are any CDSE Webinars worth PDUs? The Espionage Investigation of Ana Belen Montes last week had valuable knowledge and DOES increase our security education.
- If webinars are worth PDUs that will typically be included in the post-attendance email. Please contact the CDSE registrar or dcsa.cdsewebinars@mail.mil for more information.
29. As a Background Investigator, I am not an Adjudicator; however, the information we gather is directly related to an Adjudicative decision. Is this still possible to get authorization to get Adjudication Cert/Cred, as a BI?
- APC is only for adjudicators.
30. Once certification is attained as a condition of employment, are PDUs or maintaining the certification a condition of employment?
- Generally speaking, a condition of employment is usually related to the attainment AND maintenance of a required certification and/or credential. If proof of attainment and maintenance is required, you can retrieve proof through Credly and send a direct email from the system to your component POC. However, failure to properly maintain your required certification(s) or credential(s) may result in termination of employment based on your specific component or agency's requirements and policies.