



**THIS  
MONTH'S  
FOCUS**

**ACE CREDIT RECOMMENDATIONS**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

During the 2022 Calendar year, there were 928 ACE digital badges issued for CDSE courses.

 CDSE – Center for Development of Security Excellence

 @TheCDSE

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**CDSE Pulse**

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**ACE CREDITS HELP PROFESSIONALS GROW**

The Center for Development of Security Excellence's (CDSE) products and services support the professional development of security personnel in the Department of Defense (DOD), cleared industry, and throughout the Federal Government. We offer security training, education, and certification programs that improve the workforce's skills and knowledge. In addition, some of our courses may be applied as credits toward a degree at select colleges and universities.

Our affiliation with the **American Council on Education's College Credit Recommendation Service (ACE CREDIT)** allows CDSE students to transfer these credits for successful completions of certain courses to participating institutions where they may be pursuing a degree. Acceptance of ACE recommended credits depends on the school and the program. Students can reduce their overall tuition

costs and time required to complete their degree, if credits are accepted by their school.



CDSE hosts 37 tuition-free courses that students can take to earn credits toward a degree. These courses cover a wide range of subjects, and some offer students different ways to attend them. For instance, the *DOD Security Specialist Course* has virtual and in-person options. The seven-day course provides students a baseline of fundamental knowledge to perform common DOD security tasks and practices. Another course is *Effective Communication in DOD Security*, a 35-hour, fully online course spread over 16 weeks. The course introduces students to the fundamentals of writing and presentation in the context of the DOD.

Students can earn between two and six credits by completing a CDSE course with ACE credit recommendations, depending on the instructional time of the course. Some courses require more instructional time or attendance hours than others. These courses simulate the rigors of college classes while still being useful to the careers of security practitioners. In addition to earning credits toward degrees, students also receive a digital badge upon completing an ACE-credit recommended course.

Digital badges are electronic representations of certifications and credentials, which have been traditionally acknowledged with a paper certificate, and can be used in email signatures, digital resumes, and/or social media sites such as LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter. Digital badges also help students gain recognition by allowing them to easily display and share their achievements.



The digital badges serve to verify a student's skills and knowledge learned from completing a certificate program or course. Since the badges are available online, they are portable and transparent, and the course details behind each

badge means others can see what it took to earn the award. Through the student's Credly account where the digital badges are issued, the student can send an official ACE digital academic transcript to the institution to which

they are applying. More information about digital badges is available [here](#).

Completing a college degree is a challenging, yet rewarding endeavor that can improve a person's job prospects and earning

power. CDSE aims to help security practitioners achieve their full potential through ACE credit recommendations by offering courses relevant to their career and that can help them graduate.

## CDSE COURSES WITH ACE CREDITS

The chart below shows a full listing of all the CDSE courses with their recommended ACE credits. Each course is also hyperlinked for more information.

COURSE	CREDITS
<a href="#">Applying Industrial Security Concepts</a>	3
<a href="#">Applying Physical Security Concepts</a>	3
<a href="#">Assessment and Evaluation of Department of Defense Security Programs</a>	3
<a href="#">Basic Industrial Security for the Government Security Specialist Program</a>	3
<a href="#">Budgeting and Financial Management for Security Programs</a>	3
<a href="#">Challenges in Analyzing and Managing Risk</a>	3
<a href="#">Constitutional Law and Its Application to Department of Defense Security</a>	3
<a href="#">Counterintelligence Awareness Certificate</a>	4
<a href="#">Cybersecurity and the Oversight of Information System Security</a>	3

COURSE	CREDITS
<a href="#">Federal Background Investigator Training Program (FBITP)</a>	6
<a href="#">Foundations of Insider Threat Management</a>	3
<a href="#">FSO Orientation for Non-Possessing Facilities Curriculum</a>	3
<a href="#">FSO Program Management for Possessing Facilities Curriculum</a>	3
<a href="#">Fundamentals of National Security Adjudication</a>	3
<a href="#">Human Resources Management for DoD Security</a>	3
<a href="#">Information Security Management Course</a>	3
<a href="#">Introduction to Special Access Programs (SAP)</a>	3
<a href="#">Investigations Case Analyst Program (ICAP)</a>	3

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COURSE	CREDITS
DoD Advanced Personnel Security Adjudications	3
DoD Antiterrorism Officer Level II Training	3
DOD Security Specialist Course	3
Effective Communication in DoD Security	3
Essentials of Suitability and Adjudication Program (ESAP)	3
Leadership in DoD Security	3
Managing a DoD Installation Security Program	3
Organizational Considerations in Applying Security within the Federal and Department of Defense Bureaucracy	3
Research Methods, Data Analysis, and Reporting to Support DoD Security Programs	3

COURSE	CREDITS
Risk Management Project and Advanced Studies	3
SAP Mid-Level Security Management	3
Security as an Integral Part of Department of Defense Programs	3
Security in the DoD Acquisition Process	3
Special Access Programs 2nd Tier Review	3
Statutory, Legal and Regulatory Basis of Defense Security Programs	3
The Future of Security Systems and Information Assurance	3
Understanding Adversaries and Threats to the United States and to the Department of Defense	3
Writing and Communication Skills for Security Professionals	6





## UPCOMING WEBINARS

CDSE has many live webinars coming up and we invite you all to participate in the following:

**Personnel Vetting Timely Topics – Continuous Vetting**  
**Tuesday, 14 March 2023**  
**1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

Visit [CDSE Webinars](#) to sign up for events and join the discussion!



## 2023 INDUSTRIAL SECURITY PROGRAM ANNUAL PLANNER NOW AVAILABLE

This job aid serves as a supplemental tool to help support and grow industrial security training and awareness within your organization. It is a combination of performance support tools selected from various security content areas that comprise the industrial security discipline that you can utilize to promote security awareness each month, throughout the year. View the planner at <https://www.cdse.edu/Portals/124/Documents/jobaids/industrial/Industrial-Security-Program-Annual-Planner.pdf>

## NEW NCCS WEBCASTS

CDSE has created seven new webcasts that focus on The National Industrial Security Program (NISP) Contracts Classification System (NCCS) 2.0:

- Government Originator Role Demonstration
- Government Relaunch of the NCCS Application
- Government Reviewer Role Demonstration
- Government Certifier Role Demonstration
- Government Contracting Officer Role
- Industry Roles and Sub 254
- Help Desk

You can view these recorded webcasts, as well as other NCCS resources, at <https://www.dcsa.mil/is/nccs/training/>

## SPeD TUTORIALS

CDSE created two new tutorials to help security professionals navigate the Security Professional Education Development (SPeD) Certification Program. The employee tutorial is ideal for new employees who are required to obtain a SPeD Certification as a condition of employment and the supervisor tutorial is for supervisors of new employees who are required to obtain a SPeD Certification as a condition of employment. View the tutorials [here](#).





## UPCOMING ILT/VILT TRAINING COURSES

Consider signing up for one of CDSE's instructor-led training (ILT) or virtual instructor-led training (VILT) courses! Training is free and the VILT eliminates travel expenses. Complete CDSE courses to earn Professional Development Units (PDUs) toward maintenance of Security Professional Education Development (SPeD) Program certifications and credentials, and select courses have ACE CREDIT recommendations that may earn transfer credits at participating universities. Below is a list of ILT/VILT courses available March - May 2023. The full FY23 schedule can be found [here](#).

### Assessing Risk and Applying Security Controls to NISP Systems (ILT) CompTIA

March 20 – 24, 2023

This course provides students with guidance on applying policies and standards used throughout the U.S. Government to protect information within computer systems, as delineated by the Risk Management Framework (RMF) process. This course will also deliver a comprehensive overview of contractor requirements under the National Industrial Security Program (NISP).

### Physical Security and Asset Protection

March 20 – April 2, 2023 (VILT)

May 1 – 5, 2023 (ILT)

This course provides students the information needed to identify and utilize regulatory guidance, methodologies, and concepts for protecting DOD assets. Students will learn how to apply the risk management process, conduct problem solving, and incorporate best practices

to develop courses of action utilizing physical security measures, based on a cost-benefit analysis, to protect an installation's assets.

### Introduction to Special Access Programs (VILT)

April 11 – 14, 2023

This course focuses on the Department of Defense (DOD) Special Access Program (SAP) fundamentals and prepares students to become SAP Security Professionals. The lessons address security enhancements across all security disciplines, compliance inspections and their requirements, annual reviews, and audits.

### DOD Security Specialist Course (VILT) ACE CREDIT CompTIA

May 22 – June 18, 2023

This course provides students a baseline of fundamental knowledge to perform common DOD security tasks and practices. It incorporates industrial, information, personnel, and physical security disciplines to understand their interrelationships, related policies, programs, and procedures.

### Getting Started Seminar (GSS) for FSOs (VILT)

May 2 – 5, 2023

This course is not only a great way to get started as a new Facility Security Officer (FSO), but also a way for experienced FSOs to learn about policy changes, procedural changes, emerging trends, threats, concerns, etc. Students work in collaboration with other security professionals, exploring security topics through practical exercises.





## STEPP FAQs: TRANSCRIPTS

### I want to VIEW my transcript.

1. Log in to STEPP.
2. Hover your cursor over your name at the top right of the page.
3. Select the "My Transcript" option from the drop-down menu.

### I want to PRINT my transcript.

1. Select "Show 100 entries" on all drop down menus on the left side of the page.
2. Press Ctrl + P to print the page.

### I want to REQUEST an official copy of my transcript.

1. **Submit a Help Desk Ticket** or call 833-200-0035.



### WHAT THE SECURITY COMMUNITY IS SAYING

#### Fundamentals of National Security Adjudication:

"I enjoyed the hands-on nature of the course. Being able to apply what was learned and seek feedback was valuable."

"I very much enjoyed this virtual class and the material that was presented. All presenters and instructors were highly knowledgeable and willing to answer all and any questions. I learned a lot from this course and I look forward to continuing to learn and grow as a new adjudicator."

## CDSE NEWS

CDSE offers an email subscriber news service to get the latest CDSE news, updates, and information. You may be receiving the Pulse through your subscription, but if you were forwarded this newsletter from another source and would like to subscribe to the Pulse or one of our other topics, visit our news page and sign up or update your account today - <https://www.cdse.edu/news/index.html>.

Insider Threat  
Bulletins

Weekly  
Flash

Quarterly  
Product Update

