CDSE pulse

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This month's focus: Certification

The Security Professional Education Development (SPēD) Certification Program supports the Department of Defense's (DoD) mission to professionalize the security workforce by validating security knowledge and skills needed to address 21st century threats and challenges.

As security professionals in the DoD, federal government, or cleared industry, individuals can elect to become SPēD certified to demonstrate they possess these necessary skills and knowledge. The certification program ensures that a common set of competencies among security practitioners exists to promote interoperability, facilitate professional development and training, and develop a workforce of certified security professionals. These certifications have expanded over the years to cover specialized security disciplines. CDSE now has seven certifications and one credential:
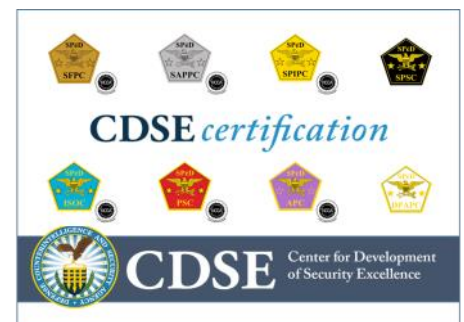
- Security Fundamentals Professional Certification (SFPC)
- Security Asset Protection Professional Certification (SAPPC)
- Security Program Integration Professional Certification (SPIPC)
- Special Program Security Certification (SPSC)
- Industrial Security Oversight Certification (ISOC)
- Physical Security Certification (PSC)
- Adjudicator Professional Certification (APC)
- Due Process Adjudicator Professional Credential (DPAPC)

Optimizing SPēD Certification Credentialing

On June 1, 2020, the SPēD Certification Program Management Office (PMO) transitioned from distributing certificates manually to a completely automated process, also known as digital badging. Digital badges are electronic representations of the SPēD certifications and credential. This new process maximizes output, minimizes costs, and allows SPēD candidates to receive their certificates at a faster rate.

Before the transition, the SPēD Certification PMO stored all certification records in two systems: a learning management system and a credential management system. The SPēD conferral process was a labor-intensive, 25-step, 90-day, manual process which included various administrative activities.

With the new automation, the SPēD Certification PMO is now able to streamline many of the manual tasks, or eliminate them all together. As a result, the conferral process was reduced to a 4-step, 48-hour automated process which puts certificates in candidates' hands faster than before.

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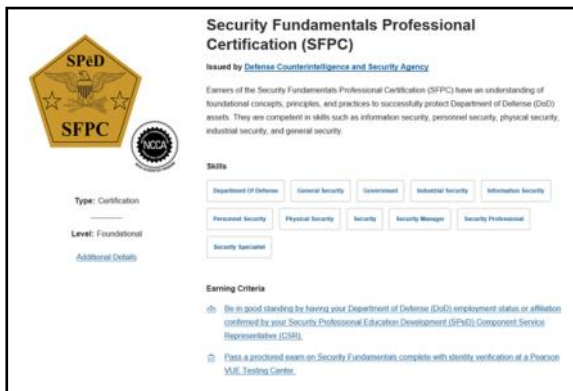**@TheCDSE**

Center for Development of Security Excellence

Optimizing SPēD Certification Credentialing continued…

As part of automating the process, the SPēD Certification PMO migrated all of its data to one system — the Pearson Credential Manager.

Since this change, more than 8,500 digital badges have been issued to SPēD certification holders through Credly's Acclaim platform. This represents thousands of badges for security professionals who no longer have to wait months for their certificate. For more information on obtaining a digital badge, visit our web page.

Competency Preparatory Tools (CPTs) Help Prepare for Certification

Prepare to take your SPēD certification assessment with our CPTs which are uniquely designed to enhance your security knowledge. Each CPT tests your foundational security knowledge, then asks a series of open-ended questions and offers training and policy resources to assist with increasing your proficiency. For more information, visit the Prepare for Certification web page.

You're SPēD Certified, Now What?

Successfully passing a certification assessment and receiving your certification does not mean the work is over. Maintaining your certification is also required. CDSE has a Certification Renewal Form (CRF) that each certification holder must use to record professional development activities. To maintain and renew your certification(s), you must complete 100 professional development units (PDUs) every two years.

A CRF is used to record all PDUs, and the certification holder is responsible for submitting 100 accrued PDUs into a completed CRF before the end of their two-year maintenance cycle. The SPēD Certification PMO sends reminders, but individuals are encouraged to make maintenance and renewal their priority. If you do not accrue 100 PDUs within your two-year maintenance cycle, or fail to submit your CRF, your status will be deemed non-compliant and your SPēD certification(s) will expire. To learn more, visit the Certification Maintenance web page.

Don't Forget to Register for Our Upcoming Webinar!

Know Your CDSE: Certification

Thursday, August 13, 2020

12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. EDT

Join this live, interactive, 30-minute event to learn more about our SPēD Certification Program. Register here.

Sign up for the latest security awareness newsletters at https://www.cdse.edu/news/index.html

What's the Difference Between a Certificate of Completion and a Certification?

A **Certificate of Completion** is provided upon completing CDSE training courses on STEPP or the Security Awareness Hub. More information on those courses can be found here.

A **Certification** is provided after passing a SPēD certification assessment. As of June 1, 2020, conferred candidates will automatically receive a digital badge representing their certification. Alternatively, they can opt to purchase a printed copy through American Registry, a third-party vendor. For detailed instructions, visit this web page.

Still have questions? Visit the Certification FAQ page or email dcsa.spedcert@mail.mil.

High Certification Standards

Six of the CDSE certifications are accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). The NCCA, established in 1987, provides impartial, third-party validation that the SPēD Certification Program has met national and international credentialing industry standards for development, implementation, and maintenance of certification programs.

By accrediting its certifications, CDSE ensures security professionals conferred a SPēD certification meet the highest standards to protect our nation's assets.

United States Department of Defense

SPeD
SFPC

This is to certify

John Doe

Having successfully demonstrated the application of the concepts and principles deemed critical to protect Department of Defense assets, we hereby bestow the

Security Fundamentals Professional Certification

Joseph D. Kernan
Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence

William K. Lietzau
Director, Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency

Issued on: 01 DEC 2020

Certification Five-Year Achievement

In November 2018, the SPēD Certification PMO successfully executed and managed to attain re-accreditation of the three core certification programs (i.e., SFPC, SAPPC, and SPIPC) from the NCCA.

STEPP
Security Training, Education, and Professionalization Portal

NEW STEPP FEATURE!
COMING SOON!

You asked and CDSE listened! In August 2020, STEPP will be updated to allow students to retake courses to receive an updated Certificate of Completion. Stay tuned for more information in the next issue of The Pulse!

Sign up for the latest security awareness newsletters at https://www.cdse.edu/news/index.html