THIS MONTH'S FOCUS

CERTIFICATION

DID YOU KNOW?

*9,512 SPēD Digital Badges/ Credentials have been issued to date, and shared 5,789 times! Read more about **digital badges.***

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CERTIFICATIONS, CREDENTIALS, AND CERTIFICATES. WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES?

The internet allows people to access an endless stream of information that is not always accurate. When it comes to security, misinformation can cause catastrophes. CDSE provides training certificates, SPēD certifications and credentials, and Education Certificates to validate that a security professional has met the educational standard to do their job. Each has its own advantage and requires a different level of effort to obtain.
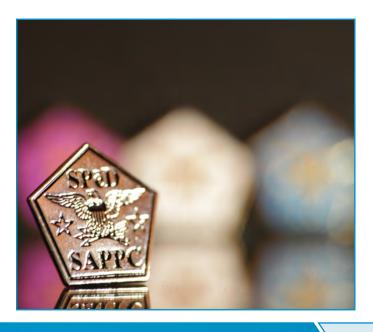
Our **SPēD Certifications** require the most effort to obtain and maintain. The security practitioner must pass an assessment and then earn no less than 100 Professional Development Units (PDUs) within a two-year maintenance cycle to stay current. At least half of the PDUs must be security centric. Certifications also bring many benefits, such as the demonstration of success and mastery of knowledge, skills, and abilities. These are widely recognized and provide a common set of standards to measure requirements for a security position. Proficiency in these expert-developed standards supports the seamless transfer of security professionals and facilitates interoperability among DOD and Industry security practitioners.

Currently, there are seven certifications and two credentials available through the SPēD Certification Program. Certifications are more general and broad in nature, and validate mastery across several knowledge areas, whereas a credential for an isolated or specific audience. Credentials are stackable, which means they can be applied to, or paired with, an existing certification, and usually require less maintenance than a full certification.

CERTIFICATIONS, CREDENTIALS, AND CERTIFICATES. WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES? (CONT'D)

CORE CERTIFICATIONS:	SPECIALTY CERTIFICATIONS:	CREDENTIALS:
Security Fundamentals Professional Certification (SFPC)	Industrial Security Oversight Certification (ISOC)	Due Process Adjudicator Professional Credential (DPAPC)
Security Asset Protection Professional Certification (SAPPC)	Physical Security Certification (PSC)	Antiterrorism Credential (ATC)
Security Program Integration Professional Certification (SPIPC)	Special Program Security Certification (SPSC)	Accredited by National Commission for Certifying Agencies
	Adjudicator Professional Certification (APC)	

A certificate, on the other hand, is a one-time proof of completion for a CDSE course or program that has no maintenance requirements. CDSE offers two types of certificates - one for our Training Program and another for our Education Program. **Training certificates** prove that a student completed a course or curricula focused on the practical, need-to-know aspects of security. These certificates become available for download at the end of each individual course.

Education certificates recognize students for successfully completing an advanced program of study. Each certificate program consists of **four, 16-week-long courses** in one of five concentrations. These certificates are offered to U.S. Government civilian employees and U.S. military service members.

CDSE's certifications, credentials, and certificates may have different functions but they all help further the professionalization of security personnel throughout the DOD, industry, and even across the Federal Government.

EDUCATION CERTIFICATE CONCENTRATIONS:

- Risk Management
- Security Leadership
- Security Management
- Security (Generalist)
- Systems and Operations

SPēD OVERVIEW WEBINAR

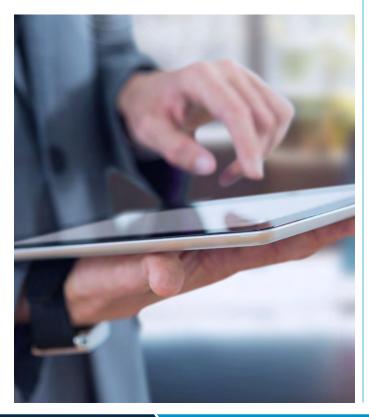In January, CDSE hosted a live webinar with SPēD Program Management Office experts to discuss certifications and credentials available through the agency. This session included a general overview of available certifications, target audience identification, the process to obtain and maintain certifications, and a Q&A. View the recordings and learn more about the Certification Program **here**.

MAINTAINING A CERTIFICATION

You've passed your SPēD certification assessment. Now what? To maintain an active and up-to-date SPēD certification, you must earn no less than 100 Professional Development Units (PDUs), 50 of which must be security related, within your two-year maintenance cycle. You will use the **My SPēD Certification** platform to record your PDUs for each cycle.

PREPARING FOR A CERTIFICATION

Interested in taking a certification assessment but don't know where to begin? We have you covered! CDSE provides many tools to help you prepare for each individual certification assessment. First, start with reviewing the Candidate Handbook to learn about the right certification for you. Not only does the handbook specifically identify the areas of expertise, it also identifies various training courses that can help build up your foundation of those areas. There are also **competency preparatory tools** for each certification, and those consist of a series of open-ended questions based on key concepts of each related area of expertise. Find the link to the Candidate Handbooks **here** to get started today!
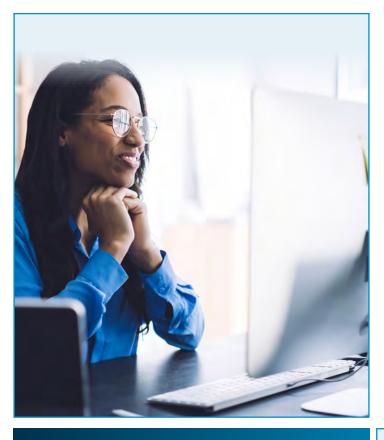
UPCOMING GETTING STARTED SEMINAR

The next Getting Started Seminar for FSOs is scheduled to begin May 3, 2022! This course is not only a great way to get started as new Facility Security Officers (FSOs), but also a way for experienced FSOs to keep informed of policy changes, procedural changes, emerging trends, threats, concerns, etc. Students work in collaboration with other security professionals, exploring security topics through practical exercises.

To learn more and register by April 3, visit **https://www.cdse.edu/Training/Virtual-Instructor-led-Courses/IS121/**

UPCOMING WEBINARS

DCSA invites you to join an unclassified webinar:

"Project Shield America"
presented by Homeland Security Investigations.
Thursday, March 17, 2022
1:00 p.m. ET

Register today.

CDSE invites you to participate in our upcoming webinar:

Supply Chain Past, Present, and Future 2022
Thursday, April 7, 2022
12:00 – 1:00 p.m. ET

Visit **CDSE Webinars** to sign up for this event and join the discussion!

★★★★★ WHAT THE SECURITY COMMUNITY IS SAYING

"Although this was not a surprise but more of a greatly appreciated aspect, the student support and feedback was invaluable. The instructor's knowledge and feedback was beyond words, but the actual interaction with the students exceeded my expectations!"

– Education Certificate Student

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 Report