CompTIA Cybersecurity Career Pathways

The career pathways for SecurityX follow a hierachy of skills needed for a career in cybersecurity. Each certification builds upon the skills from the previous one. CompTIA certifications reflect the current job roles of IT professionals, so it makes sense for learners to earn certifications and gain the knowledge and hands-on skills currently being used in the workforce.

See how CompTIA certifications map to DoDM 8140.03 work roles

---

CompTIA Security+ (Plus Series)

COMPETENCIES
- Assess and implement appropriate security solutions
- Monitor and secure hybrid environments
- Operate with an awareness of applicable regulations and policies
- Identify, analyze, and respond to security events and incidents

JOB ROLES
- Cybersecurity Specialist

PREREQUISITES
CompTIA Network+ and two years of experience working in a security/systems administrator job role.

MORE INFO
CompTIA Security+ is compliant with ISO/ANSI 17024 standards and maps to 20 DCWF work roles used by U.S. DoD Directive 8140.03M.

CompTIA CySA+ (Plus Series)

COMPETENCIES
- Leverage intelligence and threat detection techniques
- Analyze and interpret data
- Identify and address vulnerabilities
- Suggest preventive measures
- Effectively respond to and recover from incidents

JOB ROLES
- Cybersecurity Engineer
- Cybersecurity Manager

PREREQUISITES
CompTIA Network+, Security+ or equivalent knowledge. Minimum of 4 years of hands-on information security or related experience.

MORE INFO
CompTIA CySA+ is compliant with ISO/ANSI 17024 standards and maps to 10 DCWF work roles used by U.S. DoD Directive 8140.03M.

CompTIA PenTest+ (Plus Series)

COMPETENCIES
- Plan, scope, and gather information
- Perform attacks that fulfill legal and compliance requirements
- Perform each phase of a penetration test
- Communicate findings and recommendations to stakeholders

JOB ROLES
- Penetration Tester

PREREQUISITES
Recommended 3–4 years in a penetration tester job role, with Network+ and Security+ or equivalent knowledge.

MORE INFO
CompTIA PenTest+ is compliant with ISO/ANSI 17024 standards and maps to 8 DCWF work roles used by U.S. DoD Directive 8140.03M.

CompTIA SecurityX (Xpert Series)

COMPETENCIES
- Plan and scope penetration tests
- Perform active and passive reconnaissance, gather information, and enumerate systems
- Conduct vulnerability scans, analyze results, and validate findings to identify and address security weaknesses.
- Execute network, host-based, web application, and cloud-based attacks using appropriate tools and techniques to test system defenses.
- Maintain persistence, perform lateral movement, and document findings

JOB ROLES
- Cybersecurity Architect

PREREQUISITES
Minimum 10 years general hands on IT experience, 5 years being hands-on security, with Network+, Security+, CySA+, Cloud+ and PenTest+ or equivalent knowledge.

MORE INFO
CompTIA SecurityX is compliant with ISO/ANSI 17024 standards and maps to 11 DCWF work roles used by U.S. DoD Directive 8140.03M.