



PCI Professional (PCIP)™ Frequently Asked Questions

What is the PCI Professional Program?

The Payment Card Industry Professional (PCIP)™ Program is a direct result of feedback expressing interest in an individual qualification that does not require a sponsoring employer. A PCI Professional qualification gives a broad introduction to the PCI Standards in contrast to QSA and ISA qualifications which are more focused on performing PCI DSS assessments.

The program offers the opportunity to build new skills for those early in their careers, and also gives more experienced professionals the chance to achieve PCI Professional status by taking the exam only.

Additionally, Internal Security Assessors (ISAs) and Qualified Security Assessors (QSAs) in good standing may choose to add the individual PCIP credential to recognize their already proven level of expertise.

Who is the PCIP program for?

The program is aimed at those who want to know more about the PCI Standards and how applying the Standards can help keep cardholder data secure. Professionals in audit, compliance, information security/technology, finance, or e-commerce roles focused within the payments industry value chain as well as product development, marketing, or sales professionals involved with developing and selling payments-oriented products (such as PA-DSS validated applications) are ideally suited to become a PCI Professional.

What experience do I need?

Candidates need to have some familiarity with IT. We require a minimum of 2 years' experience in IT or IT-related positions so that candidates are familiar with IT terminology, particularly that used in network security and architecture. Candidates may have gained this experience from a number of roles, from being an IT developer or through project management or compliance roles. The experience is needed to make sure candidates can make the most of the training.

If you have specific questions on if your experience is suitable, please contact the program manager at pcip@pcisecuritystandards.org.

How should I prepare for the exam?

The best preparation is to enroll in the PCIP training course, which covers all the material you'll need to know for the exam. If you feel you have sufficient industry knowledge, you may choose not to enroll in the course, undertake some self-study and take the exam independently.

Before taking the exam, candidates are strongly encouraged to become familiar with the publications available in the document library on the PCI SSC website, including but not limited to:

- PCI Glossary
- PCI DSS
- Navigating the PCI DSS

How is the training delivered?

The PCIP course is available online 24/7/365. But because of feedback we've received, we also offer one-day, instructor-led sessions for those preferring a collaborative in-person learning format. Be sure to check the website for the latest instructor-led class schedule.

And whether you take the course online or at an instructor-led location, candidates will then be required to take the PCIP exam at an authorized Pearson VUE testing center.

The self-paced eLearning course provides you with a 60 day window from start to finish but you may certainly move along more quickly if you'd like. Within that 60 day window, you'll have 30 days to complete the online course. Then once the course has been completed successfully, you'll take the PCIP examination at an authorized Pearson VUE Testing Center within 30 days of course completion.

Similarly, you'll have 30 days after the completion of the instructor-led class to complete the exam at a Pearson VUE Testing Center.

What will I learn?

This course will provide you with the knowledge to help build a secure payments environment and help your company achieve PCI compliance. If your company is PCI DSS compliant or is working towards becoming compliant, then this training will help put all of that into context for you and help you understand what it is all about.

- Principles of PCI DSS, PA-DSS, PCI PTS, and PCI P2PE
- Understanding PCI DSS requirements and intent
- Overview of basic payment industry terminology
- Appropriate uses of compensating controls
- How and when to use Self-Assessment Questionnaires (SAQs)
- Recognizing how new technologies effect the PCI (P2PE, tokenization, mobile, cloud)

How will I be evaluated?

Whether you take the eLearning course online or participate in a classroom training session, there will be an exam administered at a Pearson VUE Testing Center upon completion of the course. The exam will consist of 60 multiple choice questions and you'll have 90 minutes to complete it. And you'll know immediately if you've passed and therefore are eligible to be listed on the global PCIP registry accessible on the PCI SSC website.

Candidates who do not pass the exam on the first attempt may retake the exam within 365 days by paying a retake fee. Individuals who are not successful at passing the exam on the second attempt, or do not retake the exam within 365 days are required to take the eLearning (if they haven't already) before taking the exam again.

What are the associated costs?

The pricing for PCIP training depends on several factors including whether you are a Participating Organization (PO) and whether you decide to attend training (either online or instructor-led). The website has all of the details but here are some examples.

	Online eLearning	Instructor-led US	Instructor-led outside US	Exam only	Opt-in
PO	USD \$1,390	USD \$1,445	USD \$1,890	USD \$790	
Non-PO	USD \$2,245	USD \$2,345	USD \$2,890	USD \$1,390	
ISA/QSA					USD \$199

There are discounts available for groups and if you have a large group of 30 or more , we can come to your facility to deliver the training.

How does PCIP compare to other PCI training programs and certifications?

PCIP compared to Awareness training:

Awareness training is geared to a broader audience than PCIP and is suitable for anyone, at any level in an organization that needs to know more about PCI. And while you will earn continuing education credits for the Awareness course – there is no exam or qualification associated with it.

PCIP compared to ISA training:

PCIP demonstrates a level of knowledge about the PCI Standards, particularly PCI DSS. However, the required experience, professional background and privileges are significantly lower than that of an ISA. Key differences with an ISA are:

- An ISA must be sponsored by their organization, this isn't required for PCIP
- An ISA qualification is not portable (an ISA who leaves their sponsoring organization loses their ISA status); a PCIP qualification can go with an individual regardless of their employer
- An ISA should have an audit and/or security background, this isn't necessary for a PCIP. This is because ISAs are more focused on assessment than PCIPs
- Depending on the compliance programs of their brands and acquirer, an ISA can prepare a ROC, a PCIP cannot
- An ISA must re-qualify annually, the PCIP qualification is good for two years

Note: As a PCIP you may enhance your knowledge and continue on to become an ISA if you work for an organization which sponsors you to do so. Conversely, if an ISA wants to have the PCIP credential, s/he must opt-in (see below).

How can I Opt-in to the PCIP program?

As an ISA or QSA in good standing, your substantial knowledge of the PCI Standards pre-qualifies you for the PCIP credential. No training class, no exam, simply submit an application along with a \$199 fee and agree to the Code of Professional Responsibility and sign the attestation.

What does a PCIP qualification give me?

The Payment Card Industry Professional (PCIP)[™] qualification demonstrates your knowledge and understanding of the payments industry. This personal qualification stays in effect as long as you continue to meet program requirements and is not affected by changes in employment assignments. Requalification is necessary every two years.

With a PCIP qualification, you'll receive:

- 5 continuing education credits for the eLearning course and 7 for the instructor-led course
- a certificate (suitable for printing and framing)
- authorization to use the PCIP logo to create your own personal brand (use on resumes, email signatures and other professional communications)
- a listing on the PCI website – searchable by name or certificate number

**Maximize Knowledge.
Minimize Risk.**

For more information on PCI training courses, please visit our website: www.pcisecuritystandards.org, call us at: +1-781-876-8855, or email us at: training@pcisecuritystandards.org.