



QUALIFIED SECURITY ASSESSOR (QSA) TRAINING

Description

Qualified Security Assessor training provides instruction on how to conduct assessments of merchants, institutions, and service providers who must be compliant with the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS). Sponsored by their employer to attend this training, a QSA is equipped to assess processes and systems and generate and submit appropriate compliance reports on behalf of their clients.

Through this QSA training course, you will become an expert on the requirements for PCI compliance and have an impact on the consistent and proper application of security measures and controls for your clients.

Audience

QSA training is intended for IT security and audit professionals at security companies.

Typical job titles

Information Security Consultant, Information Security Auditor, Information Security Analyst.

Necessary skills/ abilities

Candidate should possess at least one of the following industry-recognized professional certifications:

- Certified Information System Security Professional (CISSP)
- Certified Information Security Manager (CISM)
- Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA)
- Certified ISO 27001, Lead Auditor, Internal Auditor
- International Register of Certified Auditors (IRCA)
- Information Security Management System (ISMS) Auditor
- Certified Internal Auditor (CIA)

Candidate should possess a minimum of one year of experience in *each* of the following information security disciplines:

- Application security
- Information systems security
- Network security
- IT security auditing
- Information security risk assessment or risk management.

*Candidates must apply to the QSA program and be approved by the PCI Security Standards Council (PCI SSC).

Purpose

Individuals that are authorized to validate an entity's adherence to PCI DSS requirements are referred to as Qualified Security Assessors (QSAs). Validation of a merchant's compliance to requirements by independent and qualified security companies is important to the effectiveness of PCI DSS.

The purpose of this course is to prepare QSA candidates to perform this independent assessment as well as how to complete the required documentation. The primary goal of an individual with the QSA credential is to perform an assessment against the high-level control objectives of the PCI Data Security Standard (PCI DSS). Given the different levels of auditing and reporting requirements, this course focuses on the twelve high-level control objectives, and corresponding sub-requirements that are required to be met either directly or through a compensating control.

Benefits

Individuals attending the course who pass the final exam are QSAs authorized to perform assessments and issue Reports on Compliance (RoCs) required by the payment card brands and acquiring banks.

Additional benefits include:

- Industry recognition
- Gain knowledge of the payment card industry relative to information security and proven industry best practices
- Listing on PCI website (both company and individual QSAs can be found in a searchable directory)

Snapshot of course content

The two-part QSA training is comprised of a five-hour online PCI Fundamentals pre-requisite course followed by an exam. Then you'll move on to take an intensive two-day instructor-led course and exam.

This training program covers:

- PCI DSS testing procedures
- Payment brand specific requirements
- PCI validation requirements
- PCI reporting requirements
- Real world case studies

Upon completion of the course, you'll be able to:

- Define the processes involved in card processing
- Understand the PCI DSS requirements and testing procedures and how they apply to merchant environments
- Conduct PCI DSS assessments, validate compliance and generate Reports on Compliance (RoCs)

Pre-requisites

Prior to completing the PCI Fundamentals training session it is recommended that you familiarize yourself with the following publications available on the PCI SSC website:

- *PCI Glossary*
- *PCI DSS*
- *PCI Self-Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ)*
- *Attestation of Compliance (AoC)*
- *RoC Reporting Instructions for PCI DSS*
- *PCI SSC Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)*

Format

Complete five-hour "PCI Fundamentals" eLearning course and pass the exam. Then, attend a scheduled two-day instructor-led training class.

(See schedule on PCI SSC website for training dates and locations)

Exam

Candidates are required to complete and pass a final onsite exam, administered immediately following the completion of the coursework.

Qualification

Individual qualification, tied to QSA company. Qualification remains when moving between QSA companies provided the company continues to meet QSA program requirements.

Re-qualification is required annually via eLearning training and exam.

For more information on PCI training courses, please visit our website: www.pcisecuritystandards.org, call us at: +1-781-876-6240, or email us at: QSA@pcisecuritystandards.org.