

STARTING A CYBERSECURITY CAREER

Getting into cybersecurity isn't always easy or straightforward, which is why we've put together this cheat sheet to call out the certifications, resources, and paths we feel offer the highest return on your time (and money). This list is focused on defensive (security analyst) career paths.

Certs to help break through the recruiting/HR wall

- CompTIA Security+
- ISC2 Systems Security Certified Practitioner (SSCP)
- GIAC Security Essentials (GSEC)

Entry-Level SOC Certs

- EC Council Certified SOC Analyst (CSA)
- CompTIA CySA+
- GIAC Security Operations Certified (GSOC)
- Range Force SOC Analyst 1 (also available level 2)
- Security Blue Team Blue Team Level 1 (also available level 2)

Other (Non-Entry Level) Certs

- CompTIA CASP+
- CompTIA Cloud+
- CompTIA PenTest+
- EC Council CEH and CEH Practical
- GIAC Certified Detection Analyst (GCDA)
- GIAC Certified Intrusion Analyst (GCIA)
- GIAC Certified Incident Handler (GCIH)
- CSA Certificate of Cloud Security Knowledge (CCSK)
- ISC2 Certified Cloud Security Professional (CCSP)
- eLearning Junior Penetration Tester (eJPT)
- Offensive Security Certified Professional (OCSF)

CTFs

- <https://tryhackme.com/>
- <https://www.hackthebox.eu/>
- <https://opensoc.io/>

Free Training/Tools

- [AlienVault OSSIM](#)
- [Security Onion](#)

Cybersecurity Career Advice and Job Resources

Keep in mind: the best way into cybersecurity might not be the most direct route!

- [NICCS Cyber Career Pathways Tool](#)
- [Cybersecurity Degree and Certification Guide](#) (university-focused)
- [Starting an InfoSec Career Megamix](#) (Lesley Carhart)
- [College and InfoSec: To Degree or not to Degree?](#) (Lesley Carhart)
- [Ask Lesley: How Much Should SOC Work Suck?](#) (Lesley Carhart)
- [InfoSec Career Guide](#) (Daniel Miessler)
- [Breaking into Cybersecurity](#) Podcast
- [Getting into InfoSec](#) Podcast
- [We Hack Purple](#) Podcast
- [Battleship Security](#) (paid career mentoring)
- [We Hack Purple training academy and community](#) (AppSec-focused)