

CyberSec First Responder™ Continuing Education Program

Overview

This document identifies the details of the continuing education program for CertNexus' CyberSec First Responder™ certification. This program is based on both research of common industry practices and the input of the subject matter experts (SMEs) who helped develop the certification and who make up the CFR scheme committee. The CFR continuing education program has been approved by the CFR scheme committee.

Program

Recertification for CFR

Candidates who successfully pass the CyberSec First Responder™ exam will have 3 years from the date of certification to recertify. Candidates will have 2 options from which to choose:

- Retake the most recent version of the exam before their certification expires
- Earn and submit enough continuing education credits (CECs) to recertify without retaking the exam

Program Details

Candidates must earn a total of 90 CECs within 3 years of certifying to successfully recertify without retaking the exam. Candidates must earn at least 30 CECs within each 1-year period during the 3-year certification cycle.

Candidates who elect to recertify through continuing education activities will incur a \$50 annual fee for recertification, or a single \$150 payment for each certification cycle (subject to change). To enroll in the continuing education program, candidates will be required to pay at minimum the \$50 fee upon submission of their first continuing education activities to CertNexus. Continuing Education fees are non-refundable.

To enroll in the continuing education program, click [here](#) and then follow the directions in the confirmation emails from the CertNexus store after enrollment. Candidates can enroll one year at a time (\$50 per year), or for the full three-year period (\$150 one-time payment).

Once enrolled, candidates will receive an access key to create their continuing education account on the CHOICE platform. Within their account on the platform, they will submit activities for CEC consideration. CECs must be submitted during the calendar year (beginning with the date of certification) in which you participated in the related activity (activities performed near or at the end of the relevant calendar year

will be given special consideration). All activities must be submitted and approved within the 3-year certification period. Any submission may be reviewed by CertNexus certification staff and/or SMEs in order to verify its validity. In the event that approval occurs after the 3-year certification period has expired, CertNexus will honor the activity for CECs toward recertification, provided the activity date and the submission date fall within the certification cycle—in these cases, recertification is retroactive to the date of expiration/recertification.

You may submit activities for CECs on an ongoing basis; you do NOT have to wait until the end calendar year or certification cycle to do so. CertNexus encourages submitting as early and as often as possible to avoid delays. Candidates whose certification status expires must retake the most recent version of the exam to recertify.

Any questions about the CFR Continuing Education Program can be directed to certifications@certnexus.com.

Approved Activity Types

The following is a list of general activity types that will be accepted toward recertification and the total number of CECs candidates can earn in each category. Also indicated is the number of specific instances of each activity type (regardless of how credits are tallied) that candidates can submit for CECs during a certification cycle:

Activity Type	Total Instances Allowed	Total Possible CECs
Earning Related Certifications	2 exams	25
Participating in the Development of a Related Certification	2 exams	20
Attending Industry Conferences	2 conferences	20
Industry Association Membership	2 organizations	10
Industry Association Leadership	2 organizations	12
Authoring Training Content on a Related Subject	2 courses	15
Teaching a Related Training Course	3 courses	15
Attending a Related Training Course	2 courses/training programs	15
Earning a Related University/College Degree	1 degree	15
Presenting at a Speaking Engagement/Conference	4 events	20
Publishing Material Related to the Exam	4 works published	30
Delivering Related Webinars	4 discrete webinars	15
Unique Work Experience	1 year at 1 job in field	15

How Credits Are Assigned

For some activity types, credits will be issued as a fixed value based on the specific activity within that type. For example, one industry certification might be worth 10 CECs while another is worth 15, and some publication types, like blogs, will be worth fewer CECs than, say, publishing a peer-reviewed article. Other activities, however, may be based on hours in session or in class. Regardless of how CECs are issued, the total number of CECs that can be earned in a particular certification cycle will be limited to the caps in the table above and only the identified number of instances of each activity type may be submitted.

The following table describes the method of assigning CECs for each activity type:

Activity Type	Assigned By
Earning Related Certifications	Per certification
Participating in the Development of a Related Certification	Per hour in working session, hours capped at CEC limit
Attending Industry Conferences	Per hour in related session, hours capped at CEC limit
Industry Association Membership	Per hour at live event or in working session, hours capped at CEC limit
Industry Association Leadership	Per leadership position
Authoring Training Content on a Related Subject	Per hour of course duration, hours capped at CEC limit
Teaching a Related Training Course	Per hour teaching class, hours capped at CEC limit
Attending a Related Training Course	Per hour in class, hours capped at CEC limit
Earning a Related University/College Degree	Per earned degree
Presenting at a Speaking Engagement/Conference	Per event
Publishing Material Related to the Exam	Per work published, based on publication type
Delivering Related Webinars	Per hour delivering webinars, hours capped at CEC limit
Unique Work Experience	Per 1 continuous year at one related job

CECs per Specific Activity

Each specific instance of an activity type will be worth a predetermined number of CECs. This section identifies the number of CECs that can be earned for each of these pre-approved specific activities:

Earning Related Certifications:

The following table identifies the related industry certifications that are preapproved for CFR CECs. Regardless of the number of CECs that any particular is exam is worth, only 2 particular certifications can count toward recertification in any certification cycle.

Other related certs will also be considered on a case-by-case basis:

Certifying Body	Certification Name	CE Credits for Passing
CheckPoint	CCMSE	15
	CCSM	15
	CCSA	10
	CCSE	10
Cisco	CCNA Security	10
	CCNA Wireless	10
	CCNP Security	12
	CCNP Wireless	12
	CCIE Security	15
	CCIE Wireless	15
CompTIA	CASP	15
	Security+	10
E-Council	CEH	10
	CHFI	15
	ECIH	15
	ECSA	10
	ECSP	10
	ECES	10
	GIAC	GSEC
GSE		15
GISF		5
GCIH		10
GCIA		10
GPEN		10
GCUX		10
GCED		10
GSSP		10
GCWN		10
GSLC		10
GISP		10
GXPN		12
IBM	Certified Advanced Security Professional	10
ISACA	CISM	10
ISC(2)	CISSP (or Associate),	15
	ISSEP	10
	ISSAP	10
	ISSMP	10
	CSSLP	10
	SSCP	10

Juniper	JNCIP	12
	JNCIS	5
	JNCIA	5
Microsoft	MSCA Security	10
	MCSA Windows 7	10
	MCSA Server 2012	10
Novell	CNE	10
Offensive Security	OSCP	10
	OSCE	12
Red Hat	RHCSA	5
	RHCE	10
SCP	SCNP	10
	SCNA	10
	SCNS	10

Participating in the Development of a Related Certification

CECs will be issued based on the number of hours in working sessions to develop a related certification exam. Only work on 2 exams will be counted in any one particular certification cycle and, regardless of the number of hours in working session, only 20 CECs may be earned in one cycle.

Attending Industry Conferences

The following table identifies the industry conferences that are pre-approved for CFR CECs and the number of total CECs that can be earned for each. Only 2 conferences may be submitted for CECs in any certification cycle and only 20 CECs total may be earned.

Other industry conferences will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Conference	CECs
MS Ignite	10
Blackhat	12
DEF CON	12
SANS	12
Derby con	10
Shmocon	12

Industry Association Membership

The following industry associations are approved for CECs:

- SW Security Professionals Forum
- ISSA
- OWASP
- SANS
- Infragard

CECs are based on hours in educational, technical, or informational sessions and are capped at 10 total hours. Hours in attendance at events for only 2 different organizations may be submitted in a particular certification cycle.

All of the industry associations identified in the above list can count for CECs in the leadership category. A leadership or board position within any of these organizations can be submitted for 6 CECs, and no more than 2 organizational leadership positions will count in any one cycle.

Participation or leadership in other industry associations will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Authoring Training Content

CECs for authoring related training content are assigned on a per-hour of training basis. Work on only two courses can count in any one cycle, and CECs are capped at 15 hours.

Teaching a Related Training Course

CECs for teaching related courses are assigned on a per-hours in the classroom basis. Teaching hours for only 3 courses can count in any one cycle, and CECs are capped at 15 hours.

Attending a Related Training Course

CECs for attending related training are assigned on a per-hours in class basis. Attendance for only 2 courses can count in any one cycle, and CECs are capped at 15 hours.

Earning a Degree

Earning a related degree is good for 15 CECs in any one certification cycle, and only one degree may be submitted in any one cycle.

Presenting at a Speaking Engagement/Conference

Presenting or speaking at an industry conference, as part of a related class or training course, or at an industry association event is good for 5 CEUs. You may submit for CECs for up to 4 events in any certification cycle for a maximum of 20 CECs. All of the preapproved conferences and industry organizations already identified can be used in this category.

Other conferences and industry associations will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Publishing Material Related to the Exam

The following table identifies the number of CECs that can be earned based on publication type. All publication platforms, journals, publishers, magazines, etc. will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Publication Type	CECs
Blog	3
Article	5
White Paper	5
Peer Reviewed Paper	10
Book	15

Delivering Webinars

CECs for delivering webinars on related topics are assigned on a per-hour of session time basis. You can submit for CECs for up to 4 webinars in any particular certification cycle, and no more than 15 CECs can be earned in this category.

Specific webinars will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Unique Work Experience

You can submit for CECs toward recertification for work experience if you spend at least one year of consecutive time working in a related field. Only one position can be submitted for credit in any one certification cycle, and no more than 15 CECs can be earned during that time. All work experience will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Proof of Completion

All activity submissions must be accompanied by supporting documentation to demonstrate completion. The following is a non-exhaustive list of documentation that can be submitted as proof of completion. These are meant as examples only; other documentation may be submitted for consideration.

- Certificate for passing certification exam
- Certificate of completion for a training course
- Industry conference registration documentation
- Letters from employers
- Organizational membership cards and agendas for meetings
- Web link to organizational association's website identifying board members/leaders
- A copy of a published paper, journal entry, book, or article
- Link to a blog posting
- Training center or academic institution training calendar or schedule with you identified as the instructor
- Letter on organizational letterhead from an organization for which you participated in certification exam development
- A copy of published training materials
- A copy of your degree from a university or college
- A link to a recording of a webinar/published webinar schedule with you identified as the presenter
- Copy of a conference or event agenda/itinerary with you identified as a speaker/presenter

Other Activities

All other reasonably related activities can be submitted for consideration by CertNexus' subject matter experts. These will be evaluated solely on a case-by-case basis and our SMEs will determine the number of CECs to be issued for each case.

Candidates can submit activities for CEC consideration by emailing CertNexus at certifications@certnexus.com. When submitting activities for consideration, please include the following information:

- Your full legal name
- The name of the exam for which you'd like the activity to be considered as a CEC
- The activity type based on the categories outlined in Activity Type table in this document
- The name of the particular event, organization, publication, institution, etc. associated with the activity and any other information that might help CertNexus subject matter experts and staff evaluate the submission

If your suggested activity is approved, it will be added to the appropriate CEC list with the permitted number of CECs. Only then will you be able to submit the approved activity via your continuing education account on the CHOICE platform.