



Office of Information Technology Services

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New York State Information Technology Standard	No: NYS-S10-001
IT Standard: Continuing Professional Education Requirements for Information Security Professionals	Updated: 05/19/2021
	Issued By: NYS Office of Information Technology Services Owner: Chief Information Security Office

1.0 Purpose and Benefits

The purpose of this standard is to outline the minimum requirements for Continuing Professional Education (CPE) for members of the workforce who are serving in an information security role (e.g., information security officer (ISO), cyber risk coordinator, information security analyst, cyber incident responder, cyber intelligence analyst, etc.) for a State Entity (SE).

The requirement of CPE credits helps assure that these individuals stay current in this rapidly evolving field and maintain their breadth of knowledge.

2.0 Authority

Section 103(10) of the State Technology Law provides the Office of Information Technology Services (ITS) with the authority to establish statewide technology policies, including technology and security standards. *Section 2 of Executive Order No. 117¹*, established January 2002, provides the State Chief Information Officer with the authority to oversee, direct and coordinate the establishment of information technology policies, protocols and standards for State government, including hardware, software, security and business re-engineering. Details regarding this authority can be found in NYS ITS Policy, [NYS-P08-](#)

¹ All references to Executive Order 117 refer to that which was originally issued by Governor George E. Pataki on January 28, 2002 and continued by Executive Order 5 issued by Governor Eliot L. Spitzer on January 1, 2007, Executive Order 9 issued by Governor David A. Patterson on June 18, 2008, Executive Order 2 issued by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo on January 1, 2011, and Executive Order 6 issued by Governor Kathy Hochul on October 8, 2021.

3.0 Scope

This standard applies to all SE, defined as “State Government” entities as defined in Executive Order 117, established January 2002, or “State Agencies” as defined in Section 101 of the State Technology Law. This includes employees and all third parties (such as local governments, consultants, vendors, and contractors) that use or access any ITS resource for which ITS the SE has administrative responsibility, including systems managed or hosted by third parties on behalf of the ITS SE. While an SE may adopt a different standard, it must include the requirements set forth in this one.

This standard applies to members of the State workforce who have been designated as having information security responsibilities for an SE. This includes those within an information security business unit who fulfill the functional responsibilities of the ISO as outlined in the [NYS-P03-002 Information Security Policy](#), and it is not intended to include support staff.

4.0 Information Statement

Due to the dynamic nature of information technology and the need to maintain an adequate level of current knowledge and proficiency in information security, a minimum of thirty-seven and one half (37.5) hours of CPE credits must be completed annually. The CPEs must be directly related to information systems security. The SE will provide the opportunity for information security professionals to earn the required CPEs annually.

Criteria for qualifying the activities for CPE credits will be based on Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA) and International Information Systems Security Certification Consortium (ISC2) guidelines. In cases where there is a discrepancy between these guidelines, the lesser requirements apply.

The annual time period to earn CPE credits will coincide with the calendar year (January 1 to December 31). An individual’s cycle will begin the January following appointment to the information security role. Credits must be earned during the current year to qualify and may not be carried forward or backward from year to year.

Approved information systems security categories include but are not limited to:

- Access control
- Telecommunications and network security
- Information security governance and risk management practices
- Software development security
- Cryptography
- Security architecture and design

- Operations security
- Business continuity and disaster recovery
- Law, regulations, compliance and investigation
- Physical (environmental) security

CPE credits are given for related experience outside of normal on-the-job duties. For instance, while time spent independently preparing an information security presentation for a community organization would qualify for CPE credits, an equivalent amount of time spent on the job preparing a staff presentation, other internal publications or events would NOT qualify.

CPE credits are weighted by activity. Below are common categories of activities and the amount of credits earned for each. These activities are not intended to be a complete listing, as many other events such as graduate work in an appropriate academic field, may also qualify. Typically, you will earn 1 CPE credit for each hour spent engaged in an educational activity. However, some activities are worth more CPEs, due to the depth of study or ongoing commitment involved. CPE activities include but are not limited to:

- Earn 1 CPE credit for each hour of attendance at a security educational training course or seminar.
- Earn 1 CPE credit for each hour of attendance at a security conference. The New York State (NYS) Cyber Security Conference qualifies for CPE credits.
- Earn 1 CPE credit for each hour of attendance at a State information security community of practice meeting (IS-CoP) or NYS Forum information security workgroup meeting.
- Earn 1 CPE credit for each hour of attendance at a professional security association chapter meeting, such as the ISC2, Information Systems Security Association (ISSA), ISACA, etc.
- Earn 1 CPE credit for each hour of attendance at a higher education academic security class. Credit will only be given on passing the course successfully.
- Earn CPE credits for preparing courseware, lectures, or training material. The time spent preparing for and delivering each hour of presentation material is valued at 4 CPE credits (e.g., a one-hour presentation = 4 CPEs, a two-hour presentation = 8 CPEs). The 4 CPEs for each hour of presentation will only be granted for the initial course, lecture or training presentation, thereafter you will receive 1 CPE for each hour of presentation.
- Earn CPE credits for contributing original work to the information systems security profession. First publication of a security related article will earn the author(s) 10 CPE credits. Publication of a security related book will earn 40 CPE credits.
- Earn up to 12 CPE credits per year, 1 for each month of service on the board of professional security organization, such as ISC2, ISSA, ISACA, etc.

- Earn 1 CPE for each month of active participation on a State or national information security workgroup or committee.
- Earn 1 CPE credit for each hour of attendance at security webcasts.
- Credits can be earned by completing a self-study program or completing computer-based training and the course provider issues a certificate of completion and supplies the number of CPE hours earned for the course. Study material and validated documentation of completion, such as a certificate or diploma, must be retained.
- Reading an information security text will be worth 2 CPE credits. Credit in this category will be limited to one text per year. If audited, the individual should retain proof of possession, such as the actual book, a sales receipt, invoice, library record, etc.
- Completion and submission of an original information security book review will be worth 3 CPE credits (limited to one text per year).
- Earn 1 CPE for each hour of attendance at a vendor security product training class or an information security specific sales presentation. Credits for a security sales presentation will be limited to 3 per year.

5.0 Compliance

This standard shall take effect upon publication. Compliance is required with all ITS policies and standards. ITS may amend its policies and standards at any time; compliance with amended policies and standards is required.

If compliance with this standard is not feasible or technically possible, or if deviation from this policy is necessary to support a business function, SEs shall request an exception through the Chief Information Security Office [exception process](#).

6.0 Definitions of Key Terms

Except for terms defined in this policy, all terms shall have the meanings found in <http://www.its.ny.gov/glossary>.

7.0 Contact Information

Submit all inquiries and requests for future enhancements to the policy owner at:

Chief Information Security Office
Reference: NYS-S10-001
NYS Office of Information Technology Services
1220 Washington Avenue, Building 5
Albany, NY 12226
Telephone: (518) 242-5200

Email: CISO@its.ny.gov

Statewide technology policies, standards, and guidelines may be found at the following website: <https://its.ny.gov/policies>

8.0 Revision History

This standard should be reviewed consistent with the requirements set forth in [NYS-P09-003 Process for Establishing Information Technology Policies, Standards and Guidelines](#).

Date	Description of Change	Reviewer
02/12/2010	Original Standard Release	ITS
05/16/2014	Rebranded for the Office of Information Technology Services (<i>replaces CSCIC/OCS-S10-001 Role and Responsibilities of the State Entity Information Security Officer</i>); increase annual CPE requirements from 22.5 to 37.5 hours; allow CPE credits for NYS Forum security workgroup participation	Deborah Snyder, Deputy Chief Information Security Officer
05/15/2015	Added criteria for qualifying the activities for CPE credits based on ISACA and ISC2 guidelines	Deborah Snyder, Deputy Chief Information Security Officer
02/15/2017	Update of contact information and rebranding	Deborah Snyder, Deputy Chief Information Security Officer
09/10/2018	Scheduled review – no changes	Deborah A. Snyder, Chief Information Security Officer
05/04/2021	Updated name to CPE Requirements for Information Security Professionals, replaces ISO/designated security representation.	Karen Sorady, Chief Information Security Officer
05/19/2021	Updated scope language	Karen Sorady, Chief Information Security Officer

9.0 Related Documents

[Information Systems Audit and Control Association \(ISACA\) Certified Information Systems Manager \(CISM\) Continuing Professional Education \(CPE\) Policy](#)

[ISC2 Continuing Professional Education \(CPE\) Handbook](#)