



CHECK POINT EDUCATION SERVICES CERTIFICATION FAQ

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GENERAL INQUIRIES

Q: What is the difference between “Certification” and “Accreditation”?

A: Check Point recognizes those professionals who have passed a rigorous, thorough examination process with a “Certification”. Certifications are based on proctored exams derived from comprehensive job models and detailed instructional objectives.

Accreditations are derived from product specific content exams delivered in a less formal examination setting and recognize an individual's effort to stay current on the latest products.

Q: What versions are available?

A: Our Current certifications are based on R77.30 and the new R80.

Q: How long will R77.30 exams be available?

A: The R77.30 exams will be available until further notice. A 90-day notice will be posted [here](#) prior to retiring the R77.30 exams.

Q: How long does a certification last?

A: Certification, like security, must be kept current to be truly effective - which is why we strongly encourage you to constantly refresh and keep your certification current. Certifications expire after 24 months.

Q: Where can I take a Check Point certification exam?

A: Check Point professional certification exams are proctored through [Pearson VUE](#), a third party testing vendor with over 3,500 locations worldwide. You can register for any Check Point exam and earn your certification by visiting their [Website](#) and creating a Web Profile.

Q: Do I have to take classes in order to take the exams?

A: No, it is possible to take an exam with only your own experience or self-study using the Check Point courseware, but we highly recommend taking a class instead. Instructor-led training accelerates and focuses your learning, gives you hands-on experience and an opportunity to make mistakes in the lab, and is much more cost-effective than self-study in your spare time.



Q: What certifications are available?

A: Check Point certifications are structured around comprehensive job models for administration, engineering (Expert), enterprise management, and advanced systems (Security Master). Certifications include:

Core Security courses establish a strong foundation in essential Check Point product knowledge and skills		
Certifications	Related Courses	Exams
CCSPA Check Point Certified Security Principles Associate	Principles of Network Security	#156-110
CCSA Check Point Certified Security Administrator	Check Point Security Administration	#156-215
CCSE Check Point Certified Security Expert	Check Point Security Engineering	#156-315
Advanced Specializations recognize your proficiency and expertise in specific disciplines and technologies		
Certifications	Related Courses	Exams
CCSM Check Point Certified Security Master	Check Point Certified Security Master	#156-115
CCMSE Check Point Managed Security Expert	Multi-Domain Security Management with Virtual System Extension	#156-820

Q: What are the prerequisites for each Check Point certification?

A: Check Point certifications are designed to build upon the knowledge and skills of the previous courses, reinforcing lessons learned and extending your competencies with ever more complex and valuable skills.

Certifications	Prerequisites
CCSPA Check Point Certified Security Principles Associate	None
CCSA R77 Check Point Certified Security Administrator R77	TCP/IP and routing fundamentals
CCSA R80 Check Point Certified Security Administrator R80	TCP/IP and routing fundamentals
CCSE R77 Check Point Certified Security Expert R77	CCSA R77
CCSE R80 Check Point Certified Security Expert R80	CCSA R80
CCSE R77 Update Check Point Certified Security Expert R77	Any prior CCSE up to R65
CCSE R80 Update Check Point Certified Security Expert R80	CCSE R77
CCSM Check Point Certified Security Master R77	CCSE R77
CCMSE R77 Check Point Managed Security Expert R77	CCSE R77

Q: What courses should I take to prepare for the exams?

A: To help prepare for exams, you should consider the following corresponding courses:

Core Security courses establish a strong foundation in essential Check Point product knowledge and skills		
Exams	Courses	Certifications
#156-110	Principles of Network Security	CCSPA Check Point Certified Security Principles Associate
#156-215	Check Point Security Administration R80	CCSA R80 Check Point Certified Security Administrator R80
#156-215	Check Point Security Administration R77	CCSA R77 Check Point Certified Security Administrator R77
#156-315	Check Point Security Engineering R80	CCSE R80 Check Point Certified Security Expert R80
#156-315	Check Point Security Engineering R77	CCSE R77 Check Point Certified Security Expert R77
#156-915	CCSE R80 Update	CCSE R80 Update Check Point Certified Security Expert R80
#156-915	CCSE R77 Update	CCSE R77 Update Check Point Certified Security Expert R77
Advanced Specializations recognize your proficiency and expertise in specific disciplines and technologies		
Exams	Courses	Certifications
#156-115.77	Check Point Security Master R77	CCSM R77 Check Point Certified Security Master
#156-820.77	Multi-Domain Security Management with Virtual System Extension	CCMSE R77 Check Point Managed Security Expert R77

Q: Is study material available?

A: Exam objectives are posted on the [Education Services](#) Web site for reference, but all official training materials are provided when you attend instructor-led training through one of our Authorized Training Center (ATC) partners.

Q: Where can I find training classes?

A: Courses are offered through our network of over 230 Authorized Training Centers (ATC) around the globe. Use our partner locator to find an ATC near you and sign up for training today!

Q: Are classes available globally?

A: Yes! We have Authorized Training Centers (ATC) in over 42 countries worldwide - just use our partner locator to find an ATC near you and sign up for training. If for any reason you can't find an ATC near you, send an email to us directly at training@checkpoint.com and ask about on-site training options.

Q: How long are the classes recommended for certification exams?

A: Check Point recommends minimum time frames for each course, but individual Authorized Training Centers (ATC) may choose to adjust the time to offer more 'intensive' courses or to cover topics in more detail. You should check with your local ATC for the exact length of each course to be sure the time fits your schedule.



Q: I know that CCSA certification is a prerequisite for CCSE. Can I achieve a CCSE R80 certification with a CCSA R70 or later certification?

A: No. Since R80 is a completely new product version with many new features, only the CCSA R80 certification provides the background necessary to be a prerequisite to CCSE R80 certification.

However, if you have a CCSE based on NGX or the Blade technology, you are eligible to take our upgrade exam #156-915.80 to earn your CCSE R80 certification.

Q: When will my R77 certifications expire?

A: Check Point Certifications are good for 24 months.

Q: My R70 certifications have already expired. Do I need to start over with CCSA R80 to update to CCSE R80?

A: Actually, you don't. Even though your certification has expired, the eligibility for updates to the latest version has not. If you ever held a CCSE certification, you are eligible for the Update exam.

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MY INFORMATION

Q: Why is my Check Point Professional ID Number important?

A: It represents your personal identification with Check Point Software Technologies and establishes proof of your certification. You are only allowed one Certified Professional ID number.

Q: How do I get my Check Point Professional ID Number?

A: It is assigned to you when you register with VUE for the first time to take an exam. It will be in the form CP00000nnnnn.

Q: When do I use my Check Point Professional ID Number?

A: Whenever you contact VUE to register for another exam session, and whenever you contact Check Point regarding any certification issue.

Q: Why do I need to provide an e-mail address?

A: An email address is necessary in order to create your [User Center](#) account - your access point for certification benefits - as well as keep you up to date with any important changes or updates.

Q: If I change jobs, will I still have access to my certification information and benefits?

A: Yes! Your certification is yours. However, since your email address is based on your work email you will want to contact Account Services via accountservices@checkpoint.com to update your User Center account and request that your information be linked to your new email address.

Q: How do I advise Check Point of any change of address or other relevant information?

A: You can send your profile updates to accountservices@checkpoint.com.

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WHAT ABOUT THE BENEFITS?

Q: I just passed my exams. When can I expect to receive my certificate?

A: Check Point now provides e-Certificates that you can access from your User Center profile. Once we receive your exam results we'll update your User Center account with your new credentials, giving you immediate access to your online benefits like Access to SecureKnowledge and your on-line Certification Profile.



Q: How do I download the electronic copy of my certification?

A: To download your certificate(s), please follow the instructions below:

1. Log into the User Center at <https://usercenter.checkpoint.com/usercenter/portal>
2. Click "Assets/Info".
3. Click "My Certifications" under "My Info" option.
4. Click "Download" to the right of the certificate to open/save/print.
 - a. Open to print.
 - b. Save to print later.
 - c. Cancel to do nothing.

Q: What type of SecureKnowledge access do CCSA's get?

A: Advanced Access for the duration of the CCSA contract.

Q: What SecureKnowledge access does a CCSE get?

A: Advanced Access for the duration of the CCSE contract.

Q: What SecureKnowledge access does a CCSM get?

A: Expert Access for the duration of the CCSM contract.

Q: What SecureKnowledge access does a CCMSE get?

A: Advanced Access for the duration of the CCMSE contract.

Q: How do I access my benefits?

A: By setting up a User Center account based on the e-mail address you used with VUE, you can have access to our Certified Professionals Only web site and to advanced features of Secure Knowledge. Please try the following:

If you do not currently have a User Center account, please visit the following URL:

<https://usercenter.checkpoint.com/usercenter/index.jsp>

You may reference at the bottom of the page a section titled "New Customers":

1. Click on the hyperlink titled "Sign Up Now!"
2. Begin completing your profile.
3. Use the e-mail ID provided VUE for testing.
4. Set your own password.

Q: How do I find the Certified Professionals Only site?

A: By clicking on the link <https://www.checkpoint.com/services/education/cpo/index.html>

Q: Do I have access to Check Point online technical support?

A: Yes. As a Certified Professional you have Advanced Access to [SecureKnowledge](#), our online technical knowledge database with thousands of solutions, how to articles, and troubleshooting tips to solve your most difficult issues.

Q: Are there logos associated with Check Point certifications?

A: Yes. As a certified professional you have usage rights to the logo for your certification level. Logos for each Check Point certification are downloadable from the [Certified Professional Only Website](#).



Q: Will becoming a Check Point Certified Professional improve my career or employment opportunities?

A: Companies hire certified professionals to ensure maximum security and availability of valuable business assets, and know certified professionals are more efficient, productive, and deliver lower total cost of ownership from Check Point solutions. And as one of over 50,000 Check Point Certified Professionals worldwide, you'll get immediate recognition of your experience, knowledge, and abilities while investing in your professional development and security career.

Q: Where do I go to access my benefits?

A: All benefits are accessed through your [User Center](#) account, so if you don't already have one, [create one now](#). If you have any problems with creating your account and linking your certifications, contact accountservices@checkpoint.com

Q: Why is my certification information not listed in my User Center account?

A: Your certification information could not be listed in your User Center account for one of the following reasons:

- We tried to activate your benefits but there was no User Center account with the email address we have on file for you. Please check to ensure that the e-mail account you provided VUE for registration matches the e-mail account you used to set up your User Center account.
- The benefits you received from a certain Check Point certification have expired.
- We might not have received your results from Pearson VUE.

If you do not see your benefits or certification listed with your User Center account, send an email to accountservices@checkpoint.com and we'll try to resolve the issue for you.

Q: What email address should be used when registering for an exam?

A: It is important that the email address used when registering for an exam is the email address associated to your User Center profile. This ensures that all certifications are reflected within the User Center and the e-certificate can be downloaded via the account.

Q: Can certifications get tied to an alias email address?

A: All certifications must be tied to a person-specific email address.

Q: How do I update the email address associated to my User Center profile?

A: For assistance or the steps of how to update your email address online, please contact our Account Services department for assistance; accountservices@checkpoint.com.

Q: What should I do if my Pearson VUE profile has the wrong email address?

A: Please contact Pearson VUE for assistance; <http://www.pearsonvue.com/checkpoint/contact/>

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TELL ME ABOUT THE EXAMS

Q: What is the difference between “low stakes” and “high stakes” exams?

A: All Check Point exams are delivered through Pearson VUE. “Low stakes” exams are those delivered over the Internet to your desktop. They do not require attendance at a Pearson VUE Authorized Testing Center (ATC). “High stakes” exams are only delivered at Pearson VUE Authorized Testing Centers (ATC) and delivery meets certain exacting compliance standards.

Q: In what order should I take the exams?

A: Courses, certifications, and exams are all designed to build on the lessons learned and develop your skills and knowledge, so we recommend starting with CCSA R80/R77 and CCSE R80/R77 to get a core security foundation. From there you can choose the specialization or area of expertise that best matches your job role or career goals.

See the complete list of courses, exams, and prerequisites earlier in the FAQ for more information.

Q: How much do the exams cost?

A: Exams vary in price between US \$150-\$350, but exact pricing is available through Pearson VUE. Practice exams are \$50.

Q: Where can I take a Check Point certification exam?

A: Check Point exams are offered through Pearson VUE, a third party testing vendor with over 3,500 testing centers worldwide. Register for your exam at a testing location near you.

Q: What is the format of the exams?

A: The exams are composed of multiple choice and scenario questions. All questions are "Select the BEST answer" type questions. There are no multiple response answers.

Q: How long are the exams?

A: The exams are 100 questions to be completed in 90 minutes in all English-speaking countries. Non-English speaking countries receive an additional 15 minutes.

Q: How do I know I am ready for an exam?

A: If you are preparing for the CCSA certification and want to take the 156-215 exam, you can determine if you are ready by taking the 156-601 CCSA R77 practice exam. This exam presents 40 questions from a subset of the actual exam pool. Feedback is limited to providing the correct answer during the exam.

If you are preparing to complete the CCSE certification and want to take the 156-315 exam, you can determine if you are ready by taking the 156-602 CCSE R77 practice exam. This exam presents 40 questions from a subset of the actual exam pool. Feedback is limited to providing the correct answer during the exam.

Practice Exams for CCSA R80 and CCSE R80 to come in late 2017.

Q: Are the Check Point certification exams adaptive?

A: Check Point has no plans at this time to move into adaptive exams.

Q: Do any of the exams contain questions where the correct answer relies on the selection of multiple responses, even though the exam doesn't indicate to check more than one?

A: Although the instructions for each exam state that there is one BEST answer, in truth the best answer may be a combination of more than one in the final results. We do this to evaluate how each student reaches their conclusion and makes difficult choices, just like you will be faced with on the job. However, there is no partial credit for incorrectly marked questions.

Q: Should I have experience with Check Point products before attempting to pass an exam?

A: Surveys of certified professionals suggest that a candidate have one to two years' experience with the product in a production environment before attempting the CCSA certification. Since that isn't practical in today's environment, we recommend six months after training. A similar interval trended when studying the Engineering tasks of a certified CCSE professional. We recommend one year. The new Check Point Security Master certification job profile suggests five years' experience before challenging the exam. Of course, this varies by individual.



Q: Can I take the CCSA and CCSE exams on the same day?

A: Yes, if you pass the CCSA exam, you may take the CCSE exam on that same day.

Q: Does Check Point have an exam retake policy?

A: Yes. If you fail an exam and want to retake it, the following applies:

- Wait 24 hours after first unsuccessful attempt
- Wait 30 days after each subsequent attempt thereafter

Note: Once you pass an exam you cannot take it again.

Q: I have taken the exam twice, and scored exactly the same thing. How is this possible? Is there a problem with the exam or the testing software?

A: This is actually quite common, and indicates how reliable Check Point's exams are in testing your knowledge and skills. To create the best certification exams, we focus on consistency and on how an exam will measure competencies.

There is a related learning/testing condition called "plateauing". Let's say you've studied hard, practiced the labs and exercises, and absorbed all you can through the current study approach. Studies and experience show you will consistently score the same regardless how much you review the material beyond that point.

In this case the best solution for you would be to take a different study approach to gain new insight, and retain more knowledge than you would in just one method - we suggest taking an additional class, or working through some different practice exercises.

Q: Does Check Point penalize incorrect answers?

A: Check Point does not subtract points from your score for answering a question incorrectly. You will simply not get credit for that question. When taking one of our exams, answer as many questions as you can, even if you are not certain of your answer.

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MAINTAINING CURRENCY

Q: I wanted to extend my certification by retaking my last exam but got the information from Pearson VUE that I'm not allowed to do so because I've already finished that. How do I extend my certification?

A: Check Point policy is that you do not retake an exam you have already passed. You either update or upgrade. Ideally, the best course is to take the next higher exam.

Q: What is the difference between "Valid" and "Inactive"?

A: "Inactive" means that a candidate has not kept their certifications current in an aggressive threat environment. All professional certifications - those taken in a proctored exam environment - are good for, or considered "current", for two years.

"Valid" refers to the candidate actually having met the requirements for Certification.

Q: What are Continuing Education Credits?

A: Check Point values lifelong learning. It is essential in an ever changing threat environment. Candidates can acquire Continuing Education Credits by participating in certain events, or by taking certain Low Stakes exams. Candidates are eligible to acquire two Continuing Education credits in a two year certification period



Q: What low stakes exams are eligible for Continuing Education Credits?

A: Where Check Points High stakes professional exams are primarily focused on performance-based questions, low-stakes exams are focused more on product knowledge and product features. Currently, on the Pearson VUE exam site, the following low stakes exams are available:

156-110 – Security Principles Associate

156-728 – Gaia Overview

156-727 - Threat Prevention

156-729 – Advanced IPS

156-730 – SandBlast Administrator

156-733 – Mobile Threat Prevention SE

Any two of these will renew your current CCSE certification for one year.

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