Check Point Learning & Training
Certification Program Model FAQ

CHECK POINT™

YOU DESERVE THE BEST SECURITY

![Check Point logo] **CHECK POINT**
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Certification Program Model

Your Journey to Cyber Security Mastership

CCSA → CCSE → CCSM → CCSM Elite

Infinity Specialist Accreditations
Customize your journey along the way

Automation Specialist (CCAS) · Cloud Specialist (CCCS) · Cloud Network Security Expert (CNSE-AWS) · Cloud Network Security Expert (CNSE-AZURE) · Harmony Endpoint Specialist (CCES) · Maestro Expert (CCME) · Multi-Domain Security Management Specialist (CCMS) · Troubleshooting Expert (CCTE) · Troubleshooting Administrator (CCTA) · VSX Specialist (CCVS)

New Changes - Effective 1 April 2023

	Current Rule	New Rule
CCSA	A CCSA may be extended a maximum of two times by passing 2 different Infinity exams. (The CCSA must be current, not expired).	A CCSA cannot be extended by passing Infinity Specialist exams. CCSA may be recertified by taking the CCSA exam again.
CCSE	Any R77 or prior CCSE (valid or expired) can qualify to take the current CCSE exam.	Any R77 or prior CCSE must restart the certification path with the CCSA exam.
Troubleshooting Administrator (CCTA)	No prerequisite for the CCTA exam.	A valid or expired CCSA (R80 or above) is required before attempting the CCTA exam.
Troubleshooting Expert (CCTE)	No prerequisite for the CCTE exam.	A valid or expired CCSE (R80 or above) is required before attempting the CCTE exam.
CCSM Elite	A CCSM Elite may only be extended one year by passing an Infinity Specialist exam. (The CCSM Elite must be current, not expired).	A CCSM Elite may be extended multiple times by passing Infinity Specialist exams. One year extension per Specialist exam. (The CCSM Elite must be current, not expired).

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Core Certifications

Check Point Certified Security Administrator

This core 3-day technical certification course provides an understanding of basic concepts and skills necessary to configure and manage Check Point Security Gateways and Management Software Blades.

Exam #
156-215.81

Check Point Certified Security Expert

This advanced 3-day security engineering course provides an in-depth explanation of Check Point technology and an understanding of skills necessary to effectively design, maintain, optimize, and protect your enterprise network from aggressive cyber threats.

Exam #
156-315.81

Security Master Certifications

Check Point Certified Security Master

The CCSM certification recognizes and validates technical mastery of the Check Point Infinity architecture. It is awarded to Cyber Security professionals with advanced knowledge and expertise in configuring, deploying, managing, and troubleshooting Check Point products and services.

Check Point Certified Security Master Elite

The CCSM Elite certification validates the highest achievement of technical mastery and consists of an elite club of Check Point Certified Security Masters.

Certification Path to Cyber Security Mastership

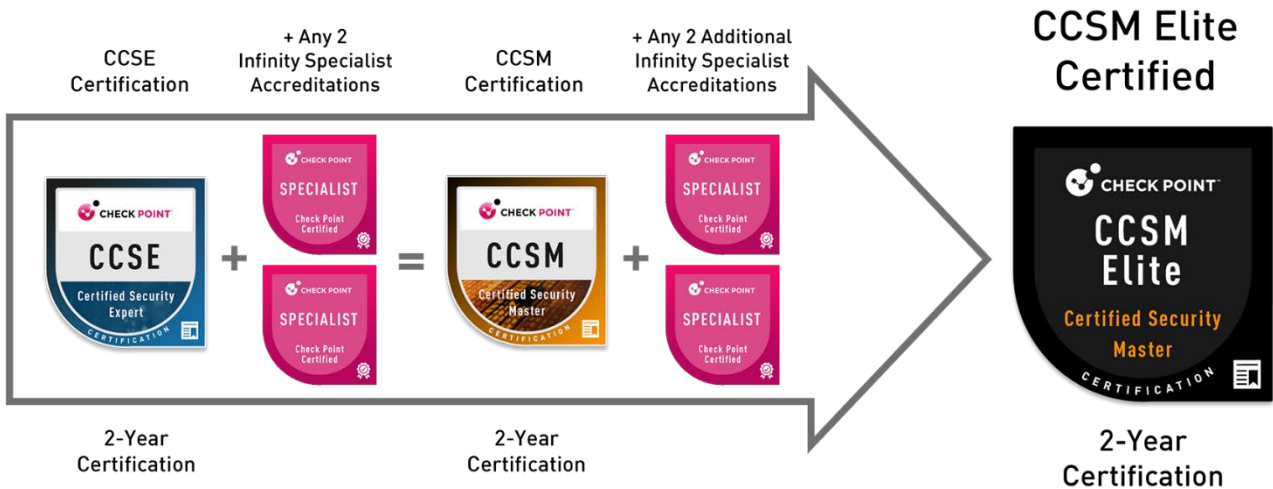## Check Point Certified Security Master

With Check Point's path to Security Mastery, you will need to achieve
2 Infinity Specialist Accreditations *after* the CCSE.

CCSA Certification		CCSE Certification		+ Any 2 Infinity Specialist Accreditations		CCSM Certified
CCSA Certified Security Administrator	+	CCSE Certified Security Expert	+	SPECIALIST / SPECIALIST	→	CCSM Certified Security Master
2-Year Certification		2-Year Certification		Award the CCSM!		2-Year Certification

Check Point Certified Security Master Elite

To achieve Check Point's Security Master Elite you will need to pass
2 Infinity Specialist Accreditations *after* the CCSM.

CCSE Certification	+ Any 2 Infinity Specialist Accreditations	CCSM Certification	+ Any 2 Additional Infinity Specialist Accreditations	CCSM Elite Certified
CCSE Certified Security Expert	+ SPECIALIST / SPECIALIST =	CCSM Certified Security Master	+ SPECIALIST / SPECIALIST	CCSM Elite Certified Security Master
2-Year Certification		2-Year Certification		2-Year Certification

Infinity Specialist Accreditations

Check Point's Infinity Specialist Accreditations are designed to enable Security professionals to demonstrate that they understand the concepts and skills needed to administer, deploy and manage specific Security solutions within the Check Point Infinity Cyber Security Architecture. Infinity Specialist Accreditations are also the building blocks to the Security Master and Security Master Elite certifications.

Accreditation	Infinity Specialist Courses	Exam #
CCAS	Check Point Certified Automation Specialist	156-520
CCME	Check Point Certified Maestro Expert	156-836
CCCS	Check Point Certified Cloud Specialist	156-560
CNSE-AWS	Check Point Certified Cloud Network Security Expert for AWS	156-565
CNSE-Azure	Check Point Certified Cloud Network Security Expert for Azure	156-566
CCES	Check Point Certified Harmony Endpoint Specialist	156-535
CCMS	Check Point Certified Multi-Domain Security Management Specialist	156-541
CCVS	Check Point Certified Virtual System Extension Specialist	156-551
CCTA	Check Point Certified Troubleshooting Administrator	156-581
CCTE	Check Point Certified Troubleshooting Expert	156-586

HackingPoint Courses

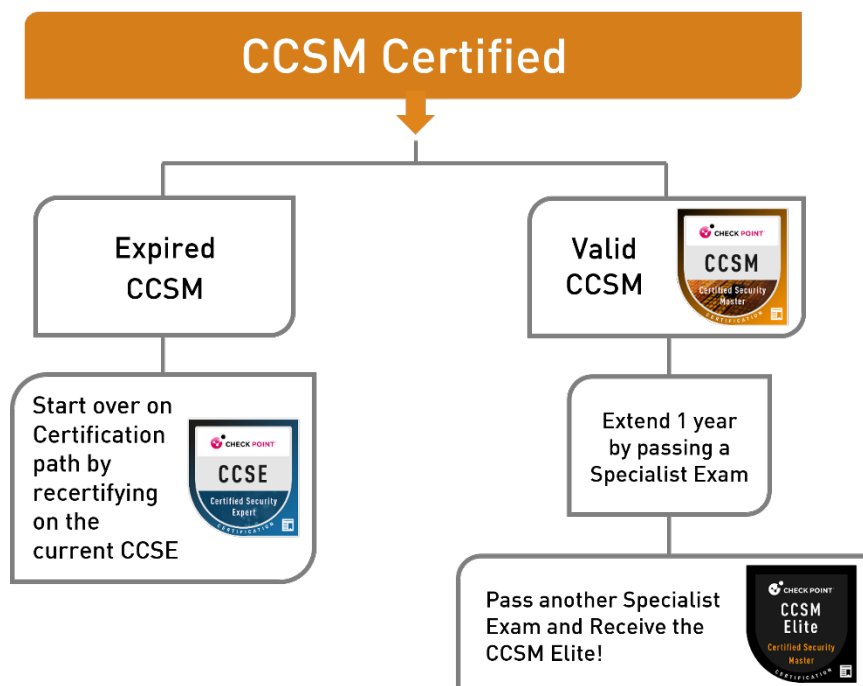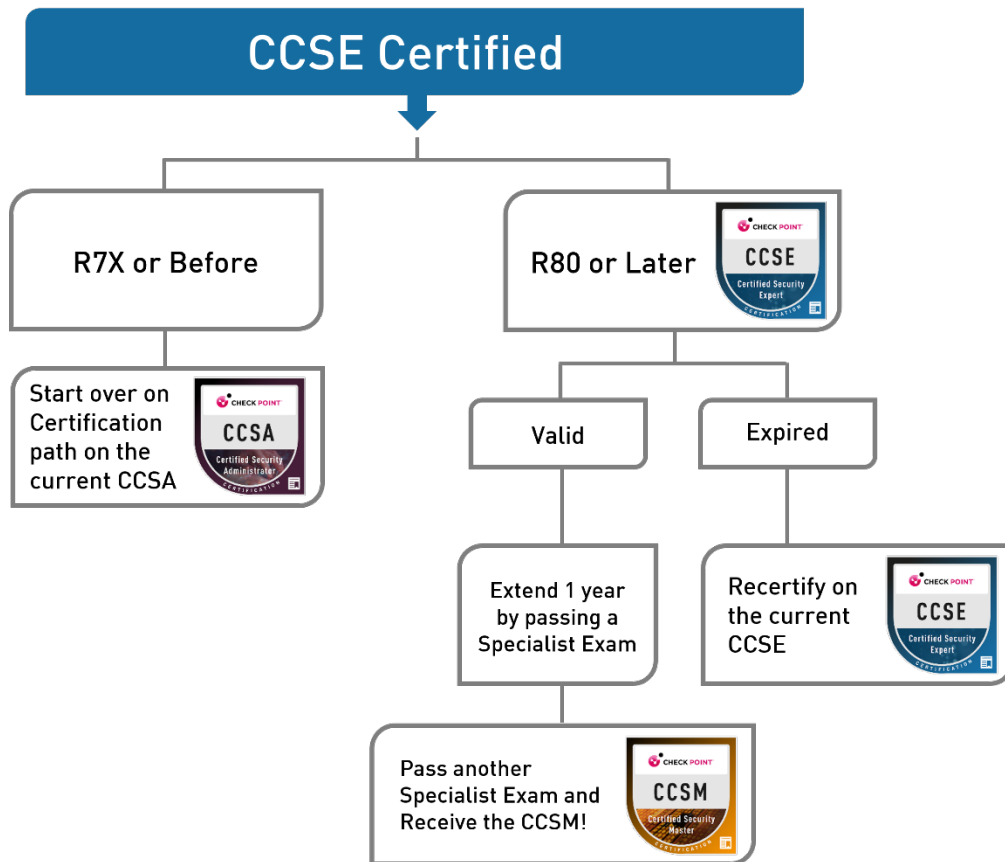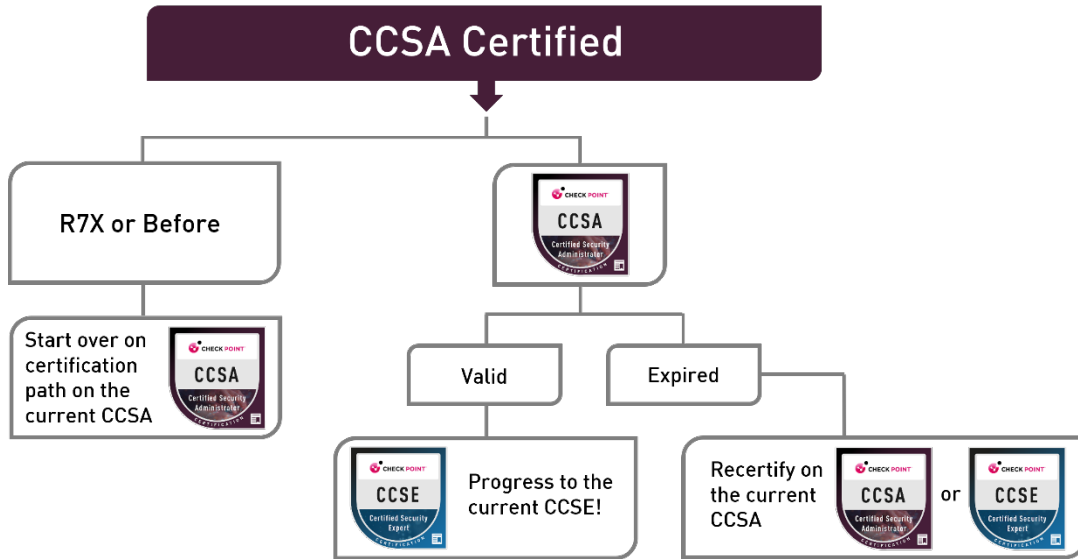|		
CCPE – C	Cloud Security	156-406
CCPE – I	Infrastructure Hacking	156-402
CCPE – IoT	Hacking IoT	156-404
CCPE – W	Web Hacking	156-403
CCPE – AW	Advanced Web Hacking	156-408
CCPE – AI	Advanced Infrastructure Hacking	156-409

Certification Extensions & Renewals

**Pass an Infinity Specialist Accreditation (ISA)
to extend a valid CCSE, CCSM or CCSM Elite certification for 1-year.**

The ISA must be achieved after a Core certification to qualify for the extension.

- ✓ A CCSE may *be extended one time*. A second ISA will award the Accreditation and the **CCSM Certification**! (**The CCSE must be current, not expired**)

- ✓ A CCSM may *be extended one time*. A second ISA will award the Accreditation and the **CCSM Elite Certification**! (**The CCSE must be current, not expired**)

- ✓ A CCSM Elite may be extended for 1-year for each ISA passed. (**The CCSM Elite must be current, not expired**)

![Check Point logo]

Certification Paths

CCSA Certified

R7X or Before
Start over on certification path on the current CCSA

CCSA — Certified Security Administrator

- **Valid** — Progress to the current CCSE!
- **Expired** — Recertify on the current CCSA *or* CCSE

CCSE Certified

R7X or Before
Start over on Certification path on the current CCSA

R80 or Later — CCSE Certified Security Expert

- **Valid** — Extend 1 year by passing a Specialist Exam → Pass another Specialist Exam and Receive the CCSM!
- **Expired** — Recertify on the current CCSE

CCSM Certified

Expired CCSM
Start over on Certification path by recertifying on the current CCSE

Valid CCSM — Extend 1 year by passing a Specialist Exam → Pass another Specialist Exam and Receive the CCSM Elite!

General FAQs

- **If I passed an Infinity Specialist Accreditation exam before the CCSE will my certification be extended?**
  - No, the accreditation needs to be passed after the CCSE certification for an extension to be awarded.

- **I passed an Infinity Specialist Accreditation (ISA) exam and it is soon to expire or has expired. Can I take that ISA again to extend my current certification?**
  - Yes, you are eligible to retake an ISA for an extension. You may retake an ISA exam up to six months prior to the expiration date and it can count towards an extension.

- **Where can I go to check on the expiration date of my certifications?**
  - Login to the User Center
  - Click "MY CHECK POINT"
  - Click "My Certifications" under the "My Info" option to see a list of your certifications and their expiration dates.
  - **Note:** Starting at 60 days before a core certification expires, our system will notify you by email several times on a regular interval to remind you of your expiring certification.

- I have a valid CCSE, CCSM or CCSM Elite. Do I need to maintain the lower certification(s)?
  - Your goal is to maintain your highest certification or progress to the next level. You are not required to recertify on the lower certifications. You will only recertify on a lower certification if you allow your highest level of certification to expire.

CCSA FAQs

- **I've passed the CCSA exam, what are my next steps to maintain an Active certification status?**
  - **Option 1** – You may proceed to the CCSE to continue in the certification path.
    - This will not extend the CCSA.
  - **Option 2** – You may retake and pass the CCSA exam for another 2-year certification.
  - **As of 1 April 2023 we no longer allow an ISA to extend the CCSA**

CCSE FAQs

- **I have a valid CCSE, what are my next steps to maintain an Active certification status?**
  - **Option 1** – You may extend the CCSE certification *while the certification is still valid* by passing one Infinity Specialist Accreditation (ISA) exam for a 1-year extension (You may do this one time for a 1-year extension on a valid CCSE)
    - Passing a second ISA exam will award you the *CCSM certification.*
  - **Option 2** – You may retake the CCSE for another 2-year certification.

- **My CCSE has expired. Can I still extend the certification for 1 year by taking an Infinity Specialist Accreditation?**
  - **Extensions are only awarded on valid certifications. It is important to be aware of certification expiration dates.**
    - Recertify your CCSE by retaking and passing the CCSE exam.

- **I had a 1-year extension added to my CCSE but now my CCSE has expired. Will I still get the CCSM if I take another Infinity Specialist Accreditation?**
  - **No, extensions are only awarded on valid certifications.** You will need to recertify your CCSE again and pass 2 more Infinity Specialist Accreditations to attain CCSM status.

CCSM/CCSM Elite FAQs

- **I received the CCSM after getting my second Infinity Specialist Accreditation while CCSE certified. How long will the CCSM be valid?**
  - The CCSM certification will be valid for 2 years.

- **I have a valid CCSM, what are my next steps to maintain an Active certification status?**
  - You may extend the CCSM certification *while the certification is still valid* by passing one Infinity Specialist Accreditation (ISA) exam for a 1-year extension (You may do this one time for a 1-year extension on a valid CCSM)
    - Passing a second ISA exam will award you the *CCSM Elite certification.*

- **How long will the CCSM Elite be valid?**
  - The CCSM Elite certification will be valid 2 years.
  - The CCSM Elite can be extended one year for each Infinity Specialist Accreditation. (**The CCSM Elite must be current, not expired**)

- **My CCSM has expired. Can I still extend the certification for 1 year by taking an Infinity Specialist Accreditation?**
  - **Extensions are only awarded on valid certifications. It is important to be aware of certification expiration dates.**

http://www.checkpoint.com/certifications

For Account-related questions please contact our Account Services team by opening a Non-Technical Ticket

Additional questions can be directed to the Certification Team at certification@checkpoint.com