

Security Awareness Learning Program Development and Management Course (Self-Paced)

Build, run, and prove the value of a federal security awareness program, from FISMA requirements to metrics leaders read.

Group classes in Live Online and onsite training is available for this course.

For more information, email onsite@graduateschool.edu or visit:

<https://www.graduateschool.edu/courses/security-awareness-program-development-course-self-paced>



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Course Outline

Module 1: Federal Mandates and the Awareness and Training Program Foundation

- Lessons:
 - Why Federal Agencies Are Required to Train
 - The NIST SP 800-53 Awareness and Training (AT) Control Family
 - Building the Program: NIST SP 800-50 Roles and Structure
 - Who Owns the Program: ISSO, CISO, and Training Officer Roles
- Applied activity: Given a mock agency's mission and workforce profile, identify which FISMA and NIST SP 800-53 AT requirements apply and name the roles responsible for meeting each one.

Module 2: Assessing Needs and Designing the Curriculum

- Lessons:
 - Conducting a Training Needs Assessment
 - Segmenting Audiences: General Workforce, Privileged Users, and Specialized Roles
 - Writing Learning Objectives and Mapping Curriculum to Risk
 - Sourcing Content: Build, Buy, or Blend
- Applied activity: Draft a training needs assessment and audience segmentation plan for a mock agency with a general workforce, privileged system administrators, and specialized technical staff.

Module 3: Delivering, Communicating, and Sustaining the Program

- Lessons:
 - Choosing Delivery Channels and Cadence
 - Running Phishing Simulations Responsibly
 - Communication Campaigns and Building a Security Aware Culture

- Handling Non-Completion and Repeat Offenders
- Applied activity: Build a delivery and communication plan for a 12-month awareness cycle, including one simulated phishing campaign and one escalation path for repeat non-completion.

Module 4: Measuring Effectiveness and Reporting to Leadership

- Lessons:
 - Metrics That Matter: Beyond Completion Rates
 - Correlating Awareness Metrics with Incident Data
 - Reporting Program Health to Leadership and Oversight
 - Program Maturity and Continuous Improvement
- Applied activity: Build a one-page dashboard reporting program metrics, including completion, phishing click rate, and incident correlation, for agency leadership.