COURSE SYLLABUS

Security Control Assessor Certificate Program (Self-Paced)

Become the independent assessor an authorizing official can rely on — from assessment plan to a defensible Security Assessment Report.

> Group classes (Live Online) and onsite training are available for this course. For more information, email onsite@graduateschool.edu or visit: https://www.graduateschool.edu/certificates/security-control-assessor-certificate-program-self-paced



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Course Outline

This package includes these courses

- RMF Foundations: From Risk to Authorization (Self-Paced) (6 Hours)
- NIST 800-53: Advanced Assessment, Tailoring, and Enterprise Program Management Course (Self-Paced) (18 Hours)
- Security Control Assessor (SCA) Practitioner: The Assessment Lifecycle (Self-Paced) (12 Hours)

RMF Foundations: From Risk to Authorization (Self-Paced)

Learn the full NIST Risk Management Framework lifecycle, from categorizing a system to authorizing it to operate.

- Explain the purpose of the NIST RMF and how it links risk to authorization
- Identify the key RMF roles and their responsibilities
- Categorize a system's impact level using FIPS 199
- Select and tailor a control baseline using NIST SP 800-53B
- Describe how controls are implemented, assessed, and documented
- Interpret an authorization decision and residual-risk acceptance
- Explain continuous monitoring's role in maintaining an authorization

NIST 800-53: Advanced Assessment, Tailoring, and Enterprise Program Management Course (Self-Paced)

This advanced course builds the practitioner mastery required to lead a federal NIST 800-53 control program from deep-dive assessment through enterprise governance. Participants develop skills in 800-53A assessment methodology, advanced ODP tailoring, control overlays for specialized environments, and cross-framework integration, preparing them to manage complex federal security programs with confidence.

- Advanced 800-53A assessment methodology, including evidence sufficiency standards, determination statements, and assessment case

mapping.

- Organization-Defined Parameter (ODP) tailoring with risk-based rationale and Authorizing Official documentation requirements.
- Control overlays for specialized environments, including cloud, OT/ICS, AI/ML, and privacy-intensive systems.
- Automated assessment integration using SCAP, DISA STIGs, and vulnerability scanners alongside manual 800-53A evidence.
- Enterprise control inheritance architecture with Common Control Providers and cross-framework mapping to CSF, FedRAMP, and CMMC.
- Control program governance, including ownership models, evidence management, metrics, and continuous improvement processes.

Security Control Assessor (SCA) Practitioner: The Assessment Lifecycle (Self-Paced)

The security control assessor makes the independent judgment an authorizing official relies on. This advanced course develops that craft end-to-end—establishing independence, scoping the assessment, tailoring NIST SP 800-53A procedures, and executing examination, interview, and test methods—so you can evaluate evidence, validate technical results, and write findings that withstand scrutiny, culminating in a complete Security Assessment Report.

- Explain SCA authority, independence, and professional judgment
- Scope an assessment and trace controls to requirements
- Develop a Security Assessment Plan and tailor SP 800-53A procedures
- Apply examine, interview, and test methods effectively
- Evaluate evidence sufficiency across control families and types
- Assess common, inherited, and hybrid controls
- Document findings, determine control effectiveness, and produce a Security Assessment Report