

CMMC TRAINING PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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CMMC Training Program

The CMMC Training program is designed to produce highly competent assessors, while scaling rapidly to provide a sufficient number of individuals who can conduct CMMC assessments of the Defense Industrial Base (DIB).

The program structure helps foster public confidence in the program by keeping the training and assessor certification processes free of conflicts of interest. Because maintaining strict separation of training and examination is critical in the prevention of conflicts of interest, these two ecosystems operate independently.

The examination is contracted to a third party (Scantron), which has no financial or other connection to content providers (Licensed Partner Publishers—LPPs) or training providers (Licensed Training Providers—LTPs). This helps prevent LTPs and LPPs from exercising influence on the examinations. A small number of subject matter experts will assist in writing exam questions. The number of writers is optimized to improve productivity and minimize exposure to the exam.

Maintaining checks on elements within the training ecosystem is also an important tool for helping assure quality and impartiality. An independent third party (ProCert) reviews all content that an LPP produces for accuracy and completeness. This training certification helps ensure that assessors have the requisite knowledge to conduct accurate and consistent assessments. The Department of Defense (DOD) tracks the LTPs and LPPs of all candidate assessors who apply for certification. The CMMC-AB requires all students to submit course evaluations to the AB. Students will review and rate their training in a variety of online forums, allowing the free market to play a role in shaping LPP and LTP content.

CMMC Training and Examination Timeline



Figure 1- Approximate Timeline of CMMC Training and Examination

Key Roles in CMMC Training and Certification

Table 1 – Summary of Key Roles in CMMC Training and Certification

Name	Role	Work Checked By	Other Information
Certified CMMC Assessor (CCA)	Assesses organizations at CMMC levels	C3PAO	Works for C3PAOs either on contract or as staff
Certified CMMC Instructor (CCI)	Delivers training under aegis of an LTP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LTP Free market CMMC-AB 	Works for LTPs either on contract or as staff
CMMC Accreditation Body (CMMC-AB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accredits C3PAOs Accredits CAICO (to come) Manages exams with third party (Scantron) Manages training materials with third party (ProCert) 	DOD	To be accredited to ISO 17011
CMMC Assessor and Instructor Certification Organization (CAICO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certifies CMMC Assessors Certifies CMMC Instructors 	CMMC-AB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not yet created CMMC-AB fulfills the CAICO role until then To be accredited to ISO 17024
CMMC Third-Party Assessment Organization (C3PAO)	Certifies organizations at a given CMMC level	CMMC-AB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be accredited to ISO 17020 Licensed by CMMC-AB CCAs on staff check the work of other CCAs
Licensed Training Provider (LTP)	Trains candidate assessors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CMMC-AB Free market 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May purchase content from any LPP May also serve as an LPP without conflict of interest
Licensed Partner Publisher (LPP)	Creates training content	ProCert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited to 20 LPPs Requires licensing from the CMMC-AB All LPP content must be approved by ProCert
ProCert	Reviews LPP content to ensure full coverage of exam topics	DOD	Under contract to CMMC-AB
Scantron Corporation (Scantron)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates exams Administers exams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CMMC-AB DOD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under contract to CMMC-AB Operates independently of ProCert, LPPs, and LTPs

Examining and Certifying Assessors

This section outlines supplemental detail on examining and certifying assessors.

Assessor Levels

There are four levels of Certified CMMC Assessors (CCAs) who can participate in assessments. Certified Assessors can lead only those assessments equal to their certification level:

- Certified CMMC Professional
- Certified CMMC Assessor Level 1
- Certified CMMC Assessor Level 3
- Certified CMMC Assessor Level 5

The CMMC-AB certifies CCAs based on completion of the course, passing the exam administered by Scantron, and suitability determined by the DOD.

Provisional Programs

Until the CMMC exams are developed, all assessors and instructors are considered to have a provisional status and will be required to re-take classes and exams to earn full certification as assessors at the appropriate level.

Provisional Assessors (PAs) and Provisional Instructors (PIs)

Until CMMC exams are developed, assessor certifications are awarded only on a provisional basis.

- There are no level distinctions among PAs. This means that every PA is authorized to conduct all types of assessments.
- The DOD or CMMC-AB vets candidate PAs prior to admission to the training program.
- The CMMC-AB vets candidate PIs prior to admission to the instructor training program. Candidate PIs must have completed their PA certification prior to engaging in PI coursework.
- PAs and PIs are required to take formal CMMC assessor training and pass the formal exam within six months of the exam's availability.

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