SECURE CONTROLS FRAMEWORK PRACTITIONER (SCF PRACTITIONER) TRAINING

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SCF Assessor & Instructor Certification Organization (SAICO) Overview

All SCF Assessor and Instructor Certification Organization (SAICO)-certified individuals are required to undergo foundational training.

The SAICO governs the training and certification of following roles within the SCF CAP Ecosystem:

(1) SCF Architect. SCF Architects are SAICO-certified individuals who have advanced SCF-related knowledge and competence necessary to:
   a. Architect and design SCF-based cybersecurity and data protection programs that are capable of addressing the tactical, operational and strategic needs of the organization specific to its unique People, Processes, Technologies, Data and Facilities (PPTDF) considerations.
   b. Assist SCF Practitioners with the implementation of SCF controls; and
   c. Make adjustments to the cybersecurity and data protection programs to account for new and/or changed laws, regulations and frameworks that affect the PPTDF.

(2) SCF Practitioner. SCF Practitioners are SAICO-certified individuals who have the knowledge and skills to:
   a. Implement SCF controls that align with the SCF recommended practices and structure; and
   b. Maintain an organization's cybersecurity and data protection program.

(3) SCF Assessor. SCF Assessors are SAICO-certified individuals who are:
   a. Qualified to participate in and/or lead a SCF Third-Party Assessment Organization's (3PAO's) assessment team to perform SCF Conformity Assessment Program (SCF CAP) assessments; and
   b. Knowledgeable to analyze SCF controls to determine if the control is appropriate, properly implemented and produces the desired results to meet Assessment Objectives (AOs).

(4) SCF Trainer. SCF Trainers are SAICO-certified individuals who are:
   a. Employed by a SCF Licensed Training Provider (SCF LTP); and
   b. Responsible for delivering initial and recurring SCF-based educational training for SAICO-approved individual-level certifications.

Note: SCF Licensed Training Providers (SCF LTPs) are SAICO-certified organizations that deliver a SAICO-approved individual-level certification training program using SCF Trainers.[1]

[1] *SCF Licensed Training Provider - https://securecontrolsframework.com/scf-licensed-training-providers/*

Secure Controls Framework Practitioner (SCF Practitioner) Training Overview

Course Title
Secure Controls Framework Practitioner (SCF Practitioner) Training

Online Course Access
Students have one hundred eighty (180) days from the date of purchase to complete SCF Practitioner training before the student is disenrolled and access is revoked.

Course Cost & Certification Lifecycle
SAICO certifications are valid for a duration of one (1) year from issuance, at which point the certificate must be renewed or it is expired. The renewal process includes paying an annual certification maintenance fee and taking a knowledge test to ensure the individual's proficiency in the subject matter.

The table below shows:
(1) Initial training and certification cost;
(2) Annual certification maintenance fee; and
(3) If necessary for retaking the knowledge exam, a knowledge exam license.

Description	Course Fee (one time)	Certification Maintenance (annual)
SCF Practitioner Training	$250	$125
Knowledge Exam License (retakes)	$100	N/A

Course Registration
Prospective students can sign up for SCF Practitioner training online at: https://training.securecontrolsframework.com

Language Specification
SAICO-provided training and knowledge exams are currently only available in English.

Number of Credit Hours
Students should expect to spend at least four (4) hours to complete the SCF Practitioner training. If students are unfamiliar with the supporting documentation, they should plan to allocate additional study time to become familiar with the material because this course utilizes them as prerequisites.

Course Description
SCF Practitioners are SAICO-certified individuals who have the knowledge and skills to:
(1) Implement SCF controls that align with the SCF recommended practices and structure; and
(2) Maintain an organization's cybersecurity and data protection program.

This course goes over the topics that are necessary for a SCF Practitioner to have a working knowledge of to be successful in implementing and maintaining a SCF-based cybersecurity and data protection program. Successfully completing training and passing the knowledge exam will provide the student with the designation as a SCF Practitioner.

Prerequisites:
While there are no formal educational or certification prerequisites to become a SCF Practitioner, to successfully pass this course and perform duties as a SCF Practitioner, students are expected to have:
(1) Six (6) months, or more, of practical experience with the Secure Controls Framework (SCF);
(2) Familiarity with the domains and components of the SCF;
(3) Conversational level of knowledge of the SCF;

(4) Experience with how crosswalk mapping works (e.g., Set Theory Relationship Mapping);
(5) Familiarity with the following publications / resources:
    a. What Is the Secure Controls Framework (SCF) (e.g., structure, content, uses, etc.);[2]
    b. Integrated Controls Management (ICM) Model;[3]
    c. SCF Cybersecurity & Data Privacy Capability Maturity Model (C|P-CMM);[4]
    d. SCF Cybersecurity & Data Privacy Risk Management Model (C|P-RMM);[5]
    e. Unified Scoping Guide (USG);[6]
    f. Cybersecurity risk tolerance & materiality concepts;[7]
    g. NIST IR 8477 - Set Theory Relationship Mapping (STRM);[8]
    h. SCF Conformity Assessment Program (SCF CAP);[9]
    i. SCF CAP Code of Professional Conduct (CoPC);[10] and
    j. Cybersecurity & Data Protection Assessment Standards (CDPAS);[11]

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

After successful completion of this course and earning the SCF Practitioner designation, students will be able to converse with clients and other members of the SCF Ecosystem about the following topics. SCF Practitioners will be expected to be able to describe:

(1) The structure and content of the Secure Controls Framework (SCF), including core components:
    a. Assessment Objectives (AOs);
    b. Evidence Request List (ERL);
    c. Risk catalog; and
    d. Threat catalog.
(2) How the SCF leverages NIST IR 8477-based Set Theory Relationship Mapping (STRM) for crosswalk mappings.
(3) How the following components enhance the implementation of SCF:
    a. Integrated Controls Management (ICM) model;
    b. Unified Scoping Guide (USG);
    c. SCF Cybersecurity & Data Privacy Capability Maturity Model (C|P-CMM); and
    d. SCF Cybersecurity & Data Privacy Risk Management Model (C|P-RMM).
(4) An SCF Practitioner's obligations per the SCF's Code of Professional Conduct (CoPC).
(5) What the SCF Conformity Assessment Program (SCF CAP) is, including:
    a. The various members of the SCF Ecosystem, including pertinent roles and responsibilities;
    b. The SCF Conformity Assessment Program Body of Knowledge (SCF CAP BoK); and
    c. The Cybersecurity & Data Protection Assessment Standards (CDPAS);
    d. Cybersecurity risk tolerance & materiality concepts; and
    e. What constitutes passing / failing a SCF CAP assessment, per the SCF CAP BoK.
(6) What the SCF Connect tool is and what role it serves in the SCF CAP, as well as broader non-SCF CAP tool for Governance, Risk & Compliance (GRC) needs.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION (CPE) REQUIREMENTS

The SCF Practitioner role does not require a minimum number of Continuing Professional Education (CPE) requirements that must be completed on an annual basis.

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[2] *What is the SCF? https://securecontrolsframework.com/what-is-the-scf/*
[3] *Integrated Controls Management (ICM) model - https://securecontrolsframework.com/integrated-controls-management/*
[4] *SCF Cybersecurity & Data Privacy Capability Maturity Model (C|P-CMM) - https://securecontrolsframework.com/capability-maturity-model/*
[5] *SCF Cybersecurity & Data Privacy Risk Management Model (C|P-RMM) - https://securecontrolsframework.com/risk-management-model/*
[6] *Unified Scoping Guide (USG) - https://securecontrolsframework.com/content/cap/unified-scoping-guide-usg.pdf*
[7] *Cybersecurity risk tolerance & materiality - https://securecontrolsframework.com/cybersecurity-materiality/*
[8] *NIST IR 8477-based STRM - https://securecontrolsframework.com/set-theory-relationship-mapping-strm/*
[9] *SCF Conformity Assessment Program (SCF CAP) - https://securecontrolsframework.com/scf-conformity-assessment-program-cap/*
[10] *SCF CAP CoPC - https://securecontrolsframework.com/content/cap/scf-cap-copc.pdf*
[11] *Cybersecurity & Data Protection Assessment Standards (CDPAS) - https://securecontrolsframework.com/cybersecurity-data-protection-assessment-standards-cdpas/*

Supporting Information

The following information addresses the administrative nature of the course:

Instructional Methods

The SCF Practitioner training course is 100% Computer Based Training (CBP):

- This is an entirely Internet-based course. It is self-paced training and does not require face-to-face class meetings.
- Additional training is available through certified SCF Trainers.

Course Communication and Feedback

The SAICO has no scheduled course communications, other than:

(1) Initial welcome/onboarding communications;
(2) Course completion certificate; and
(3) Student coursework feedback form.

The email address you provided to set up your training account will be the email used to send communications. To update your email address:

- In your profile, you can update the email address; or
- Contact SAICO support for assistance at support@securecontrolsframework.com.

Required Textbooks or Materials

There are no textbooks required.

The material covered in this course is freely available online:

(1) What the Secure Controls Framework (SCF) (e.g., structure, content, uses, etc.);[12]
(2) Integrated Controls Management (ICM) Model;[13]
(3) SCF Cybersecurity & Data Privacy Capability Maturity Model (C|P-CMM);[14]
(4) SCF Cybersecurity & Data Privacy Risk Management Model (C|P-RMM);[15]
(5) Cybersecurity risk tolerance & materiality concepts;[16]
(6) Unified Scoping Guide (USG);[17]
(7) Proficient understanding of Set Theory Relationship Mapping (STRM);[18]
(8) SCF CAP Code of Professional Conduct (CoPC);[19]
(9) SCF Conformity Assessment Program (SCF CAP);[20]
(10) SCF CAP Code of Professional Conduct (CoPC);[21] and
(11) Cybersecurity & Data Protection Assessment Standards (CDPAS).[22]

Technology Requirements

Students must have access to the Internet to participate in training. No special software is required other than a modern web browser. Student devices are expected to have a current operating system with updates installed and audio functionality (e.g., speakers, headphones, etc.) to listen to the educational videos (transcripts will be provided).

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[12] *What is the SCF? https://securecontrolsframework.com/what-is-the-scf/*
[13] *Integrated Controls Management (ICM) model - https://securecontrolsframework.com/integrated-controls-management/*
[14] *SCF Cybersecurity & Data Privacy Capability Maturity Model (C|P-CMM) - https://securecontrolsframework.com/capability-maturity-model/*
[15] *SCF Cybersecurity & Data Privacy Risk Management Model (C|P-RMM) - https://securecontrolsframework.com/risk-management-model/*
[16] *Cybersecurity risk tolerance & materiality - https://securecontrolsframework.com/cybersecurity-materiality/*
[17] *Unified Scoping Guide (USG) - https://securecontrolsframework.com/content/cap/unified-scoping-guide-usg.pdf*
[18] *NIST IR 8477-based STRM - https://securecontrolsframework.com/set-theory-relationship-mapping-strm/*
[19] *SCF CAP Code of Professional Conduct (CoPC) - https://securecontrolsframework.com/content/cap/scf-cap-copc.pdf*
[20] *SCF Conformity Assessment Program (SCF CAP) - https://securecontrolsframework.com/scf-conformity-assessment-program-cap/*
[21] *SCF CAP CoPC - https://securecontrolsframework.com/content/cap/scf-cap-copc.pdf*
[22] *Cybersecurity & Data Protection Assessment Standards (CDPAS) - https://securecontrolsframework.com/cybersecurity-data-protection-assessment-standards-cdpas/*

Minimum Student Technical Requirements/Skills

Minimum technical skills are needed in this course. All coursework must be completed and submitted online through the SAICO training portal. Therefore, students must have consistent and reliable access to a suitable computer and the Internet.

The minimum technical skills required include the ability to:

(1) Use of a personal device (e.g., Personal Computer (PC), tablet, smartphone, etc.) for Internet browsing, including use of audio functions;
(2) Organize and save electronic files;
(3) Use email and attached files;
(4) Download and upload documents; and
(5) Locate information with an Internet browser.

Technical Support

The SAICO does not provide technical support for student devices. Administrative support pertaining to the operation of the LMS is available through SAICO support at support@securecontrolsframework.com.

Assignments and Assessments

The SCF Practitioner training course is a Pass/Fail course. It is a self-paced curriculum that progresses from lesson to lesson. There are no assignments (e.g., project work, research papers, etc.) as part of the SCF Practitioner training course. However, there will be assessments:

(1) Quizzes at the end of each major section; and
(2) A knowledge exam.

The knowledge exam:

(1) Is a closed-book exam;
(2) Has a maximum time limit of ninety (90) minutes; and
(3) Consists of fifty (50):
    a. True/False questions;
    b. Multiple-select questions; and
    c. Multiple-choice questions.
(4) Requires a minimum grade of seventy percent (70%) to pass. We selected this minimum grade because it:
    a. Demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of the core concepts of the subject matter; and
    b. Maintains a higher standard for academic performance.

The cost of the SCF Practitioner training course includes one (1) attempt at taking the knowledge exam. Retaking the knowledge exam will incur an additional cost, unless the reason was due to a technical incident that precluded the student from completing the exam.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to practice the highest possible standards of academic integrity. Any deviation from this expectation will result in:

(1) A failing grade on the SCF Practitioner training course; and
(2) Review for future eligibility for participation in the SCF CAP ecosystem, due to a violation of a SCF CAP Code of Professional Conduct (CoPC) principes.

Equal Opportunity

The SAICO is committed to an environment that is inclusive, safe, and respectful for all persons. To achieve that, all course activities will be conducted in an atmosphere of friendly participation and interaction among colleagues, recognizing and appreciating the unique experiences, background, and point of view each student brings. Students are always expected to apply the highest academic standards to this course and to treat others with dignity and respect.

GLOSSARY: ACRONYMS & DEFINITIONS

[Company Name] recognizes two sources for authoritative definitions:

- The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) IR 7298, *Glossary of Key Cybersecurity Terms*, is the approved reference document used to define common digital security terms;[23] and
- NIST Glossary.[24]

Security Requirements and Controls

The term control can be applied to a variety of contexts and can serve multiple purposes. When used in the security context, a security control can be a mechanism (e.g., a safeguard or countermeasure) designed to address protection needs that are specified by a set of security requirements.

- Controls are defined as the power to make decisions about how something is managed or how something is done; the ability to direct the actions of someone or something; an action, method or law that limits; or a device or mechanism used to regulate or guide the operation of a machine, apparatus or system.
- Requirements are defined as statements that translate or express a need and its associated constraints and conditions.[25]

[23] *NIST IR 7298 - https://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/ir/2019/NIST.IR.7298r3.pdf*
[24] *NIST Glossary - https://csrc.nist.gov/glossary*
[25] *ISO/IEC/IEEE 29148*