

Security Certified Program (SCP)

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The Security Certified Program is run by Ascendant Learning LLC, a training provider based in Illinois, USA. The program includes two qualifications: Security Certified Network Professional (SCNP) and Security Certified Network Architect (SCNA). Each qualification involves passing two associated examinations which are available from both Prometric and VUE testing centres. SCP authorised training providers teach the SCP curriculum in 36 countries around the world. Before embarking on study for the Security Certified Network Professional (SCNP) qualification candidates are recommended to have CompTIA Security+ certification, although this is not a requirement. SCNP is a requirement which must be satisfied before proceeding to the Security Certified Network Architect (SCNA) examination.

Security Certified Network Professional (SCNP)

The Security Certified Network Professional focuses on two important aspects of network security: firewalls and intrusion detection. The recommended prerequisite for the SCNP certification is CompTIA Security+ or comparable experience. SCNP includes two examinations, “Hardening the infrastructure” and “Network defence and countermeasures” with the following objectives:

Hardening the infrastructure (6 domains)

1. Contingency planning	5%
2. Tools and techniques	9%
3. Internet and WWW security	11%
4. Router security and ACLs	15%
5. TCP/IP packet structure and security	25%
6. Operating system security	35%

Network defence and countermeasures (6 domains)

1. Network defence fundamentals	5%
2. Security policy design and implementation	10%
3. Network traffic signatures	10%
4. VPN concepts and implementation	15%
5. IDS concepts and implementation	30%
6. Firewall concepts and implementation	30%

SCNP examination fees are US\$ 150 per exam; the examinations are available at Prometric and VUE testing centres. Both Ascendant Learning and third-party training providers offer SCNP training.