

2024

# GIAC Certification Renewal How-To Guide

You made the commitment and put in the time and effort to get GIAC certified. Don't stop there — keep your certification active to stay relevant in the cybersecurity workforce!

## Why Renew?



### Advanced Expertise

When you renew, you're showing yourself and others in the industry that not only do you have a certification, but you've gone above and beyond to gain advanced knowledge and experience in order to keep that certification.



### Dependability

The longer your certification is active, the more years of verified knowledge and hands-on technical abilities you have. Employers value certifications, and maintaining your certification shows your employer that you're someone they can depend on.



### Respect

Your industry peers know how much time and effort is involved in maintaining a certification, and the longer you maintain your certifications, the more you'll be recognized as an expert in your field.



### Security

Renewing ensures your personal security knowledge, your job security, and the security of your enterprise — all in one.

**“My GIAC certification and the necessary CPEs to maintain it keeps me current in security, which improves my employer's security posture as well as my personal security posture.”**

— Margaret Kauska,  
Security Officer, State Government

# What Do You Need To Do?

- 1** Collect CPEs — **36 of them** — over the four years your cert is active. Or, you can choose to retake the certification exam!
- 2** See the next page for the many activities that earn CPEs.
- 3** Log CPEs in your portal account.
- 4** Most SANS/GIAC CPEs will be automatically logged in your portal account. You only need to assign and justify.
- 5** Wait for GIAC to review and approve your CPE submission. Approval can take up to 10 days.
- 6** You will receive email notification of acceptance or rejection.
- 7** Pay the fee to complete your renewal.

**You're renewed!**

## How do I log non-SANS/GIAC CPEs in my portal account?

- 1** Sign on to your portal account at [giac.org/account](https://giac.org/account)
- 2** Click on "Manage All Renewal CPEs."
- 3** Click on "Submit New CPEs."
- 4** Fill out the submission form with information regarding the CPE activity.
- 5** Attach supporting documentation that verifies you completed the activity.
- 6** Assign the CPEs to your active certifications.
- 7** Select the justification for using this activity for CPE credit.
- 8** Submit!

## How do I assign and justify SANS/GIAC affiliated CPEs that are automatically logged\*?

- 1** Sign on to your portal account at [giac.org/account](https://giac.org/account)
- 2** Click on "Manage All Renewal CPEs."
- 3** Click on "Assign" next to the relevant CPE.
- 4** Submit supporting documentation if needed.
- 5** Assign the CPEs to your active certifications.
- 6** Select the justification for using this activity for CPE credit.
- 7** Submit!

\*If your SANS/GIAC CPEs are not automatically added to your account within 10 business days from the end of the event/course, please contact [cert-renewal@giac.org](mailto:cert-renewal@giac.org).

# What Counts?

GIAC accepts many different types of CPE credits to accommodate your busy lifestyle. Combine categories to earn your 36 CPEs over four years

## Design Your Renewal Plan

Up to  
**36 CPEs**

### GIAC/SANS Affiliated Programs

- Can be applied to **5 certifications**
- SANS training courses, including Live and OnDemand training
- New GIAC Certification (Practitioner or Applied Knowledge)\*

Up to  
**36 CPEs**

### Advance Your Career

- Can be applied to **2 certifications**
- ANAB accredited Industry Training\*
- Graduate level courses
- Published technical work

Up to  
**18 CPEs**

### Other Industry Training

- Can be applied to **1 certification**
- DOD or Military Training
- Skill-based Training Courses
- All-day or Multi-day Conferences & Summits (Virtual or in-person)

Up to  
**12 CPEs**

### Community Participation

- Can be applied to **1 certification**
- Participating in GIAC exam development activities
- Writing an article for an information assurance publication
- SANS Webcasts

Up to  
**12 CPEs**

### SANS NetWars

- Can be applied to **2 certifications**
- NetWars Tournament
- NetWars Continuous

Up to  
**12 CPEs**

### Cyber Ranges

- Can be applied to **1 certification**
- DOD exercises
- Capture The Flag
- Other hands-on activities

Up to  
**12 CPEs**

### Work Experience

- Can be applied to **1 certification**
- Relevant experience that aligns with your certification's objectives and skillset

# When Do I Renew?

- Your GIAC certification is valid for four years.
- Your printed certificate, digital badge, GIAC Certification Holder Directory and portal account list the date your certification was earned.
- During these four years earn and submit CPE credits toward your certification renewal.
- All of your CPE credit-granting activities MUST take place during the four-year period in which your certification is active.
- At the two-year mark, you become eligible to pay the renewal fee. You have up until the expiration date to pay the fee.

## Questions?

You can find more information on our website: [www.giac.org/renewal](http://www.giac.org/renewal)

Need to speak with someone?  
Email [info@giac.org](mailto:info@giac.org) or call  
+1 (301) 654-7267 and we'll  
be happy to help!

Receive valuable, updated study materials with your renewal.

**Stay Sharp. Stay Active. Stay GIAC Certified.**

**GIAC**  
CERTIFICATIONS