



Strategies to Advance Your IT Audit Career

**PROVEN ADVICE FROM CAREER STRATEGIST AND COACH
CAITLIN MCGAW**



Dear IT Audit Professionals,

In recent years, the business world and our personal career journeys have faced tremendous amounts of turmoil. There are obstacles, massive changes and new technologies everywhere we look. These upheavals impact businesses of all sizes, in all industries and in all geographic locations. Throughout all of these changes, IT audit has been a vital contributor to governance and compliance, increased efficiency, and security and resilience of enterprises worldwide.

I strongly believe that IT audit is a highly regarded, financially rewarding and sustainable career path. For those interested in building a career in IT audit, one piece of advice rings clear and strong: Create a vision for your career. This starts with developing a plan—a manageable, actionable plan. Doing this will help you be more strategic, especially if you are aiming toward leadership roles. Thinking strategically is an essential skill for executive-level positions, so it is critical to do this with your own career.

Your career plan should be personalized to your needs, situation and goals. It should help you stand out, no matter what level you are at now or what you aspire to achieve. At a high level, your plan should include steps to:

- Visualize—and write down—your short-, mid- and long-term career goals.
- Conduct a gap assessment and create a development plan.
- Proactively gain experience to strengthen developmental areas, including technical, tactical, communications and interpersonal skills.
- Repeat these steps as your career plans evolve.

It's no wonder that the position of information technology auditor is in high demand. IT auditor jobs exist in almost every industry... Demand for skilled IT auditors is high—and so can be the salaries.

SOURCE: <https://www.roberthalf.com/salary-guide>



Other important actions include honing your interviewing skills, continually building and nurturing a network of mentors and colleagues, committing to continual learning and growing your skills and experiences, and achieving certifications that help you gain recognition and credibility.

With this top of mind, even the most driven and experienced IT audit professionals have found that taking steps toward their optimal next career move can sometimes feel like they are striding into a murky pool. This makes it even more critical to build and follow a career-planning ecosystem that serves as a roadmap but is flexible as other, often uncontrollable, factors change.

This guide is intended to provide practical advice, clarity and encouragement for you. Your career is not set in stone, so this is a resource you can return to again and again as your life and career evolve. Career planning is hard, but it is mission-critical to attaining your goals and enjoying the journey.



CAITLIN MCGAW

Career Strategist and Job Search Coach
Caitlin McGaw Coaching

According to the *Robert Half Salary Guide for Accounting and Finance Professionals*, the midpoint starting salary for an IT auditor with a year or less of experience is US\$51,250, increasing to US\$76,000 with one to three years of experience. IT auditors in management positions can expect to earn a midpoint salary of US\$118,250.

SOURCE: <https://www.roberthalf.com/salary-guide>



Creating your career plan: piece by piece

PIECE 1: Visualize the long-term, big picture of where you want to go.

Look at this as the business equivalent of “What do I want to be when I grow up?” Try not to limit or self-censor yourself at this stage. A long-term view like this will help you decide what to do in the short term. It helps you determine what to do in the coming months and years to move your career a step or two closer to achieving your ultimate goal.

PIECE 2: Evaluate and act upon near-term goals.

Reflect on what you really want right now. What is your near-term goal with a projected accomplishment within approximately one year? Is it a new job in a different area? A different industry? A promotion? The opportunity to explore new projects? Or build new leadership skills?

What about money? Yes, the need or desire for increased compensation is a reality for everyone, but it is not a good goal on its own. If a role paying more money also supports another career-related goal (e.g., adding technical skills, building leadership competency, gaining visibility, providing an opportunity to work with an outstanding boss), then it could be a sound move. If it doesn't, look for options that better support your career path.

SUCCESS TIP

Do the thing that we all put off because it seems like such a daunting task. Create a manageable, actionable career plan now.



SUCCESS TIP

Put your plan in writing. A wise executive once said:
“If it isn't written down, it doesn't exist.”

Revisit and revise the written document as often as needed.

PIECE 3: Conduct a gap assessment and development plan.

Many highly successful audit leaders have built their careers based on this process. The following actions should be adapted based on your situation and goal.

1. Research the job or area that interests you. Look at job descriptions, skills and titles of roles.
2. Assess your strengths and weaknesses related to these areas.
3. Talk with professionals in those roles, both in your company and externally. Keep written notes.
4. Talk with mentors at industry events and forums such as those sponsored by ISACA.
5. Review your notes to understand your gaps better.
6. Write a plan to work on the gaps. Identify 2–5 actionable steps with targeted completion dates.
7. Discuss your goals and development plan with your manager.
8. Be proactive and find a mentor to help in specific areas.
9. Understand that your plan is a work in progress and will change as your career progresses.

SUCCESS TIP

Align your continuing professional education (CPE) requirements with your development goals.



Master the mechanics of a great interview

What is an interview? This seems like a basic question, but it has more depth than most people realize. This is the place and time to make a great first impression. It's where you pitch yourself as the resource who has the skills and experience to do the job the prospective employer needs to be done. This is the opportunity to differentiate yourself and demonstrate as many of the applicable skills as you can.

High-level interviewing tips—customize these for each interview and each organization:

1. Showcase your unique value proposition.
2. Communicate how you specifically fit the role.
3. Demonstrate key job competencies, especially communication and listening skills.
4. Be creative in how you show your strategic, analytical and problem-solving skills. As appropriate, use a case study, presentation or tell a real-life story.
5. Think like an employee. Show the interviewer that you have their business and improvement in mind.
6. Illustrate your emotional intelligence by being engaging, friendly, collaborative and inclusive.

POSITION YOURSELF TO ACE INTERVIEWS AND EARN OFFERS

Whether or not you are in the market for a new job, you never know when you are going to need to whip your interview skills into shape. A fabulous internal role may arise, or a dream job with another company may unexpectedly materialize. Knowing how to interview well is an essential career skill.



Interviews win auditors great opportunities that change life trajectories.



Strategizing and having a plan for each phase of the interview is a must-do. You may get the same question asked more than once, so make an effort to keep your responses fresh and upbeat. Remember that an interview is similar to an audition. The cast of a Broadway show has to delight audiences with the same material night after night. During an interview process, bring the same level of engagement and enthusiasm to every meeting.

Be prepared. This reduces your stress and helps you have a more thoughtful interview.

- **Research.** Many candidates falter when it comes to pre-interview research. Both you and the employer are taking valuable time to meet. Make the most of it—you are playing to win. Research as if you were planning to invest a huge sum of money in the company.
- **Understand the logistics.** Be clear and confirm the day, time (and time zone) and the platform. If virtual, prepare your attire, space, lighting and background as best possible to be clean and with a bit of your personality. If the interview is onsite, make sure you know where you are going, the parking situation, the entry process and who you are meeting with first. Either way, allow time for contingencies.
- **Know your audience.** Know who will be the key participants. Look them up on LinkedIn. Try to find clues about how they think. A good source is to review any presentations or interviews they have given.
- **Prepare questions you can ask.** Research and make a list of 3–5 questions for EACH interviewer so you can gather information about the role AND to demonstrate your business knowledge. Smart questions show that you are thinking like their next great team member.
- **Prepare for questions they ask.** They will ask about your skills and experiences. Give honest, authentic responses. Interviewers know when they hear memorized answers.



TOUGH QUESTIONS ARE YOUR FRIENDS

Stress questions

When an interviewer asks, “Tell me about a time when you failed,” or “What is your weakness,” don’t panic; just be prepared.

This is an opportunity to show your ability to learn from tough situations, solve problems, be resilient, change and grow. Take a moment to think it through and have solid answers ready to let the interviewer see you as the thoughtful, self-aware, always-learning professional that you are.

Behavioral questions

These are opportunities to share your best stories, painting a vivid picture of your work and why it matters. Don’t sell yourself short on this absolutely essential interview skill. You can learn how to do this.

ENERGY CYCLE

Know this—interviews take a lot of energy. Each interview and the entire process—especially with multiple companies—will tax you. Pace yourself. Interviewing is often a marathon.

To endure and cross the finish line, try to minimize your stress. Preparation helps, as well as meditation and relaxation practices. Try to get enough sleep, eat properly and keep up with exercise. Resetting in nature is an amazing way to refresh your brain and body. Drink water—when you are dehydrated, you get tired and interviewers can hear it in your voice.

BALANCE OF POWER

While it is absolutely correct that you (the interviewee) are also interviewing the potential employer to see if you are a match, overtly acting that way can make you seem arrogant and self-serving. The company has a need, and they are looking for the right candidate to fill the need or solve a problem. At this point, they are the “buyer” and are in the driver’s seat. Once you have an offer in hand, then you can ask the me-centric questions. Until then, your mission is to show the interviewers why you are the best person for the job.



The search for “auditor instinct”

Recruiters are often asked to find experienced IT audit professionals with “auditor instinct”—that ability to “just know” when something isn’t quite right and requires more questions and digging to surface big issues, root causes and major findings.

It’s important for IT audit professionals to know that while “auditor instinct” does not show up in job descriptions, it is a competency that hiring leaders are evaluating when they interview candidates and that managers think about when evaluating job performance. Developing this skill can be beneficial to your career in nearly all positions.

Over time, this skill becomes more intuitive and fine-tuned. Auditors learn how to read people and situations. It is similar to experienced drivers who intuit that small swerves by a vehicle ahead mean potential danger and that it’s time to slow down or switch lanes.

Auditor instinct enhances a person’s understanding of areas where issues may need to be raised, investigated or further tested. With the constraint of audit budgets, saving time and focusing on the right areas is crucial. There is a big difference between five minutes and an hour in an ongoing critical situation. Quickly detecting anomalies and sensing when something is “off” can result in great benefits.

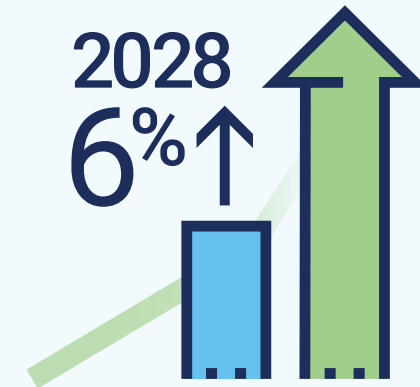
Auditor instinct is highly transferable to advancement and many other career roles. Here are some pointers for how to develop this elusive talent:

- **Be observant.** What is normal and what is not? What is different now?
- **Engage people** and build trust so they will talk to you.
- **Develop a big-picture view** of your organization and its business strategy.
- **Know how IT systems work.** The more you know, the better the dialog will be and the faster you will build credibility.



- **Know the environment** you are working in and the relevant regulations and their requirements, applicable frameworks and controls.
- **Listen carefully.** Ask questions. Then ask follow-up questions.
- **Treat your stakeholders and internal clients** as the subject matter experts they are.
- **Don't be afraid** to say you don't know or are not sure how something works in detail.
- **Learn the acronyms** specific to your environment.
- **Be curious** and a student of human nature.
- **Realize** that an audit checklist can signal to stakeholders that you may not know much and won't ask questions beyond the checklist.
- **Build a foundation** of risk and controls knowledge through certification.

Every project is an opportunity to develop the skill of auditor instinct. Observe good role models and talk with them about how they “knew” to ask an important question or how they “read” a particular person’s behavior in an interaction. The audit profession is both a science and an art. Learn the art of auditor instinct as you deepen other business and technical skills.



- *Projected job growth for information technology auditors is 6% from 2018–2028*
- *There are 91,033 active information technology auditor job openings in the US based on job postings*

SOURCE: Zippia

Use stories to inspire and influence

Stories help encourage stakeholders to immerse themselves in a situation. By using storytelling, you can create deeper, more personal engagement with a project. Effective business storytelling improves understanding of complex issues, encourages problem-solving, and helps stakeholders, colleagues, and interviewers to understand your IT audit skills and abilities better. You can use real-life stories of your experiences to show how you improved acceptance of change, adherence to a control or remediation of an issue. Stories often encourage people to do more and to make every project count.

Some people say that storytelling is a gift that only some people possess, but many business leaders say it is a skill they have learned—and practice often. Storytelling can inspire other auditors and stakeholders, and help clearly communicate the value of your work.



EIGHT STEPS TO HELP YOU HONE YOUR STORYTELLING SKILLS:

STEP 1: Create a written or verbal project journal to record your projects. Include lessons learned, tools used, challenges overcome, problems solved, mistakes made (and corrected), and how you demonstrated leadership and added value.

STEP 2: Use a framework to structure your stories. One example is the STAR method—Situation, Task, Action, Result. There are others, so find out what works best for you.

STEP 3: Determine a “takeaway” message for each story. Is it a call to action? A cautionary tale? A clarification of a project’s mission? Try to keep this short and succinct—about the length of a brief social media post.

STEP 4: Include details (e.g., time, place, business units, teams involved, duration of the project), embed numbers instead of vague words (e.g., “a lot of people”), and add metrics (e.g., size, scope, money saved, time saved, return on investment).

STEP 5: Use words that will connect with the audience, eliminating jargon.

STEP 6: Write it all down.

STEP 7: Find a good space to practice your story out loud so you can hear and feel if the words are right. Reword until you have a story that is action-packed, clear, concise and fun to tell.

STEP 8: Listen to, learn from and try out the style of others who tell great stories.

Power your career with mentorship

There is no debating this: Successful IT audit professionals know that great careers aren't built in a vacuum. Mentors make a difference to your career.

Early in a career, mentors can help IT audit professionals learn the ropes of their job—not only technical skills but also how to talk and present, how to negotiate tricky situations and how to decipher the unspoken protocol of an organization. Then as your career progresses, you might come to a fork in the road—take a job with a new company or bid for a promotion? A mentor can help navigate these new waters. Making the leap to a leadership position can be achieved more successfully with a mentor who helps you address the different aspects of leadership and increasingly complex internal interactions.



Mentoring is a two-way street.
Being a great mentee means being
open-minded, ready to change,
dedicated to preparing ahead of
time for sessions with your mentor,
and committed to following
through on goals or projects.



As the “CEO of your career,” you can create your own personal “board of directors.” Having a team of respected professionals—potentially including former bosses, professors or family members who are involved in the business world or a mentor you’ve found through [ISACA’s mentorship program](#)—can offer valuable perspectives on your growth over the course of time. At the same time, it is equally beneficial to have mentors for specific skills or tasks that you are trying to master.

Many mentor relationships are developed in face-to-face settings, so it may take more time and planning to build connections in a hybrid or remote-work environment. For example, keep your cameras on during video meetings to stay in the sightline and create better connections with leaders and colleagues. A word of advice: Capitalize on any time you spend in the office or other work locations. Don’t hide behind email and messaging; get out there and be seen and known.

Make a concerted effort because it can take time, repeated exposure and chemistry to develop a mentor relationship. Common ways to find a mentor—in person or virtually—are through:

- Work projects—colleagues, managers, internal clients
- Skill development sessions
- Volunteer days
- An affinity group
- A professional group like ISACA

Career advice for auditors from ISACA professionals

As a global professional association with 170,000 members in 188 countries, ISACA is a worldwide community rich in audit-related knowledge and career wisdom. Its community of professionals are generous with their time and expertise. When I asked fellow ISACA members to share their hard-won career advice to help IT auditors succeed, 10 major themes emerged from this treasure trove of career advice.

Strengthen your strategic communication skills. One of the most important aspects of any audit career is the ability to explain concepts and findings in clear language. Issues often get resolved during direct conversations among people in different areas. Know your audience—you may communicate differently whether the recipient wants audit, technical, financial, security, digital trust or other information.

Deepen your business and cultural knowledge. When you are working on an audit, your understanding of business processes and cultural contexts will help you craft the right audit questions. Recognize that your auditees and internal clients are subject matter experts in their own areas, and don't be afraid to ask questions. Build relationships early and maintain them. Preparing for an audit shows the client that you care and helps build trust.

- **Get comfortable with gray.** There are many gray areas in IT audit, IT risk and cybersecurity. Understand this and put it in proper context. This ability often comes from experience.
- **Ask for feedback, and then take it well and run with it.** Gaining feedback is a way to add value quickly. Documenting your project and performance review conversations throughout the year with management helps you take some control of your narrative. Ask your manager for feedback on your work and if there is anything that needs to change. Then create a plan for improvement where needed.
- **Get diverse experience, expertise and certification.** Be open to diverse opportunities and projects, especially early in your career. Some may not sound exciting, but they provide high visibility and new skills that reflect well on your resume/CV. Lateral moves may enable you to build up expertise to grow faster in your career. Become a member of a professional organization like ISACA to stay ahead of changes in your company,



ISACA's Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) certification "is among the most in-demand certifications today. According to Skillsoft data...the CISA certification is among the top 15 best-paying IT certifications of 2022. Expert professionals with a CISA certification can earn an average salary of US\$142,336.58, representing a 5% increase from 2021...CISA is among the most prestigious IT audit certifications in the world. It is approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and is recognized by many other nations...CISA-certified professionals can help strengthen and protect IT infrastructure, making them among the most in-demand roles today."

SOURCE: <https://www.spiceworks.com/tech/it-careers-skills/articles/cisa-certification/>

function and industry. Attend conferences, seek out a good presenter, build a relationship with them and possibly ask if they will mentor you.

- **Show initiative and contribute.** Don't sit and wait for someone to tell you what to do. Jump at the opportunity for new experiences, even if they are scary. If you don't have the knowledge, take a course or training session.
- **Be proactive in communicating your career goals.** It is important to have candid discussions about your career goals and aspirations with leadership and your immediate manager. Build your goals into your performance and personal development plan. Make sure the goals are clear and measurable. Then have regular touchpoints for assessment.
- **Network!** Technology is pervasive, so build strong relationships across various cross-functional teams. Interact with different stakeholders and be engaged in their activities. For example, attend Lunch & Learn sessions and awareness conferences. A great advantage of being an IT auditor is visibility to leadership. Build on those relationships and seek to add value.
- **Hold yourself to a high ethical standard.** Remember that you represent your company during work and non-work hours. Read and uphold your company's code of ethics. Know and respect your own values.
- **Do great work AND take care of yourself.** Many people, especially early in their careers, take on more work, say yes to any request and do not take allowed vacation. Balance out these sacrifices with your long-term goals for your work and your personal health and happiness.

“One of the biggest stories we sell ourselves is that everything we do, we are going to be confident in; but often we succeed because we are scared.”

SENIOR COMPLIANCE SPECIALIST



In addition, a few other gems of advice are worth sharing:

- Mistakes (generally) are not career-ending. You live, and you learn—don't get overly discouraged by mistakes.
- The best IT auditors are not necessarily the ones who are the most technical, but the ones who can read the crowd.
- Anything outside of your comfort zone means you're growing. Accept the discomfort.
- Working hard is not good enough. You are in charge of your own career. Promote yourself and your accomplishments.
- Your word is your bond.

These are just the tip of the iceberg in terms of available career advice. ISACA members are ready to share and help others, particularly early-career IT audit professionals. Your local ISACA chapter or ISACA's [online Engage community](#) are good places to ask for help and advice for your career. Be bold and take the plunge.

See what professionals think about ISACA's IT auditing credentials

"CISA was the professional certification that shaped the beginning of my career. The knowledge and the recognition gained from this was highly valuable, allowing me also to demonstrate my IT audit and risk capabilities in the market. I would highly recommend CISA to all the professionals beginning or enhancing their careers in the digital trust space."

ANESTIS DEMOPOULOS

Director, Head of Regional Digital and Risk Advisory Services



"The CISA qualification stands out as a worldwide benchmark. Coupled with ISACA membership, there is a foundation to help build and guide me in an ever-changing work environment."

SHANE FERGUSON, CISA, CISM, CDPSE

Deputy Data Protection Officer, New Ireland Assurance



"Throughout my career, CISA noticeably gave me a unique competitive edge over others and helped me land opportunities where I could make a difference. My employers recognized me as a professional committed to the audit and security profession and uphold a certain set of standards and competence. CISA helped me prepare for greater on-the-job responsibilities by building and maintaining my industry knowledge on technologies and risks. I strongly believe CISA has helped me enhance my professional image and paved a strong career path built on growth and success."

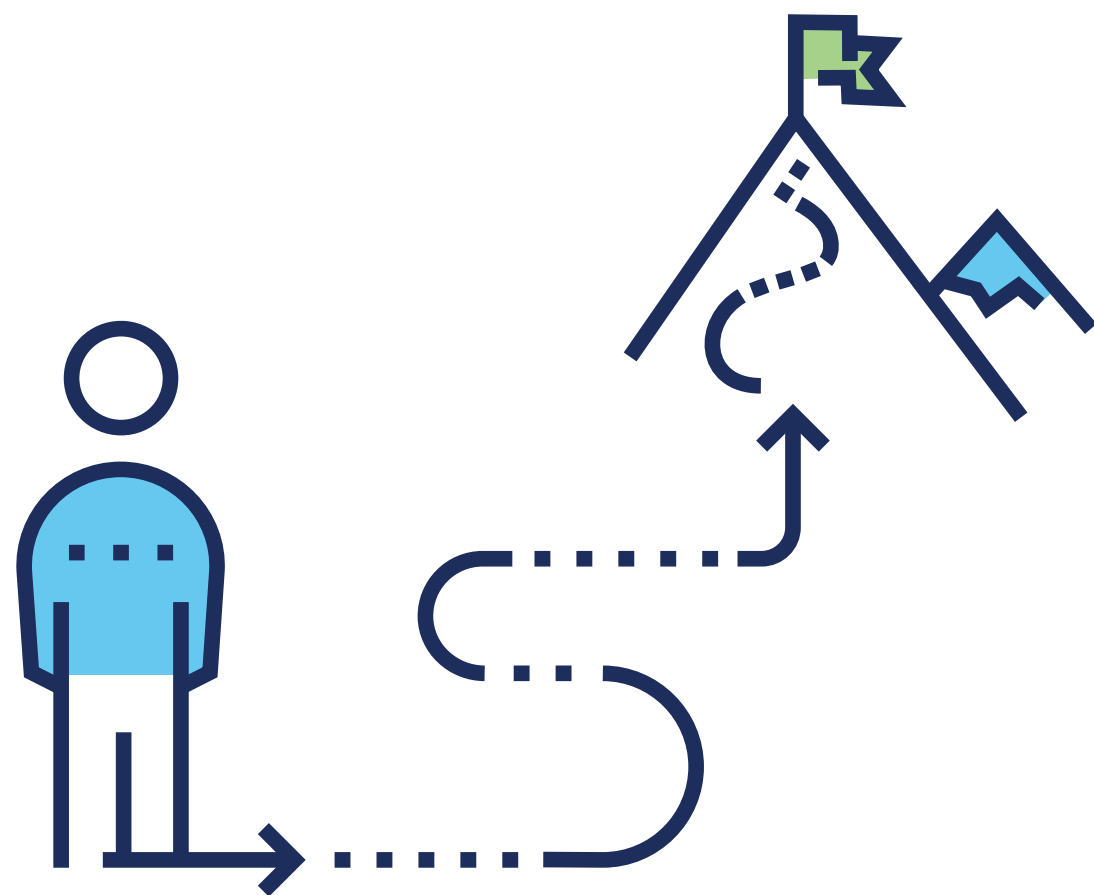
SAILESH JIANDANI, CISA

Sr. Manager, IT Audit at Zebra Technologies

Move forward

ISACA’S AUDIT CAREER PATHWAY HELPS CHART YOUR SUCCESS

ISACA’s audit career resources help you go from where you are to where you want to be. Use the infographic at the end of this ebook to help guide your IT audit career path with ISACA.



SOURCES:

Unless otherwise noted, text is excerpted and adapted from @ISACA columns by [Caitlin McGaw](#):

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Set Your Course to IT Audit Success

HOW FAR WILL YOU GO AS AN IT AUDITOR?

What comes next is up to you. Your next step starts now. Today, there are nearly 100,000 active IT auditor job openings in the US. The IT auditor is now one of the most in-demand finance and accounting professions in the current job market, with job growth expected to increase 6 percent by 2028.

Find the path to start you on your way to IT audit success and take your career as far as you want it to go. Those in IT auditor positions see an average annual salary of US\$110,000—without an ISACA certification. But professionals with ISACA's globally recognized Certified Information Systems Auditor® (CISA®) can expect to see an average of US\$135,000 a year, making it one of the most lucrative IT certifications in the market.

Rise in your profession at any level or stage of IT auditing with ISACA certificates and certifications. Use this exciting career pathway for each step of your professional development.



DID YOU KNOW?

IT audit-enabled jobs account for

15%

of the **TOTAL**
US LABOR DEMAND.*

21%

of **IT**

PROFESSIONALS

credit their salary bump to the adding new skills to their toolbox.**

*Source: Lightcast

**Source: Global Knowledge's 2022 IT Skills and Salary Report



Early Career

3–5 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Certificates help early professionals advance their career and growth opportunities into more senior levels in the workplace.* Start with IT Audit Fundamentals and grow your experience to pursue the world-renowned CISA certification.

EARLY CAREER

MID-CAREER

SENIOR LEVEL

AVERAGE SALARY

US\$51,250

Job titles

IT Auditor, Technical Support Specialist, Database Administrator (DBA), Systems Engineer, Technical Writer, Quality Assurance (QA) Analyst, Business/ Systems Analyst

Key skills and experiences

- Understand IT audit methodologies, tools, and frameworks
- Assist in conducting an IT audit
- Know audit techniques such as using audit software and other technical tools for data analysis and testing
- Transition from a career path in financial audit to IT audit

RECOMMENDED CREDENTIALS

IT AUDIT

FUNDAMENTALS

An ISACA® Certificate

ISACA’s **IT Audit Fundamentals Certificate** helps you build a foundation of knowledge and skill to become a successful IT auditor.

CISA

Certified Information Systems Auditor.

An ISACA® Certification

Certified Information Systems Auditor® (CISA®) showcases your expertise and asserts your ability to apply a risk-based approach to planning, executing and reporting on audit engagements.

TESTIMONIAL

“Early on in my career, I made a choice to go from financial audit to information systems security audit and earn my CISA certification. The domain knowledge I obtained by studying for the exam and applying to my career laid a strong solid foundation which has been extremely beneficial. Since then, I have held a variety of roles which built on the experience during that time and helped lead to my current role as a Senior Executive in technology risk management for a major financial organization.”

RICH SAUSER, SENIOR EXECUTIVE IT RISK SENIOR DIRECTOR - TECHNOLOGY

Mid-Career

5-8 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Certifications like CISA and CCAK give you the validation and credibility needed to grow your career while focusing on IT audit, cybersecurity and cloud auditing. There are more than 30,000 CISA holders who hold at least one other certification, and two-thirds of them serve in managerial roles.

EARLY CAREER

MID-CAREER

SENIOR LEVEL

AVERAGE SALARY
US\$118,250

Job titles

Senior IT Auditor, IT Auditor, IT Audit Manager, Compliance Analyst/Program Manager, IT Consultant, Compliance Analyst/Program Manager, Data Protection Manager, Security Officer/Security Manager, Privacy Engineer

Key skills and experiences

- Possess an understanding of audit skills and frameworks
- Apply audit concepts to new technology
- Apply learning to real-life situations
- Gain a deeper understanding of when to utilize audit expertise, and the most effective approach for any situation

RECOMMENDED CREDENTIALS



Certified Information Systems Auditor® (CISA®) showcases your expertise and asserts your ability to apply a risk-based approach to planning, executing and reporting on audit engagements.



Certificate of Cloud Auditing Knowledge (CCAK™) prepares you to address the unique challenges of auditing the cloud, helping their organizations mitigate risks and optimize ROI in the cloud.

TESTIMONIAL

“The CISA certification helped me to kick start my career in IT audit, equipping me with the necessary knowledge and skills required in my day-to-day work throughout the years and in the various roles I have held. Ongoing maintenance of the certification allows me to stay relevant and up to date with changes within the IT landscape. The certification differentiates me in my career, widens job opportunities and helps me to demonstrate my capabilities in the profession as the certification is globally recognised. Translating my previous skills into the European market was possible as a result of this certification. My growing professional network and interest in pursuing more ISACA certifications have stemmed from my initial decision to pursue the CISA certification. As I become more established as an expert within my field, it has been a worthwhile investment.”

SANDRA KUYENGWA, IT AUDIT ASSISTANT MANAGER



Senior Level

8+ YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Adding IT certifications like CRISC and CDPSE will help your audit career by increasing your depth of knowledge of critical specialized skills in risk assessment and data privacy and will also boost your salary. More than 10,000 CISAs hold two or more certifications.

EARLY CAREER

MID-CAREER

SENIOR LEVEL

AVERAGE SALARY

US\$130,000

Job titles

IT Audit Director, Chief Audit Executive, Senior IT Audit Manager, Compliance Analyst/Program Manager, Risk Analyst/Program Manager, Security Officer/Security Manager, Chief Information Security or Compliance Officer, Security and Privacy Director

Key skills and experiences

- Possess a deeper understanding of privacy, risk and governance domains
- Establish the value of audit function to the organization
- Lead an audit team and influence on organizational decisions
- Manage the audit strategy as opposed to tactical application

RECOMMENDED CREDENTIALS



Certified in Risk and Information Systems Control.
An ISACA® Certification

A **Certified in Risk and Information Systems Control® (CRISC®)** certification shows you have the expertise to enhance business resilience, deliver stakeholder value and optimize risk management for your enterprise.



Certified Data Privacy Solutions Engineer.
An ISACA® Certification

A **Certified Data Privacy Solutions Engineer™ (CDPSE®)** demonstrates that you have the technical skills and knowledge to assess, build and implement comprehensive data privacy measures.

TESTIMONIALS

“CISA is one of the best certifications I have in my suite of over 10 certifications. It is one of the most valuable and practical certifications I have, and it has helped me achieve my goals. The concepts taught in CISA are applicable across the globe and in all the sectors I have worked in. When it comes to IT audit it is the true global gold standard and I witnessed it firsthand. While serving clients in six offices in three countries in two different continents of the world, the concepts were relevant across the globe. Not being from an audit or IT background, CISA provided me with in-depth knowledge which was critical for me to be effective in the IT audit engagements I have been part of and to be successful in my career.”

NAVEED AKRAM, SENIOR MANAGER, SECURITY OPERATIONS

IT Audit Certifications

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