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About the Exam

The CISA exam is offered throughout the year, and there are no prerequisites required to take the exam. However, before the certification will be rewarded, you must have at least 5 years of experience in information system auditing, control or security. This experience must have occurred within the last 5 to 10 years.

For those not possessing the above requirements, there are several ways to fulfill the experience. For example, you may substitute 1 year of the 5 by working in information systems or in a non-IS auditing role. Another year can be filled if you have 60 hours of college credit or a qualifying degree. Unfortunately, you will always need at least 2 years of actual experience, possibly more.

The exam is a computer-based test available three times each year, 4-hours in length and consisting of 200 questions in a multiple-choice format. While ISACA does not advertise the percentage of questions you must correctly answer in order to pass, a decent estimate is between 50%-60%. This is based wholly on anecdotal evidence and may be inaccurate. But, we do know that the pass rate is around 50% - roughly half of all candidates will fail the test the first time. Successful candidates can work towards the experience requirements and apply for the certificate.

As of the print date for this book, the cost for ISACA members is $575 and $760 for non-members.