

# ICS410: ICS/SCADA Security Essentials™



**GICSP**  
Industrial Cyber  
Security Professional  
giac.org/gicsp

6 Day Program | 36 CPEs | Laptop Required

## You Will Be Able To

- Better understand various industrial control systems and their purpose, application, function, and dependencies on network IP and industrial communications
- Work with control network infrastructure design (network architecture concepts, including topology, protocols, and components) and their relation to IEC 62443 and the Purdue Model.
- Run Windows command line tools to analyze the system looking for high-risk items
- Run Linux command line tools (ps, ls, netstat, ect) and basic scripting to automate the running of programs to perform continuous monitoring of various tools
- Work with operating systems (system administration concepts for Unix/Linux and/or Windows operating systems)
- Better understand the systems' security lifecycle
- Better understand information assurance principles and tenets (confidentiality, integrity, availability, authentication, non-repudiation)
- Use your skills in computer network defense to detect host and network-based intrusions via intrusion detection technologies
- Implement incident response and handling methodologies
- Map different ICS technologies, attacks, and defenses to various cybersecurity standards including the NIST Cyber Security Framework, ISA/IEC 62443, ISO/IEC 27001, NIST SP 800-53, the Center for Internet Security Critical Security Controls, and COBIT 5

**“A mix of hands-on and theoretical class, being driven by a highly skilled instructor, makes this the best training in ICS security.”**

—Rafael Issa, Technip

## This is the ICS/OT-specific training needed to defend critical systems the world relies on.

Critical infrastructure and key resource sectors face a rapidly evolving threat landscape, where cyberattacks can disrupt essential services, compromise safety, and cause significant economic and operational harm. Professionals who operate, manage, design, implement, monitor, and defend control systems are at the forefront of this challenge. This course is designed specifically for these practitioners, providing the essential skills and knowledge needed to secure and support control systems in high-stakes environments. This course equips professionals to address the day-to-day security needs of critical infrastructure—ensuring resilience, safety, and operational continuity.

The course will provide you with:

- An understanding of ICS components, purposes, deployments, significant drivers, and constraints
- Hands-on lab learning experiences to control system attack surfaces, methods, and tools
- Control system approaches to system and network defense architectures and techniques
- Incident-response skills in a control system environment
- Governance models and resources for industrial cybersecurity professionals

When examining the greatest risks and needs in critical infrastructure sectors, the course authors looked carefully at the core security principles necessary for the range of tasks involved in supporting control systems on a daily basis. While other courses are available for higher-level security practitioners who need to develop specific skills such as industrial control system penetration testing, vulnerability analysis, malware analysis, forensics, secure coding, and red team training, most of these courses do not focus on the people who operate, manage, design, implement, monitor, and integrate critical infrastructure production control systems.

With the dynamic nature of industrial control systems, many professionals in these environments do not fully understand the features and risks of many devices. In addition, IT support personnel who provide the communications paths and network defenses do not always grasp the systems' operational drivers and constraints. This course is designed to help traditional IT personnel fully understand the design principles underlying control systems and how to support those systems in a manner that ensures availability and integrity. In parallel, the course addresses the need for control system engineers and operators to better understand the important role they play in cybersecurity. This starts by ensuring that a control system is designed and engineered with cybersecurity built into it, and that cybersecurity has the same level of focus as system reliability throughout the system lifecycle.

When these different groups of professionals complete this course, they will have developed an appreciation, understanding, and common language that will enable them to work together to secure their industrial control system environments. The course will help develop cyber-secure-aware engineering practices and real-time control system IT/OT support carried out by professionals who understand the physical effects of actions in the cyber world.

## Author Statement

“This course provides students with the essentials for conducting cybersecurity work in industrial control system environments. After spending years working with industry, we believe there is a gap in the skill sets of industrial control system personnel, whether it be cybersecurity skills for engineers or engineering principles for cybersecurity experts. In addition, both information technology and operational technology roles have converged in today's industrial control system environments, so there is a greater need than ever for a common understanding between the various groups who support or rely on these systems. Students in ICS410 will learn the language, the underlying theory, and the basic tools for industrial control system security in settings across a wide range of industry sectors and applications.”

—Justin Searle

# Section Descriptions

## SECTION 1: ICS Overview

Students will develop and reinforce a common language and understanding of industrial control system (ICS) cybersecurity as well as the important considerations that come with cyber-to-physical operations within these environments. Each student will receive programmable logic controller (PLC) hardware to keep. The PLC contains physical inputs and outputs that will be programmed in class and mapped to an operator interface, or HMI, also created in class. This improved hardware-enabled approach provides the necessary cyber-to-physical knowledge that allows students to better understand important ICS operational drivers and constraints that require specific safety protection, communications needs, system management approaches, and cybersecurity implementations. Essential terms, architectures, methodologies, and devices are all covered to build a common language for students from a variety of different roles.

**TOPICS:** Global Industrial Cybersecurity Professional (GICSP) Overview; Overview of ICS; Purdue Levels 0 and 1; Purdue Levels 2 and 3; IT & ICS Differences; Physical and Cybersecurity

## SECTION 3: Communications and Protocols

Section 3 will take students through the communication protocols often found throughout control networks. Students will analyze network captures containing other control protocols that traverse Ethernet-only networks and TCP/IP networks, set up a simulated controller, and interact with it through a control protocol. Students will learn about different methods to segment and control the flow of traffic through the control network. Students will explore cryptographic concepts and how they can be applied to communications protocols and on devices that store sensitive data. Students will learn about the risks of using wireless communications in control networks, which wireless technologies are commonly used, and available defenses for each.

**TOPICS:** Ethernet and TCP/IP; Enforcement Zone Devices; Understanding Basic Cryptography; Wireless Technologies; Wireless Attacks and Defenses

## SECTION 5: ICS Security Governance

Section 5 will further explore baselines and hardening, but his time on Linux-based workstations and servers. Students will examine concepts that benefit ICS systems such as system hardening, log management, monitoring, alerting, and audit approaches, then look at some of the more common applications and databases used in ICS environments across multiple industries. Finally, students will learn about the various models, methodologies, and industry-specific regulations that are used to govern what must be done to protect critical ICS systems. Key business processes that consider risk assessments, disaster recovery, business impact analysis, and contingency planning will be examined from the perspective of ICS environments.

**TOPICS:** Defending Unix and Linux; Endpoint Protection and SIEMs; Building an ICS Cybersecurity Program; Creating ICS Cybersecurity Policy; Measuring Cybersecurity Risk; Incident Response; Final Thoughts and Next Steps

## SECTION 2: Architectures and Processes

If you know the adversary's approaches to attacking an ICS environment, you will be better prepared to defend that environment. Numerous attack vectors exist within an ICS environment. Some are similar to traditional IT systems, while others are more specific to ICS. During Section 2, students will develop a better understanding of where these specific attack vectors exist and more defensible architectures for OT/ICS. Students will look at different technologies and communications used in Purdue Levels 0 and 1, the levels that are the most different from an IT network. Students will capture fieldbus traffic from the PLCs they programmed in Section 1 and look at what other fieldbus protocols used in the industry.

**TOPICS:** ICS Attack Surface; Secure ICS Network Architectures; Purdue Level 0 and 1

## SECTION 4: Supervisory Systems

Students will learn essential ICS-related server and workstation operating system capabilities, implementation approaches, and system management practices. After a hand-on network forensics exercise where students follow an attacker from phishing campaign to HMI breach, students will look at HMI, historian, and user interface technologies used in the middle to upper levels of the control network, namely Purdue Levels 2 and 3, while performing attacks on HMI web technologies and interfaces susceptible to password brute force attacks. In the afternoon, students will learn about how to create baselines and secure Windows-based workstation and servers.

**TOPICS:** Supervisory Servers; User Interfaces; Defending Microsoft Windows; Patching ICS Systems

## SECTION 6: Capstone CTF

Students will work through a capture-the-flag (CTF) game based on an incident response exercise. Students must use the knowledge they gained throughout the week to identify indicators of compromise (IoCs), determine actions that should be taken to limit the attacker's ability to compromise additional assets and react to changes in the attacker's tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) as they progress deeper into the OT/OCS network. Students will leave with various resources for multiple industries and be well prepared to pursue the GICSP, the internationally accepted and industry-leading ICS-focused professional certification.

## Who Should Attend

The course is designed for the range of individuals who work in, interact with, or can affect industrial control system environments, including asset owners, vendors, integrators, and other third parties. These personnel primarily come from four domains:

- IT (includes operational technology support)
- IT security (includes operational technology security)
- Engineering
- Corporate, industry, and professional standards



**GICSP**  
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## Global Industrial Cyber Security Professional

The GICSP bridges together IT, engineering and cyber security to achieve security for industrial control systems from design through retirement. This unique vendor-neutral, practitioner focused industrial control system certification is a collaborative effort between GIAC and representatives from a global industry consortium involving organizations that design, deploy, operate and/or maintain industrial automation and control system infrastructure. GICSP will assess a base level of knowledge and understanding across a diverse set of professionals who engineer or support control systems and share responsibility for the security of these environments.

- Industrial control system components, purposes, deployments, significant drivers, and constraints
- Control system attack surfaces, methods, and tools
- Control system approaches to system and network defense architectures and techniques
- Incident-response skills in a control system environment
- Governance models and resources for industrial cybersecurity professionals