2025
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**

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**

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**.

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.

Up to 36 CPEs

GIAC/SANS-Affiliated Programs

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

Up to 18 CPEs

Other Industry Training

- Can be applied to **three certifications**
- DOD or military training
- Skill-based training courses
- All-day or multi-day conferences and summits (virtual or in-person)

Up to 12 CPEs

Community Participation

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

Up to 12 CPEs

Cyber Ranges

- Can be applied to **three certifications**
- DOD exercises
- Capture the flag
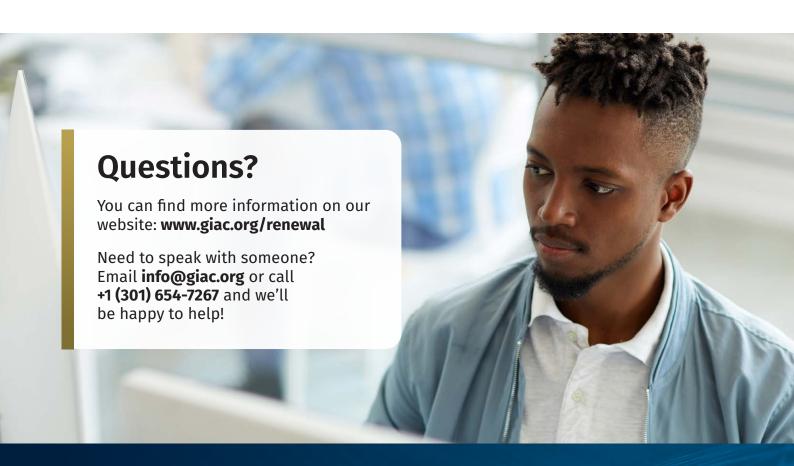- Other hands-on activities

Up to 12 CPEs

Work Experience

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

** Visit **www.giac.org/knowledge-base/renewal** for more details.*

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 until the expiration date to pay the fee.

Questions?

You can find more information on our website: **www.giac.org/renewal**

Need to speak with someone?
Email **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