Point Loma Nazarene University

Mathematical, Information and Computer Sciences

School of STEM

CSC 3102 Security+ Exam Prep

Spring 2026 – Online (2 Credit Hours)

Time and Place: Online and anytime

Instructor: Maria Zack, Ph.D.

mzack@pointloma.edu

Office Hours:

Below are the times that I work to hold open for office hours. If none of them work you can email me to see if we can find another time. I offer both in person (office RS246) and Google Meet options for office hours . Use this linkLinks to an external site. to book an appointment if you want a time reserved for you or if you want to use Google Meet. You can also just stop by my office.

Monday 1:00-2:00 PM
Tuesday 8:00-9:00 AM and 2:00-3:00 PM
Wednesday 9:00-10:00 AM and 5:00-6:00 PM
Thursday by appointment only

Friday 1:00-3:00 PM

Text: Text is included as an electronic copy in the course. **You need to purchase access to the textbook. Please review the modules for information on how to purchase access from uCertify.**

Needed Supplies:

Students will need access to a computer and a high-speed internet connection

PLNU Mission

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a

learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

Department Mission

The Mathematical, Information, and Computer Sciences department at Point Loma Nazarene University is committed to maintaining a curriculum that provides its students with the tools to be productive, the passion to continue learning, and Christian perspectives to provide a basis for making sound value judgments.

Course Description:

CSC 3102 Security+ Exam Preparation (1-2 Units)

This is an independent study course designed for students who wish to prepare for the CompTIA's Security+ certification exam. The course is intended for students who have already completed at least one course in computer security.

Letter grade.
Prerequisite(s): Consent of instructor.

Additional Information

Students will be required to first work through each of the study guides lessons and then complete pre-assessment exams to determine which (if any) knowledge domains require review. Students will then review any required knowledge domains to prepare for the practice exams. Students will then take a series of practice tests, review deficient content areas, and retake until all practice tests have been passed with an 80 or better. **A minimum score of 80 on all chapter quizzes and practice exams are required to pass the course if a passing score on the certification exam is not achieved.** A faculty advisor provides support and accountability in completing the requirements of the course. Although the course is self-paced, a minimum amount of progress must be made each week, and all course requirements must be completed within the assigned course time. Attempting the certification exam within the assigned course time is also required. Although passing the certification exam is not required to pass this course, the results of the certification exam will be used to determine the final grade in the course. Students already holding a current certification for this course are not eligible to take this course.

Philosophy and Approach:

Self-paced competency based courses are designed to allow students to move through course material as quickly as they like while demonstrating a minimum level of competency on a given topic before they are permitted to move forward in the

course. The course is divided into practice exams and other learning activities to help prepare students in the knowledge areas on the certification exams.

Although this is a self-paced course, students must complete at least one (1) review of knowledge area or practice exam per week. Students must also complete all certification practice exams by the end of Week 13 and attempt the Security+ certification exam by the end of Week 14. Once students attempt the Security+ certification exams, no additional work in the course is required. However, if the student did not pass the certification exam on their first attempt, they can continue to study and retake the exam to improve their grade in the course until the end of Week 15. Points will be deducted from the student's overall grade if minimum progress is not made each week or given activity deadlines are not met. However, students are encouraged to move as quickly as they are able and complete all course requirements prior to the 15-week time limit.

Objectives:

The course is designed to help you:

- Acquire and reinforce knowledge and develop understanding of the knowledge domains associated with the CompTIA Security+ certification exams.
- Prepare for and take the CompTIA Security+ certification exams.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to identify risk
2. Students will be able to participate in risk mitigation activities
3. Provide infrastructure, application, information and operational security
4. Apply security controls to maintain confidentiality, integrity and availability
5. Identify appropriate technologies and products
6. Troubleshoot security events and incidents
7. Operate with an awareness of applicable policies, laws and regulation

Grading:

Your grade for the course is based on the points earned by the following criteria at the end of the course less deductions (see Late Work Policy below):

- Exam score of 750 or more and the exam – 1000 points (100% or "A")
- Exam score between 650 and 749 and practice exams complete with 80+ - 860 points (86% or "B")

- Exam score between 550 and 649 and practice exams complete with 80+ - 760 points (76% or "C")
- Exam score between 450 and 549 and practice exams complete with 80+ - 660 points (66% or "D")
- Exam score below 450 or all quizzes and exams not complete with 80+ - zero points (0% or "F")

The grading scale for the course is based on a percentage of points available:

A	92.50 - 100%	**C**	72.50 - 77.49%
A-	90.00 - 92.49%	**C-**	70.00 - 72.49%
B+	87.50 - 89.99%	**D+**	67.50 - 69.99%
B	82.50 - 87.49%	**D**	62.50 - 66.49%
B-	80.00 - 82.49%	**D-**	60.00 - 62.49%
C+	77.50 - 79.99%	**F**	0 - 59.99%

Late Work Policy

There is a point deduction penalty for any assignment not completed by their respective due dates. Practice exams and the post assessment exam must be passed with a score of 80% or more prior to their due dates.

Note: 10 points will be deducted for a student's overall point total for each chapter quiz completed late and 25 points will be deducted from a student's overall point total for each due date that is missed for assessment exams or practice exams. 10 point per day will be deducted from a student's overall point total for late exam appointment confirmation and late exam results submitted.

Credit Hour:

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated course learning outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 2-units class delivered over 15 weeks. It is anticipated that you will spend a minimum of 37.5 participation hours per

credit hour in your course. The estimated time expectations for this course are shown below:

Table of Course Hour Allocation

Activity	Hours
Chapter Review	36
Knowledge Domain Review	21
Practice Exams	12
Certification Exams	6
TOTAL	**75**

Tests and Learning Activities:

All chapter tests, practice exams and learning activities can be redone as often as needed to achieve the desired score.

Helpful Tool for Studying:

This class guides you through the CompTIA exam preparation material and that should be your focus. The Professor Messer videosLinks to an external site. provide a nice supplement and can be helpful as you are in your last few weeks of the course and getting ready for the exam.

Final Exam: Date and Time

The PLNU Final exam policy states: Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. The final examination schedule is posted on the Traditional Undergraduate Records: Final Exam Schedules site. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day, you are authorized to contact each professor to arrange a different time for one of those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations will be granted.

However, you have flexibility about when you take your final exam in this class which allows you to avoid the possibility of having three final exams in a single day. *The final in the course is the CompTIA Security+ certification exam* and can be taken any time before its due date. All students are required to attempt the certification exam at least once before the end of week 15. Students my retake the certification exam if they do not pass on their first attempt, as long as the attempt is completed by the end of finals week.

INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due—including assignments posted in Canvas. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

CLASS ENROLLMENT

It is the student's responsibility to maintain his/her class schedule. Should the need arise to drop this course (personal emergencies, poor performance, etc.), the student has the responsibility to follow through (provided the drop date meets the stated calendar deadline established by the university), not the instructor. Simply ceasing to attend this course or failing to follow through to arrange for a change of registration (drop/add) may easily result in a grade of F on the official transcript.

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center, by email or phone at 619-849-2533. Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines approved accommodations. Professors are able to view a student's approved accommodations through Accommodate.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their approved accommodations in that particular course. Accommodations are not retroactive; as such, clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

Students who need accommodations for a disability-related need should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. In accordance with ADA, accommodations cannot constitute a fundamental alteration to course outcomes;

therefore, planning ahead is vital in establishing appropriate accommodations for equal access to this course. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC eligibility process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any accommodations.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) POLICY

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g, ChatGPT, iA Writer, Marmot, Botowski) in creating written work for this class is not permitted, and use of these tools will be treated as plagiarism.

Some Tips About This Class:

Set aside at least one to two hours each week to complete learning sessions.

Quizzes and assignments can be redone as many times as you like. Maximize your points by redoing assignments that do not receive full credit.

If you have a question, ***ASK***.

The list of assignment deadlines is listed below.

Additional Course Information

Additional PLNU policies and practices that apply to this course can be found at the following link:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SoL5YMfCv_5cobhBwrDjbcZJzNKKTCfM/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=104297418648613020764&rtpof=true&sd=true

Course Summary:

Course Summary

Date	Details	Due
Wed Sep 2, 2026	Page Purchase uCertify Access Code	to do: 11:59pm
	Page Register with CompTIA	to do: 11:59pm

Course Summary

Date	Details	Due
Sun Sep 6, 2026	Assignment Lesson 1. Today's Security Professional	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Lesson 2. Cybersecurity Threat Landscape	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 13, 2026	Assignment Lesson 3. Malicious Code	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Lesson 4. Social Engineering and Password Attacks	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 20, 2026	Assignment Lesson 5. Security Assessment and Testing	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Lesson 6. Application Security	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 27, 2026	Assignment Lesson 7. Cryptography and the PKI	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Lesson 8. Identity and Access Management	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 4, 2026	Assignment Lesson 10. Cloud and Virtualization Security	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Lesson 9. Resilience and Physical Security	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 11, 2026	Assignment Lesson 11. Endpoint Security	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Lesson 12. Network Security	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 18, 2026	Assignment Lesson 13. Wireless and Mobile Security	due by 11:59pm

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Date	Details	Due
	Assignment Lesson 14. Monitoring and Incident Response	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 25, 2026	Assignment Lesson 15. Digital Forensics	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Lesson 16. Security Governance and Compliance	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 1, 2026	Assignment Lesson 17. Risk Management and Privacy	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Pre-Assessment Exam	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 8, 2026	Assignment Practice Exam A	due by 11:59pm
	Page Exam Instructions	to do: 11:59pm
	Page Professor Messer Videos	to do: 11:59pm
Sun Nov 15, 2026	Assignment Practice Exam B	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 22, 2026	Assignment Post Assesment Exam	due by 11:59pm
Tue Nov 24, 2026	Assignment Exam Appointment Confirmation	due by 11:59pm
Sun Dec 13, 2026	Assignment Exam Results	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Course Points	