

SANS

SANS Institute was established in 1989 as a cooperative research and education organization. Today, **SANS** is the most trusted and largest source for information security training and certification in the world. SANS teaches more than 14,000 application and network security practitioners each year and has more than 70,000 alumni and 165,000 practitioners in the SANS community.

The **SANS Software Security Institute (SSI)** brings that same level of quality, timeliness and trust to developers, programmers and application software security professionals.

SSI focuses the deep resources of SANS on the growing threats to the application layer. SSI provides training, certification and a library of research and community initiatives to help developers, architects, programmers, and application security managers protect their software/Web applications.

SSI programs listed below are designed to teach and enable implementation of the most effective secure coding and software development lifecycle (SDL) practices.

- Training for Web application security and hacking, secure coding, software security testing, code review and PCI compliance.
- Language-specific secure coding training for Java/JEE, .NET, C, C#, PHP and others
- Programmer/Developer Certification (GSSP) through our GIAC affiliate
- Free research and news resources to keep up to date with the most recent attack vectors and application vulnerabilities

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SOFTWARE SECURITY INSTITUTE

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Secure Programming Skills Academic Partners Program

*"For us, it means
having access to the
latest industry
requirements and
practices for
trustworthy software
development."*

-DR. BILL CHU, CHAIR,
SOFTWARE & INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEPT.
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
AT CHARLOTTE (CCI),
FIRST ACADEMIC PARTNER OF
SOFTWARE SECURITY INSTITUTE

*"By the time
someone graduates
from college,
it's too late."*

-LI GONG,
PRIMARY ARCHITECT FOR THE
JAVA SECURITY MODEL AT SUN

Why Universities and Community Colleges Are Helping...

Universities and community colleges around the world partnering with SANS have made a commitment to ensure their students have access to course materials that will enable them to graduate with a strong foundation in secure programming and secure application development.

SSI will help the Academic Partners by co-sponsoring workshops, where their faculty will learn and share effective teaching techniques – especially how to integrate secure coding into core programming courses. Approved Academic Partners can also act as learning centers to teach SSI material to regional employers.

Each Academic Partner will also become a GSSP testing site, where their students can demonstrate mastery of secure programming skills and knowledge. Programmers from surrounding employers and independent developers will also be able to take advantage of the Academic Partner's testing site.

Five Basic Requirements to Participate

1. Agree to act as an exam site.
2. Publicly acknowledge involvement in the program. This typically involves the occasional quote and being listed in the SANS documentation. If we want to move this mountain, the more weight seen behind it, the better.
3. Assign a point of contact, who has an understanding of current efforts and the authority (or proxy) to act on issues such as press releases or working on these items. At the very least, this contact person should be able to find the right people and get them engaged.
4. Initiate a program to include security in developer courses and computer science curricula.
5. Contribute expertise to the blueprints and test development process.

Some Optional Steps

SANS is providing scholarships and other opportunities so that EDU can provide access to the exams and assessments for students, alumni and regional businesses.

6. Sign up for the use of the web-based enterprise version of the exam. It is our hope that the Academic Partners will be among the first to use the exam.
7. Send people to the GSSP (GIAC Secure Software Programmer) Certification exams. While this is optional, we would greatly appreciate it if the partners demonstrated a commitment.

Principal Benefits of Being an Academic Partner

- Visibility as a participant through SANS web site and other publications
- GSSP EDU Scholarships provide complimentary and reduced fee opportunities to take the GSSP exam and related training
- An opportunity to be a testing site -- includes live or web-based review sessions with SANS experts to discuss exam results
- Invitation to faculty workshops and participation in faculty sharing electronic communities for teaching secure coding
- Access to quarterly 'brown bag' web casts with top experts on topics related to secure coding and software security
- Potential access to grants for support of extraordinary teaching programs
- Potential access for use in labs and classrooms to products to be provided by key application security vendors in the areas such as web application vulnerability and source code scanners

"Preparing for the exam has strengthened my abilities. The exam helped to further confirm the value of the education I received in computer security from Mississippi State University (MSU)."

–JONATHAN PITTMAN,
RESEARCHER AND STUDENT
MSU COMPUTER SECURITY
RESEARCH CENTER

"At Virginia Tech, we feel that educating today's CS/CE students on the principles and practices of computer and software security is vital, as those students will become the software engineers and programmers of tomorrow. The SANS SPSA program is a step that will lead to improved training and education of professional programmers and students."

–JUNG MIN PARK AND
RANDY MARCHANY
VIRGINIA TECH, BLACKSBURG, VA