In the fast-changing and competitive IT world, proving your experience, ability and breadth of knowledge can make all the difference to your career path. Certification from CIPS — Canada’s Association of Information Technology Professionals — is the benchmark of integrity, professionalism and dedication throughout Canada’s IT industry. CIPS certification helps you raise your industry profile by demonstrating a high level of experience and knowledge while showing your commitment to professional development and ethical conduct. It also allows you to take advantage of benefits such as eligibility for MBA and MSc programs.

Strengthening the industry
CIPS represents thousands of members across the country. Our certification process validates the experience and skills of IT professionals, letting employers know candidates have the experience, knowledge and training they’re looking for. In addition to giving employers access to high-level talent, CIPS certification helps them bolster their corporate image by visibly valuing professionalism, quality, security and ethical standards.

Certification helps Canada’s IT industry as a whole stay globally competitive — by providing the same international recognition opportunities available through CIPS’ overseas counterparts. Encouraging professional practice through certification contributes to economic development — fostering a high-quality, effective IT community that inspires confidence.

To help you take your career to the next level, CIPS offers two categories of certification: Information Systems Professional (I.S.P.) and Information Technology Certified Professional (ITCP).

Both the I.S.P. and ITCP standards include three distinct areas of assessment:
- Skills and knowledge
- Professional knowledge
- Competency and responsibility

Other key requirements:
- Adherence to the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct
- Detailed employer or client references covering the previous two years
- A minimum of 1000 hours of professional work experience in the last year
- CIPS Membership

“In our organization we encourage attainment of the I.S.P. designation because it represents a commitment to ongoing learning, a code of ethics and a body of knowledge. My career has advanced in part from the knowledge I have obtained from my CIPS network and the learning through participation on the CIPS Saskatchewan Board of Directors.”

Dean Hartley, I.S.P., ITCP
President, CIPS Saskatchewan
Vice President, Information Technology Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority
Information Systems Professional (I.S.P.)

Gain industry recognition and set yourself apart with the I.S.P. certification. Introduced in 1989, the I.S.P. is legislated as a self-regulated professional designation in six provinces, with other provinces working toward similar legislation. Holding the I.S.P. demonstrates competence as well as a commitment to keep pace with advancing knowledge and the increasing expectations and requirements of your profession.

Key Benchmark: Accredited four-year bachelor degree in Computer Science and two years of professional I.T. work experience or equivalent.

For more information, visit www.cips.ca/ISP

Information Technology Certified Professional (ITCP)

Introduced in 2008, ITCP certification provides recognition of IT skills, competence and knowledge, along with a demonstrated understanding of issues such as responsibility, accountability, communications and leadership. The ITCP is intended for senior IT practitioners operating at a level where they are fully accountable and responsible for their actions. Accredited by the International Professional Practice Partnership (IP3—www.ipthree.org), the ITCP meets the global hallmark of professional excellence.

Key Benchmark: Skills Framework for the Information Age (SFIA) Level 5 or equivalent.

For more information, visit www.cips.ca/ITCP

What’s your certification readiness?

Are you ready to be an I.S.P.?

• Do you influence teams and specialist peers internally?
• Do you have some responsibility for the work of others and for the allocation of resources?
• Do you perform a broad range of complex technical or professional work activities in a variety of contexts?
• Do you make decisions that influence the success of projects and team objectives?
• Do you select appropriately from applicable standards, methods, tools and applications?

Are you ready to be an ITCP?

• Do you have full accountability for your own technical work or project/supervisory responsibilities?
• Do you have significant responsibility for the allocation of resources and the work of others?
• Do you perform a range of challenging, complex technical or professional work activities?
• Do you decide the success of assigned projects?
• Do you advise on the available standards, methods, tools and applications in own area of specialization?

What’s my path to certification?

CIPS offers a variety of application routes to suit I.T. professionals with various backgrounds. Each includes a requirement for demonstrated competence and a certain number of years of relevant professional experience.

Education + Experience Route
• For holders of an IT related degree/diploma
• Required years of relevant I.T. experience depend on level of education

I.T. Leader Route
• For holders of a non-IT related degree
• Must have an established career in IT
• Greater than 10 years of relevant I.T. experience generally expected

Exam Route
• ICSP Exams, BCS diploma-level exams or BCS Professional graduate-level exams
• Variable years of work experience required

Established Academic Route
• Demonstration of an established academic career—both as a teacher and researcher—and contribution of service to your discipline and/or profession
• Greater than 10 years of relevant I.T. experience generally expected

Established IT Professional Route (I.S.P. only)
• Competency-based review and assessment that allows applicants to demonstrate mastery of the body of knowledge
• Greater than 10 years of relevant I.T. experience generally expected

For a full list of experience requirements and available application routes visit:

I.S.P. Routes: www.cips.ca/ispCriteria
Applications: www.cips.ca/applications

ITCP Routes: www.cips.ca/itcproutes
Applications: www.cips.ca/ITCPapplication

Don’t have enough experience for the I.S.P. or ITCP?

Work towards the I.S.P. by applying for Candidate Membership and raise your profile by demonstrating a commitment to professional development.

For more information, visit www.cips.ca/Candidate

“Professionalism is the foundation of quality; peer assessment is the foundation of Professionalism; My Internationally accredited CIPS certification allows me to stand and lead my students and colleagues from a professionally recognized foundation of quality. The pride I feel in earning this recognition is second only to my pride in my children.”

Dave O’Leary, I.S.P., ITCP
Chief Information Officer
Dean of Business, Computer Technology & Business Technology
Northwest Community College

“ITCP designations have provided my peers and clients with tangible affirmation of my commitments to IT professionalism”

Jay Payette, I.S.P., ITCP
Consultant
Accenture

Applications:

www.cips.ca/ISP

www.cips.ca/ITCP

www.cips.ca/ITCPapplication

www.cips.ca/Candidate

www.cips.ca/ITCPapplication

www.cips.ca/ITCProutes