

A practical guide to sequencing certifications by career stage and track — so you study what actually moves your job search forward.

Start here, regardless of track

- CompTIA Security+ (SY0-701) — the baseline most entry-level cyber job postings screen for. Broad, vendor-neutral fundamentals.
- Not sure which track yet? Security+ first, then use the tracks below to decide your next step based on what you enjoyed most while studying.

SOC / Blue Team track

- CompTIA Security+ -> Blue Team Level 1 (BTL1) or a SIEM vendor cert (Splunk/Sentinel) -> GIAC GCIH (incident handling) as you approach senior analyst.

Offensive Security / Pentest track

- CompTIA Security+ -> eJPT (entry-level, practical) -> OSCP (the credential most pentest job postings actually screen for; hands-on exam, not multiple choice).

GRC / Compliance track

- CompTIA Security+ -> ISO 27001 Foundation/Lead Implementer -> ISACA CRISC or CISM as you move toward risk-management or leadership roles.

Cloud Security track

- CompTIA Security+ -> AWS Certified Security – Specialty or Microsoft SC-200/SC-100 (pick the cloud your target employers actually run) -> CCSP as you reach senior level.

A NOTE ON COST AND PACING

Certification exam fees change — CompTIA and GIAC both raised prices in 2026. Check the vendor's official pricing page before budgeting, and don't stack more than one active certification study plan at a time; depth beats a long list of acronyms.

Want a roadmap built around your specific background and target role? Try the free Career Quiz or book a Career Consultation at lumashift.com.my.

Informational only — not legal, financial, or career advice. Use as guidance, validate against your situation.