MODULE 4 · FREE COURSE

Careers and Roles in Cybersecurity

The main career paths, what each role does, and how to find yours



Start Your Cybersecurity Career

In this module you will learn



The career map
Six broad areas of cybersecurity work



Key roles
What each role does day to day



Career paths
How people grow from entry level to senior



Finding your fit
Matching roles to your strengths

04

Module 4 of 8
Careers and Roles in Cybersecurity

About 20 minutes

The cybersecurity career map

Defend and respond

SOC analyst, incident responder, threat hunter

Test and attack

Penetration tester, red teamer, application security tester

Govern and manage risk

GRC analyst, security consultant, auditor

Build and engineer

Security engineer, cloud security engineer, architect

Investigate and analyse

Threat intelligence analyst, forensic investigator

Teach and lead

Awareness trainer, security manager, CISO

Key roles at a glance

Role	What you do	Key skills
SOC analyst	Monitor alerts, triage and escalate incidents	Networking, logs, calm analysis
Incident responder	Investigate and contain real attacks	Forensics, communication, pressure
Penetration tester	Test systems by attacking them legally	Web, networks, scripting, reporting
GRC analyst / consultant	Assess risk, write policies, support audits	NIST CSF, ISO 27001, clear writing
Security engineer	Build and run security tools and controls	Systems, cloud, automation
Threat intelligence analyst	Track attackers and their methods	Research, analysis, reporting

A day in the life: two different roles

SOC analyst		GRC consultant
Starts the shift by reviewing overnight alerts	→	Starts the day reviewing a client’s risk register
Triages a suspicious login from overseas	→	Maps current controls to ISO 27001 requirements
Escalates a confirmed phishing compromise	→	Runs a workshop on the incident response plan
Writes a short incident ticket and hands over	→	Presents findings and priorities to management

How careers grow



Entry

IT support, SOC analyst, junior tester

0–2 years

Mid-level

Incident responder, pentester, GRC analyst

2–5 years

Senior

Lead, consultant, architect

5–10 years

Leadership

Security manager, CISO

10+ years

Typical ranges only. Moves between areas are common and valuable.

Which role fits you?



You love solving puzzles under time pressure

Consider SOC analyst or incident responder



You enjoy breaking things to see how they work

Consider penetration testing or application security



You like structure, writing and explaining to people

Consider GRC, consulting or audit



You like building systems and automating work

Consider security or cloud security engineering

Quick check

1. Which role monitors alerts and triages incidents?

2. Which area of security focuses on risk, policies and audits?

3. Name one common entry-level role in cybersecurity.

Answers are in the lesson article.

Key takeaways

- Cybersecurity has room for many strengths: technical, analytical and people skills.
- Common entry points include IT support, SOC analyst and junior tester roles.
- Choose a direction, then build skills and certifications step by step.

Coming next: skills, certifications and getting your first job