MODULE 1

Governance, Risk & Compliance (GRC) Analyst Bootcamp

From Beginner to Job-Ready

Module 1: Introduction to Cybersecurity & GRC

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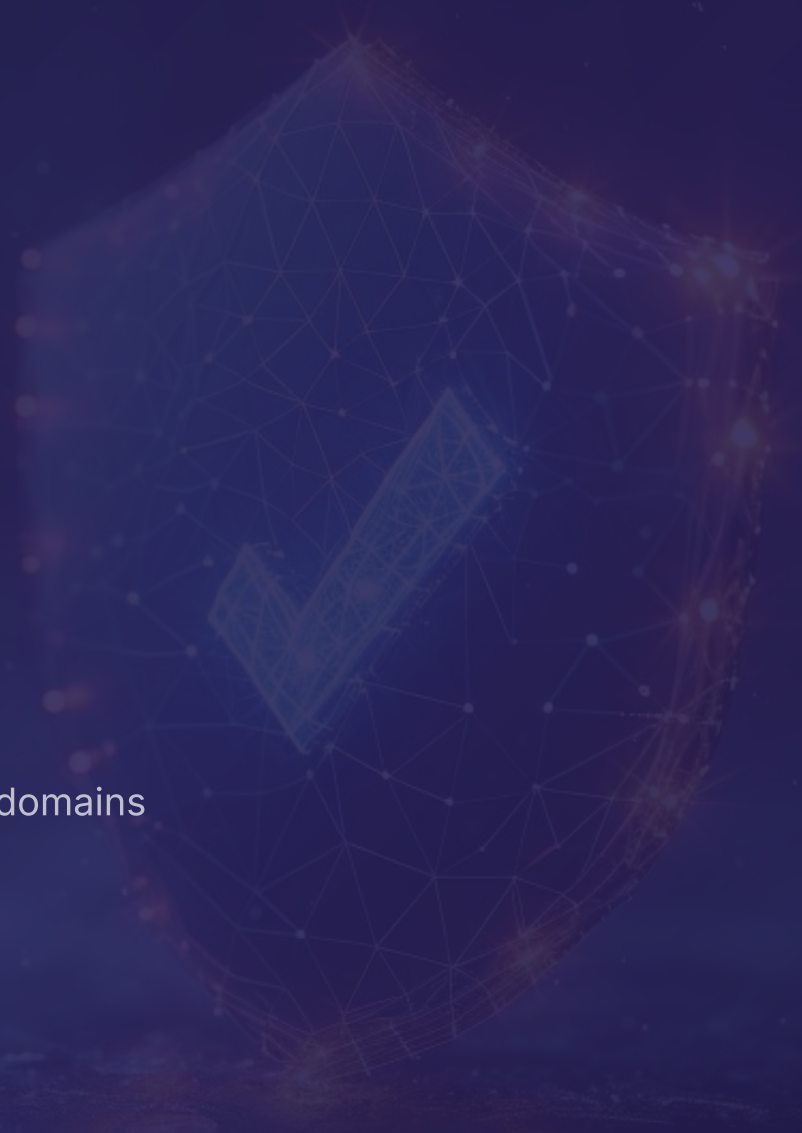
SECTION

Cybersecurity Foundations

Understanding the threat landscape and core domains



01

What is Cybersecurity?

Cybersecurity is the practice of protecting systems, networks, and programs from digital attacks. These cyberattacks usually aim to access, change, or destroy sensitive information; extort money from users; or interrupt normal business processes.

- Protects Confidentiality, Integrity, and Availability (CIA Triad)
- Defends against unauthorized access, data breaches, and cyber threats
- Encompasses technologies, processes, and people
- Critical in our increasingly digital world

The CIA Triad is the foundation of all cybersecurity programs and frameworks.

C Confidentiality I Integrity A Availability

The Cyber Threat Landscape

Malware

Malicious software including viruses, ransomware, spyware designed to damage or exploit systems.

Phishing

Deceptive emails or messages that trick users into revealing sensitive information.

Ransomware

Attacks that encrypt data and demand payment for decryption, costing billions annually.

Social Engineering

Manipulating people into breaking security procedures through psychological tactics.

DDoS Attacks

Overwhelming systems with traffic to disrupt services and cause downtime.

Insider Threats

Security risks from employees, contractors, or partners with inside access.

Core Cybersecurity Domains

Network Security
Protecting network infrastructure and traffic

Application Security
Securing software from vulnerabilities

Cloud Security
Protecting data and services in the cloud

Identity & Access
Managing identities and controlling access

Endpoint Security
Protecting laptops, phones, and servers

Data Security
Ensuring data confidentiality and privacy

Incident Response
Detecting and responding to incidents

Security Architecture
Designing secure systems and frameworks

Technical Roles vs. GRC Roles

Technical Security Roles

- Security Analyst
- Penetration Tester
- SOC Engineer
- Incident Responder
- Cloud Security Architect

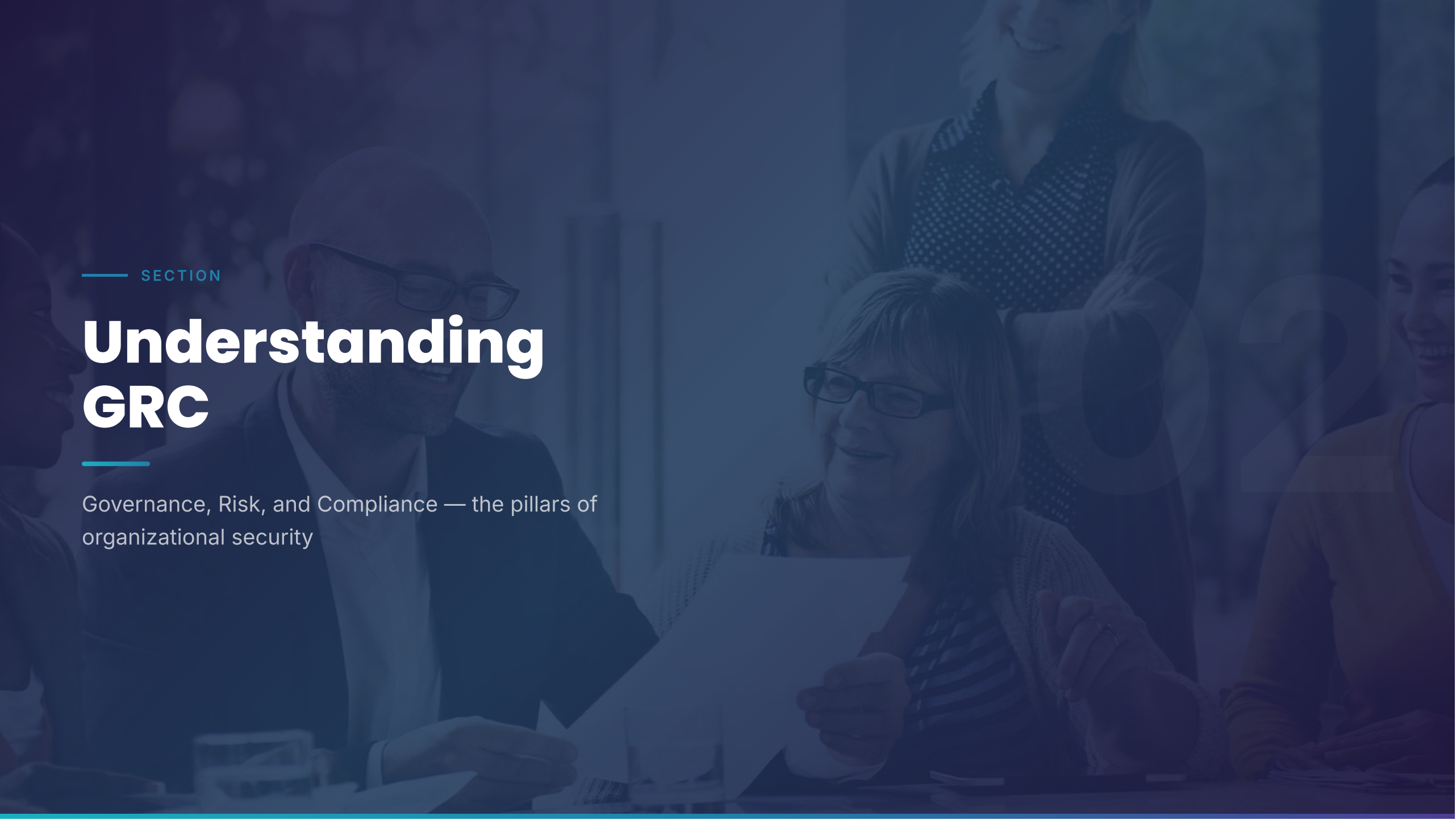
Focus: Hands-on defense, detection, and response

GRC Roles

- GRC Analyst
- Compliance Officer
- Risk Manager
- IT Auditor
- Policy Analyst

Focus: Governance frameworks, risk assessment, and regulatory compliance

Both career paths are essential — **GRC ensures the strategy**, **Technical implements the defense**.



SECTION

Understanding GRC

Governance, Risk, and Compliance — the pillars of organizational security

What is Governance?

Governance is the system of rules, practices, and processes by which an organization is directed and controlled. In cybersecurity, governance ensures that security strategies align with business objectives.

- Establishes accountability and decision-making authority
- Defines roles, responsibilities, and policies
- Ensures alignment between IT security and business goals
- Provides oversight for risk management and compliance
- Drives organizational culture around security

GRC HIERARCHY

G

Governance

R

Risk

C

Compliance

Governance sits at the top, setting strategy that guides risk and compliance activities.

Key Governance Frameworks

NIST CSF

National Institute of Standards and Technology Cybersecurity Framework: Identify, Protect, Detect, Respond, Recover.

COBIT

Control Objectives for Information and Related Technologies for IT governance.

ISO 27001

International standard for information security management systems.

COSO

Committee of Sponsoring Organizations framework for internal controls.

ITIL

IT Service Management best practices framework.

CMMC

Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification for defense contractors.

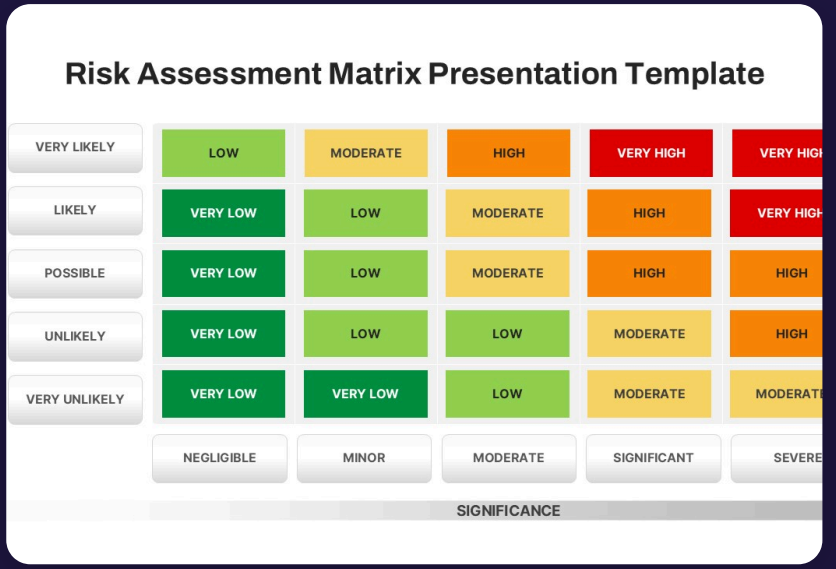
Organizations often adopt multiple frameworks based on industry requirements and regulatory needs.

What is Risk?

Risk is the potential for loss, damage, or harm when a threat exploits a vulnerability. Risk management identifies, assesses, and prioritizes risks to minimize their impact.

Risk = Threat × Vulnerability × Impact

- Risk is inherent in every business operation
- Not all risks can be eliminated — they must be managed
- Risk appetite defines the level of risk an organization accepts
- Effective risk management enables informed decision-making



Risk matrices help organizations visualize and prioritize threats based on likelihood and impact.

The Risk Management Process

1

IDENTIFY

Discover and document potential risks, threats, and vulnerabilities.

2

ASSESS

Evaluate likelihood and impact using qualitative and quantitative methods.

3

MITIGATE

Implement controls and safeguards to reduce risk to acceptable levels.

4

MONITOR

Continuously track risk indicators, control effectiveness, and emerging threats.

5

REPORT

Communicate risk status to stakeholders for informed decisions.

This is a continuous lifecycle — risk management never ends. Regular reassessment ensures the organization stays ahead of evolving threats.

What is Compliance?

Compliance is the act of conforming to laws, regulations, standards, and internal policies that govern how organizations handle data, protect privacy, and maintain security.

- Ensures organizations meet legal and regulatory requirements
- Protects organizations from penalties, fines, and legal action
- Builds trust with customers, partners, and stakeholders
- Requires continuous monitoring, auditing, and documentation
- Non-compliance can result in reputational damage and financial loss

COMPLIANCE BRIDGE

Governance

Strategy & Policy

Compliance

Operations

Execution & Controls

Compliance bridges governance strategy with day-to-day operations, ensuring policies are actually implemented.

Major Compliance Standards & Regulations

GDPR

EU / GLOBAL

General Data Protection Regulation: EU data privacy law with global impact, fines up to 4% of annual revenue.

HIPAA

UNITED STATES

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act: Protects patient health information in the US.

PCI DSS

GLOBAL

Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard: Secures credit card data processing.

SOX

UNITED STATES

Sarbanes-Oxley Act: Financial reporting and corporate governance for public companies.

SOC 2

UNITED STATES

Service Organization Control 2: Security, availability, and privacy controls for service providers.

ISO 27001

INTERNATIONAL

International information security management standard.

GRC analysts must understand which regulations apply to their industry and ensure ongoing compliance through audits and controls.

MODULE 1 • SECTION 03

GRC in Practice

Why organizations need GRC and how it drives business value

Why Organizations Need GRC

GRC is not optional — it is a business necessity.

01 **Regulatory Pressure**

Increasing laws and regulations require formal compliance programs.

02 **Cyber Threats**

Growing attack surface demands structured risk management.

03 **Business Reputation**

A single breach can destroy years of trust and brand value.

04 **Financial Protection**

Non-compliance fines can reach billions; GRC prevents costly violations.

05 **Stakeholder Trust**

Investors, customers, and partners demand security assurance.

06 **Operational Efficiency**

Integrated GRC reduces duplication and streamlines security operations.

The Benefits of Integrated GRC

Without GRC

- Siloed departments
- Reactive approach
- Inconsistent policies
- Missed compliance deadlines
- Higher costs from duplication
- Unmanaged risk exposure

With Integrated GRC

- Unified strategy and oversight
- Proactive risk management
- Standardized policies across the organization
- Automated compliance tracking
- Reduced costs through efficiency
- Clear risk visibility and reporting

Common GRC Implementation Challenges

Budget Constraints

Limited resources allocated to GRC programs and tools.

Complex Regulations

Navigating overlapping and evolving regulatory requirements.

Culture Resistance

Employees resisting new policies and compliance procedures.

Tool Overload

Too many disconnected GRC tools creating data silos.

Skills Gap

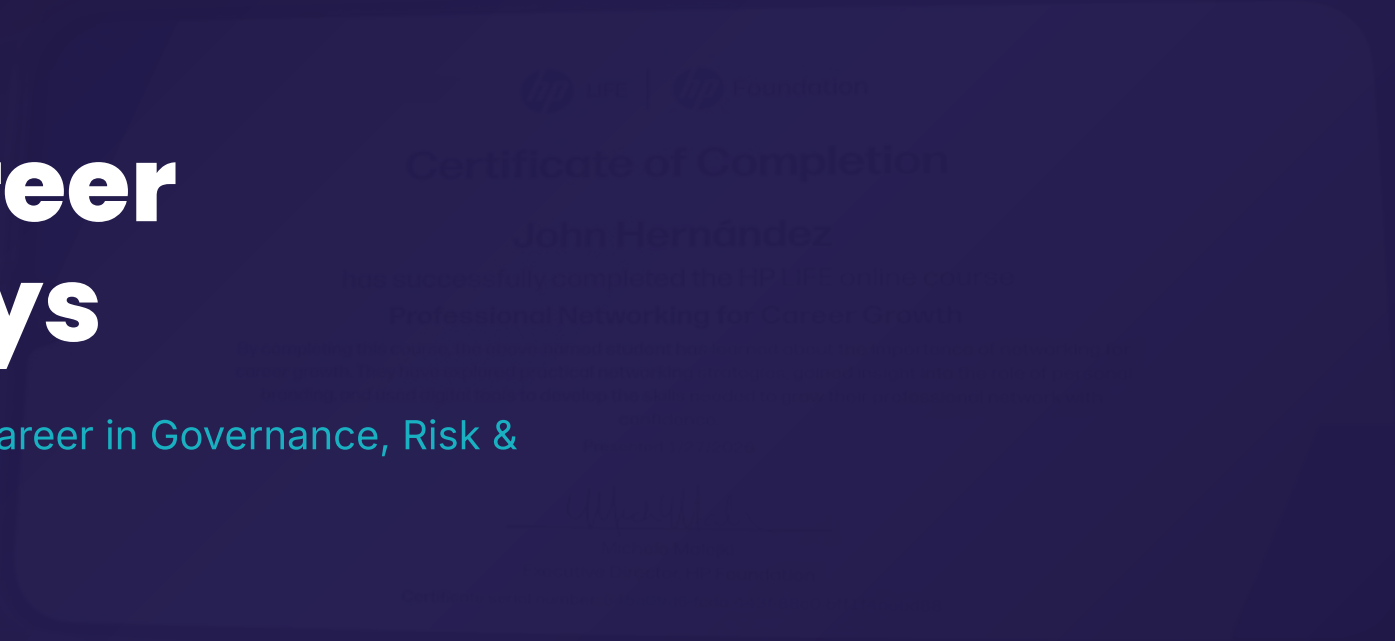
Shortage of qualified GRC professionals in the market.

Measuring ROI

Difficulty demonstrating the value and return on GRC investments.

GRC Career Pathways

Building a successful career in Governance, Risk & Compliance



GRC Career Progression

ENTRY LEVEL

GRC Analyst
IT Audit Associate
Compliance Analyst

- Policy documentation
- Control testing
- Compliance monitoring
- Risk assessments

MID LEVEL

Senior GRC Analyst
Risk Consultant
Compliance Manager

- Framework implementation
- Risk program mgmt
- Audit leadership
- Vendor assessments

SENIOR LEVEL

GRC Manager
Director of Compliance
VP of Risk

- Strategy development
- C-suite advisory
- Program oversight
- Regulatory relations

EXECUTIVE

Chief Risk Officer
Chief Compliance Officer

- Enterprise risk strategy
- Board reporting
- Org culture
- Regulatory leadership

Years of Experience →

Top GRC Certifications

CRISC
by ISACA

Focus: Risk management and information systems control

CISM
by ISACA

Focus: Security governance and program management

CISA
by ISACA

Focus: IT audit, control, and assurance

CISSP
by (ISC)²

Focus: Broad cybersecurity knowledge and architecture

CGRC
by ISC2

Focus: GRC principles and practices

ISO 27001 LA
Lead Auditor

Focus: Information security management system auditing

Building Your GRC Career — Action Plan

1

Build Foundation

Learn core concepts of IT, security, business, and regulations.

2

Get Certified

Start with CompTIA Security+, then pursue CRISC, CISM, or CISSP.

3

Gain Experience

Seek internships, junior GRC roles, or volunteer for audit projects.

4

Network

Join ISACA, $(ISC)^2$, and local cybersecurity communities.

5

Stay Current

Follow regulatory changes, emerging threats, and industry trends.

6

Specialize

Choose a focus: privacy, cloud security, financial services, or healthcare.

Module 1 — Key Takeaways

1. Cybersecurity protects systems, networks, and data from digital threats through the CIA Triad.
2. The cybersecurity landscape includes 8 core domains from network security to incident response.
3. GRC roles focus on strategy, policy, and oversight — complementing technical security roles.
4. Governance establishes the framework for organizational decision-making and accountability.
5. Risk management is a continuous process of identifying, assessing, mitigating, and monitoring risks.
6. Compliance ensures adherence to laws like GDPR, HIPAA, PCI DSS, and SOX.

MODULE 1 COMPLETE

Thank You

Module 1 Complete — You Are One Step Closer to Being Job-Ready

→ **Up Next: Module 2 — Information Security Fundamentals**

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