FORTINET Training Institute

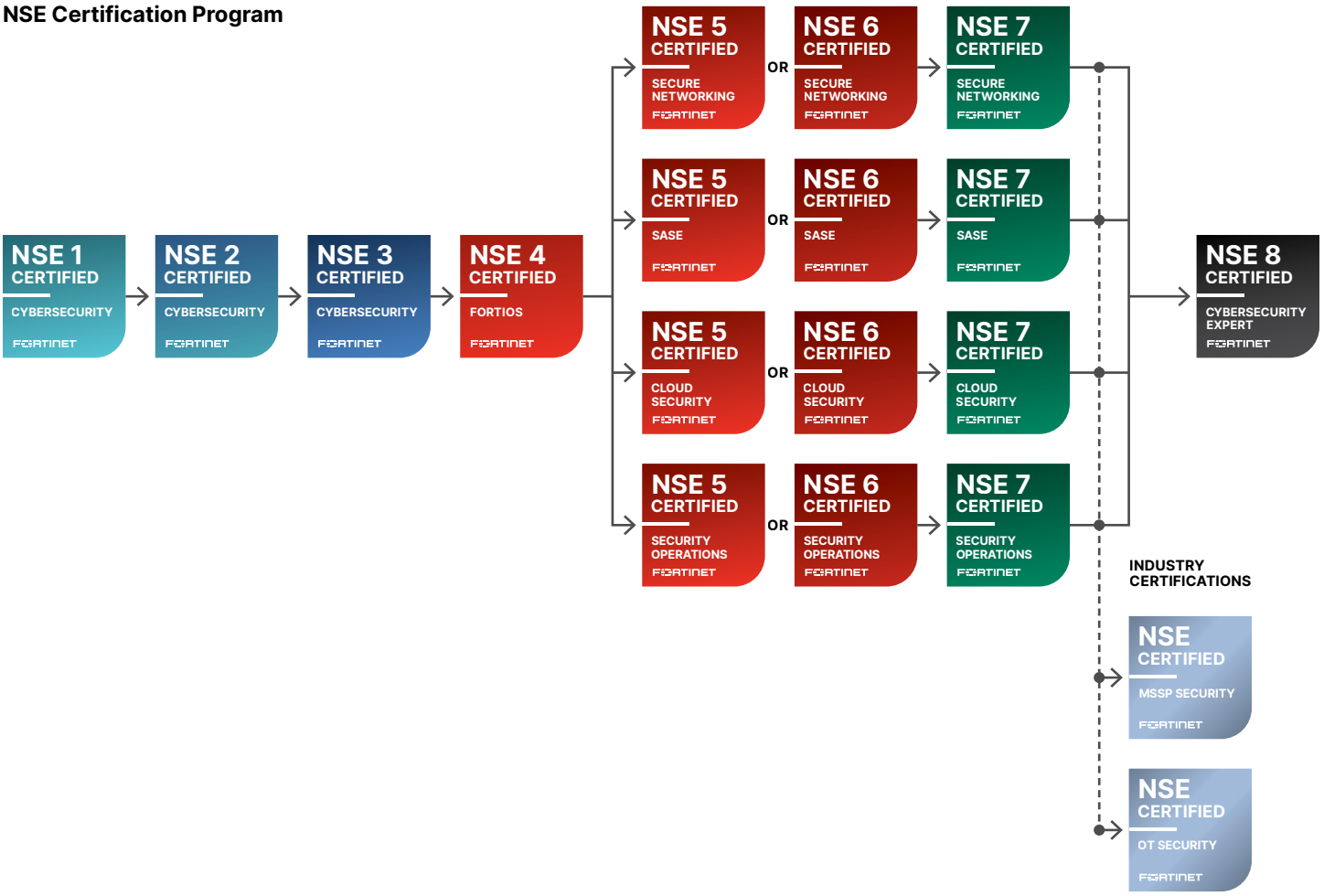
NSE Certification Program

2026 Program Updates | Effective July 15, 2026

KEY UPDATES

- Moving from 5 certification levels to 8
- Creation of industry certifications outside the 8-level structure
- Maintain four training tracks across some levels: Secure Networking, Security Operations, Cloud Security, and SASE
- All certifications will be valid for two years
- New requirements and recertification rules
- Reintroducing on-site practical exams at the NSE 8 level
- Expand the eligible products for earning a certification

NSE Certification Program



Fortinet NSE Certification Program

Certification	Requirements (must be active certifications)	Core Exam	Elective Exams
NSE 8	**Prerequisites** ▪ NSE 4 certification ▪ NSE 5 or NSE 6 certification ▪ NSE 7 (same track as NSE 5 or NSE 6) **Exams** ▪ NSE 8 core exam ▪ Pass one NSE 8 elective exam	▪ NSE 8 Core	▪ Secure Networking ▪ Application Security ▪ Security Operaations

Certification	Requirements (must be active certifications)	Secure Networking	SASE	Cloud Security	Security Operations
NSE 7	**Prerequisites** ▪ NSE 4 certification ▪ NSE 5 or NSE 6 certification (same track) **Exam** ▪ Pass one NSE 7 proctored exam	▪ Secure Networking Architect	▪ SASE Architect	▪ Public Cloud Security Architect	▪ Security Operations Architect
NSE 6	**Prerequisites** ▪ NSE 4 certification **Exams** ▪ Pass one NSE 6 proctored exam	▪ FortiAnalyzer Administrator ▪ FortiManager Administrator ▪ FortiNAC Administrator ▪ FortiVoice Administrator	▪ FortiClient EMS Administrator ▪ FortiDLP Administrator ▪ FortiEDR Administrator	▪ FortiCNAPP Analyst ▪ FortiDDoS Administrator ▪ FortiMail Administrator ▪ FortiMail Workspace Security Administrator	▪ FortiDeceptor Administrator ▪ FortiNDR Cloud Analyst ▪ FortiRecon Analyst ▪ FortiSIEM Analyst ▪ FortiSOAR Analyst
NSE 5	**Prerequisites** ▪ NSE 4 certification **Exam** ▪ Pass one NSE 5 proctored exam	▪ FortiSwitch Administrator ▪ SD-WAN Core Administrator ▪ Secure Wireless LAN Administrator	▪ SASE and SD-WAN Core Administrator	▪ FortiAppSec Cloud Administrator ▪ FortiADC Administrator ▪ FortiWeb Administrator	▪ FortiAnalyzer Analyst
NSE 4	Pass the NSE 4 proctored exam	▪ FortiOS Administrator			
NSE 3	**Requirement** ▪ Complete online course **Exam** ▪ Pass online exam	▪ FortiGate Operator			
NSE 2	Complete the online course	▪ Introduction to Next Generation Firewall			
NSE 1	Complete the online course	▪ Cybersecurity and Cloud Fundamentals			

Industry Certifications		
MSSP Security	**Prerequisites** ▪ NSE 4 certification ▪ NSE 5 or NSE 6 certification ▪ NSE 7 certification (same track as NSE 5 or NSE 6) **Exam** ▪ Pass proctored MSSP exam	▪ MSSP Security Administrator ▪ MSSP Security Architect
OT Security	**Prerequisites** ▪ NSE 4 certification ▪ NSE 5 or NSE 6 certification ▪ NSE 7 certification (same track as NSE 5 or NSE 6) **Exam** ▪ Pass proctored OT exam	▪ OT Security Architect

Recertification Requirements

The chart below outlines the updated recertification requirements. **All prerequisite certifications must be active.**

Certification	Pre-requisites for renewing the certification	How to renew the certification	This certification renews the following certifications[1]
NSE 8	▪ NSE 4 certification ▪ NSE 5 or NSE 6 certification ▪ NSE 7 certification (same track as NSE 5 or NSE 6)	▪ 200 points[3]	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7[2]
NSE 7	▪ NSE 4 certification ▪ NSE 5 or NSE 6 certification (same track as the NSE 7)	▪ Complete the recertification assessment[4] if the proctored exam is less than 2 years old **or** ▪ Pass the proctored exam	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (same track), and 6 (same track)
NSE 6	NSE 4 certification	▪ Complete the recertification assessment[4] if the last proctored exam is less than 2 years old **or** ▪ Pass the proctored exam	1, 2, and 3
NSE 5	NSE 4 certification	▪ Complete the recertification assessment[4] if the last proctored exam is less than 2 years old **or** ▪ Pass the proctored exam	1, 2, and 3
NSE 4	None	▪ Complete the recertification assessment[4] if the proctored exam is less than 2 years old **or** ▪ Pass the proctored exam	1, 2, and 3
NSE 3	None	▪ Complete the course **and** ▪ Pass the online exam	1 and 2
NSE 2	None	Complete the course	1
NSE 1	None	Complete the course	None
Industry Certifications	▪ NSE 4 certification ▪ NSE 5 or NSE 6 certification ▪ NSE 7 certification (same track as the NSE 5 or NSE 6)	▪ Complete the recertification assessment[4] if the exam is not more than 2 years old **or** ▪ Pass the proctored exam	None

[1] Only active certifications are renewed.
[2] NSE 1–7 certifications are renewed only when any NSE 8 practical exam is passed.
[3] Maintaining an active NSE 7 certification adds to the points requirement—view Activity Points table on next page.
[4] You have the option to complete the recertification assessment when available; otherwise, complete the proctored exam. The recertification assessment is a subsequent version of the proctored exam.

Certification Program Transition

See examples of how previous certifications transition to the new NSE Certification program. Click here.

Previous Certification	New NSE 8 Certification
FCX (active)	Awarded NSE 8
FCSS (active)	Awarded NSE 6 or NSE 7 based on the certification mapping and historical exams (regardless of exam date)
FCP (active)	Awarded NSE 4, NSE 5, or NSE 6 based on the certification mapping and historical exams (regardless of exam date)
FCA (active)	Awarded NSE 3
FCF (active)	Awarded NSE 1 and NSE 2

Learn more about certification transitions. Click here.

Recent Exam

Recent Exams	New NSE Certification
Passed the OT Security Architect exam within the last two years[1]	Awarded the OT Security Industry Certification
Passed an NSE 4–7 exam within the last two years[1] that aligns with the updated certification requirements	Awarded the corresponding NSE Certification

[1] Passed the exam on or after July 15, 2024.

Learn how eligible exams transition to the new NSE certifications. Click here.

NSE 8 Recertification Activity Points

Recertification is achieved by earning activity points across eligible exams, training, beta participation, and content contributions. The table below outlines qualifying activities and their associated point values.

Category	Activity	Points	Cap
Exams	▪ Passing an NSE 4 / NSE 5 / NSE 6 exam ▪ Passing an NSE 7 exam ▪ Passing an Industry exam ▪ Passing any NSE 8 practical exam	50 75 75 200[1]	
Training	▪ Completing eligible NSE 4 / NSE 5 / NSE 6 training courses ▪ Completing eligible NSE 7 training courses	3/hour 4/hour	75
	▪ Completing eligible NSE 7 recertification assessments	50	50
Beta Testing	▪ Participating in an NSE 8 beta practical exam ▪ Participating in NSE 4–7 beta written exams	50 20	
Content	▪ Submitting an NSE written question (any level) ▪ Submitting an NSE 8 practical task ▪ Participate in Job Task Analysis ▪ Reviewing exam questions (any level)	3 5 5 5	30 50 20 20

[1] Recertifies all NSE 1–7 active certifications.

Additional information on renewing your NSE 8 certification. Click here.

For detailed information on all updates

For all FAQs

FAQs

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