

# ***Introduction to the*** **Certified Software Development Professional Program**

Join other professionals in participating in the new IEEE Computer Society's Certified Software Development Professional (CSDP) program, intended for individuals with 5 or more years of experience. The CSDP credential offers these benefits:

- Demonstrates your understanding of software engineering knowledge and practice.
- Makes a statement that you possess specialized skills and expertise.
- Gives you access to the latest information in the field that will help you perform at your best.
- Shows your commitment to expanding your knowledge to handle increased responsibilities.
- Differentiates between you and others in a field that has every kind of credential, but only one comprehensive IEEE Computer Society professional certification that was developed by, for, and with software engineering professionals.

## ***Why Certification is Important***

The explosion of technology advancements created an explosion in certification programs - many directed to computer professionals as well as to millions of technicians. The need to transform knowledge into performance and competitive advantage spurred the growth of certification.

On the front lines of this fast-moving, rapidly evolving scenario are software engineering professionals who have witnessed a handful of certifications offered in the 1960's grow to more than 2000 by software companies and vendor-independent organizations.

As the art, science, engineering, and technology of software advanced into the 1990's, the need for a credential, of the highest value and distinction, became evident.

After more than three years of extensive research in the field among professionals, employers and their customers, the leaders of the IEEE Computer Society realized that the time had come to develop and offer the Certified Software Development Professional (CSDP) designation.

Professional certification has three critical components:

- Exam-based testing demonstrating mastery of a Body of Knowledge (BOK);
- Extensive experience base in the performance of the work or profession being certified; and
- Continuing professional education, measured and relevant to the BOK.

The IEEE Computer Society certification is the only software development professional certification that has all of these critical support components and carries the mark of the IEEE Computer Society, which has been active in developing software engineering standards for more than 20 years. Collectively, the IEEE standards make up the practice standards for software engineers. This certification program is part of the society's larger effort to provide education and certification services to the software engineering community.



***Doing Software Right™***

Many software vendors, training companies and vendor-independent groups have created their own brand of certification since the 1960s. When the rapidly emerging field of computer technology began to experience exponential growth in the 1980s more than 200 different certifications emerged. Computing professionals now face a complex and confusing array of choices for determining and demonstrating competence.

The credential is a primary certification because it is the only one administered and endorsed by the IEEE Computer Society, which is the only professional society in the world that has provided the highest levels of leadership and expertise needed to unify software engineering standards in the field.

There's no better time than today to complete the CSDP examination application and discover the IEEE Computer Society's commitment to your lifelong learning.