# Transcript: IT Pod - EP 159 - C725 Information Security and Assurance with Erin Linnert

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Speaker #1: Nora

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Speaker #2: Erin Linnert

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Nora

Today I have senior instructor Erin Linnert from the MSCSIA program with me to talk about C725, information security and assurance. Erin, hi, welcome.

Erin

Hi, Nora. How are you?

Nora

I am great. How are you?

Erin

I'm doing pretty good.

Nora

Well, I'm excited to hear you talk to me about C725.

Erin

Yes.

Nora

What's your course about?

Erin

C725 is information security and assurance. Really, it's a foundational course. It explores the many aspects of information security. By the end of the course, the student can really fit this together and understand the importance of having a strong layered security defense. Students will show competency in three areas by the end of the class, policy standards and procedures, security principles, and risk management principles.

Nora

Awesome. What are the resources that you use in this course?

Erin

We have a couple of resources that we use, and one our newest is a cohort series that I'm offering. It's called C725 current events. We map current events back to C725 last week we spoke about killware. It was pretty exciting.

Nora

It is exciting.

Erin

Yes. We also utilized a textbook called Information Security: Principles and Practices. We heavily utilized the CISSP study guide and we also link Pluralsight videos throughout the class.

Nora

Nice. Sounds like you have a solid line up there.

Erin

We do.

Nora

But what are some common barriers that students can run up against?

Erin

Many aspects of the CISSP domain are addressed in this class. It's quite a bit of material. Students really need to follow along with the pacing guide. They need to be taking detailed notes, use all their course resources, and I always think making your own flashcards helps quite a bit. I love that too.

Nora

Yeah. If you write it down, there is a correlation.

Erin

There is a correlation between writing something down and remembering it. I tell my students all the time.

Nora

So true. Just the act of writing it down helps. Encourage students make their own flashcards. We also have quite a few practice tests out there that students can utilize in the weeks before the exam to identify any gaps that they need to fill before testing.

Erin

Great. What's the topic in this course that students typically ask about?

Nora

We have students come in from all experience levels. Some are STEM students new to IT. Others have been working in the industry for quite some time. For our STEM students, this may be their real first look into guidelines, standards, and regulations. I usually help explain the difference between the three. I give examples so it really sinks in. We sometimes also discuss risk assessments and secure network design too.

Erin

Very nice. That's the information you would cover if a student booked one-on-one time with you.

Nora

Yes. We'd cover that. I'd also talk with the student about their personal experience in the field and try to personalize their timeline and their pacing, and we'd speak about how to use all the resources to ensure they succeed. Outstanding. How does this course fit in with the other courses in the MSCSIA program?

Erin

This class is foundational. It does cover quite a bit of material, but it really ensures the student succeeds in the MSCSIA program. The student focuses and completes the work for this class and reviews all the resources. They should be pretty successful in the remainder of their program.

Nora

Great. Okay. What type of test is this? What type of assessment is it?

Erin

It is an objective assessment. It is a 120 minutes and it's 70 multiple-choice questions.

Nora

No performance-based questions?

Erin

Nope, not for this class.

Nora

Very nice. Will you give us your top tips for this exam, one in particular should students watch out for?

Erin

The most common feedback is that questions can be worded a little tricky. There may be two answers that are similar to the right and the student has used the keywords to pick the right answer. I would use those best practices and multiple choice test-taking from students success, complete a brain dump, answer the questions you immediately know the answer to, skip over those who don't, and then work your way back through those that you skipped. But never second guess yourself. Go with your gut.

Nora

Yeah, totally agree. What do you find exciting about this course?

Erin

Goodness. The ever-changing field of cybersecurity, all the events in the news. I think it's the place to be right now.

Nora

It's constant, isn't it?

Erin

Right. [inaudible 00:05:01] Exactly. There's so many openings out there in the workforce and I think that cybersecurity is just going to continue to play a role in everyone's life.

Nora

What jobs does this course specifically and the Masters of Science help prepare students for?

Erin

That can really range. We do have STEM students coming in and they're leaving the program going into maybe their first information security specialist position. We have other students who are CIOs or are in management.

Nora

Very nice. Well, what other things do you think students need to know about this course, about C725? They just need to know that by the end of the class they'll have mastered quite a bit of the CISSP material, and it really paved the way for success in the program. Excellent. Well, Erin, thanks so much for being here with me today. I really appreciate your time and thanks to our listeners too. Be sure to check out other episodes at the IT Audio Series. Thanks and have a great day.

Erin

Thank you, Nora.

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