Cisco 300-720 SESA 2026: Email Security Administration

Cisco 300-720 SESA 2026. Administer Cisco Secure Email, phishing protection, DLP, encryption, and Office 365 integration.

IT Certifications Instructor: Jason Miller • 5 sections • 43 lessons • 13.50h total

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About this course

Preparing for the Cisco 300-720 SESA exam can feel overwhelming with the volume of features and configurations. This course cuts through the noise to give you a practical, hands-on path to administering Cisco Secure Email. We focus on the skills you need to configure, manage, and troubleshoot the platform, preparing you for both the exam and your daily job.

You will learn how to configure core email security policies, implement phishing and spam protection, and integrate with cloud services like Office 365. The course includes video walkthroughs, downloadable configuration checklists, and real case studies covering DLP, encryption, and reporting.

Course curriculum

Foundations and Preparation

- Understanding the 2026 SESA Exam Blueprint (12m)
  We'll break down the official exam topics, so you know exactly what to focus on. Get a clear map of the key domains and weighting.
- Cisco Secure Email Architecture Overview (18m)
  Learn how the different components of the Secure Email portfolio fit together. This foundational lesson sets the stage for everything else.
- Initial Setup: Your First 30 Minutes in the Console (22m)
  A step-by-step guide to accessing and navigating the Management Console. We'll cover essential settings and the dashboard.
- Defining Your Network and Hosts (15m)
  How to configure network hosts, SMTP routes, and destination domains. A practical look at getting mail flowing correctly.
- Key Concepts: Mail Flow, Listeners, and Relays (28m)
  A problem-solving session on the core mechanics of how the ESA receives and processes email. We'll demystify listeners and relay behavior.
- Service Management: Starting and Stopping Processes (9m)
  A quick, practical guide to managing the services on your ESA. Learn how to apply changes without disrupting mail flow.
- Using the CLI for Basic Administration (25m)
  While the GUI is great, the CLI is powerful. We'll cover essential CLI commands for monitoring and basic configuration.
- Downloadable: SESA Exam Prep Checklist (5m)
  A handy checklist summarizing the key terms and concepts from this section. Perfect for a quick review before moving on.

Core Security Policies and Threat Defense

- Configuring Sender Reputation Filters (SRS) (19m)
  Learn how to use SRS to proactively block malicious senders. We'll show you how to tune settings to avoid false positives.
- Implementing IronPort Anti-Spam (IPAS) (23m)
  A deep dive into the IPAS engine. We'll cover how it analyzes messages and how to interpret its scoring.
- Blocking Viruses and Malware with Sophos and McAfee (16m)
  Step-by-step instructions for configuring and updating the built-in antivirus engines to catch the latest threats.
- Content Filters: From Simple to Advanced (32m)
  This is a big one. We'll build content filters together, using regex and conditions to identify and act on specific email patterns.

- Handling Outbreaks with Virus and Spam Quarantines (14m)
  How to manage quarantined messages effectively. We'll cover admin and user quarantine setups and release procedures.
- Configuring Message Filters for Advanced Control (27m)
  Go beyond basic content filtering. Learn to write message filters for granular control over mail flow and policy enforcement.
- Real Case Study: Stopping a CEO Fraud Attack (20m)
  We'll analyze a real-world Business Email Compromise (BEC) attack and show you the exact ESA policies to stop it.
- Implementing Graymail Management (11m)
  Learn what graymail is and how to configure the ESA to give users control over marketing emails without blocking them outright.
- Troubleshooting Session: Why Was This Email Blocked? (26m)
  A hands-on session where we use logs and tracking to diagnose why a specific message was rejected or quarantined.

Email Authentication and Encryption

- How SPF Works and How to Configure It (17m)
  A plain-English explanation of SPF. We'll cover how to set it up on the ESA and troubleshoot common setup errors.
- Implementing DKIM Signing and Verification (24m)
  Step-by-step guide to generating keys, publishing DNS records, and enabling DKIM on the ESA for outbound mail.
- Understanding and Enabling DMARC (21m)
  We'll walk through DMARC policies, from monitoring mode to full enforcement, to protect your domain from spoofing.
- Configuring TLS for Secure Mail Transport (19m)
  Learn how to set up TLS sender and recipient groups to ensure mail is encrypted in transit with key partners.
- Using Enforced TLS for Stricter Security (13m)
  The difference between optional and enforced TLS. We'll show you when to use each setting for maximum security.
- Introduction to Email Encryption: CRES and External Services (22m)
  An overview of Cisco's Content Encryption Service and how to integrate with third-party encryption providers.
- Practical Lab: Setting Up End-to-End Encryption (35m)
  A full lab where we configure a policy to encrypt emails containing sensitive data and verify the process from sender to recipient.

Advanced Data Protection and Compliance

- What is DLP? An Introduction to Data Loss Prevention (15m)
  We'll break down DLP concepts and why they're critical for compliance. No jargon, just practical explanations.

- Configuring Outbound Spam and Virus Scanning (10m)
  Don't forget about threats leaving your network. Learn how to scan outbound mail to prevent compromised accounts from sending malware.
- Building Your First DLP Policy (29m)
  A step-by-step guide to creating a DLP policy from scratch. We'll use pre-built dictionaries and create custom ones.
- Using Message Labels for Compliance (12m)
  Learn how to automatically add headers, footers, or subject-line tags to emails that match certain policies.
- Configuring the Content Scanner for File Types and Sizes (18m)
  How to block or quarantine emails based on attachment types, file sizes, and archive contents.
- Handling False Positives in DLP (16m)
  DLP can be noisy. We'll show you how to use exceptions and policy tuning to reduce false positives and user complaints.
- Real Case Study: Preventing a Credit Card Data Leak (21m)
  A detailed walkthrough of a scenario where an employee tries to email a list of credit card numbers, and how DLP stops it.
- Generating Compliance and Audit Reports (25m)
  Learn which reports to run for compliance audits, how to schedule them, and how to interpret the data for management.
- Downloadable: DLP Policy Tuning Guide (6m)
  A quick-reference guide with tips and best practices for refining your DLP policies over time.

Integration, Reporting, and Final Prep

- Integrating with Office 365 and G Suite (31m)
  A comprehensive guide to using the Email Security application for cloud mailboxes. Covers connector setup and authentication.
- Understanding and Using Message Tracking (23m)
  Your most powerful troubleshooting tool. We'll master the message tracking interface to follow a message's entire journey.
- Setting Up SNMP and System Alerts (14m)
  How to configure the ESA to send alerts to your monitoring system when something goes wrong.
- Using System Logs for Deep Diagnostics (26m)
  We'll dive into the various system logs (mail_logs, event_logs) and show you how to filter and read them effectively.
- Backup and Restore Configuration (12m)
  A critical but often overlooked skill. Learn how to safely back up your ESA configuration and restore it if needed.
- Firmware Upgrades and Best Practices (18m)
  A step-by-step walkthrough of the upgrade process, including pre-checks and rollback planning.
- Centralized Management with SMA (Overview) (15m)
  An introduction to the Security Management Appliance and how it simplifies managing multiple ESAs.

- Final Exam Review: Key Topics and Acronyms (28m)
  A final review session covering the most critical topics and common exam questions for the 300-720 SESA.
- Practice Exam Strategy and Study Plan (11m)
  We'll share a strategy for using practice exams effectively and a final study plan to get you ready for exam day.
- Course Wrap-Up and Your Next Steps (7m)
  A quick summary of what you've accomplished and recommendations for continuing your journey in email security.

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