

Ontario Cybersecurity Higher Education Consortium: Collaboration and Community-Driven Cybersecurity

ON-CHEC Overview

ORION recognizes that today’s dynamic higher education environment demands a proactive approach to cybersecurity. Rising cyber threats, budget constraints, limited cybersecurity talent, and organizational complexities make it difficult for many institutions to adequately secure their environments.

The Ontario Cybersecurity Higher Education Consortium (ON-CHEC) addresses these challenges head-on by offering cost-effective guidance, programs, and shared tools. Through active collaboration, security leaders gain timely insights and the resources they need to navigate evolving risks and maintain business continuity.

Built as a consortium of Ontario colleges and universities supported by ORION, this service offers tiered membership levels designed to match diverse needs and budgets – making expert security support accessible to institutions of all sizes.

Through community-driven knowledge sharing and delivering tailored advisory services, ON-CHEC empowers members to enhance risk awareness, strengthen incident readiness, and collaboratively raise the collective cybersecurity posture of higher education. From the fair and accessible pricing model to the co-created frameworks and shared solutions, our approach is grounded in helping each member safeguard their institution while supporting the security of the broader community.

Building Resilience Through Core and Credit-Eligible Services

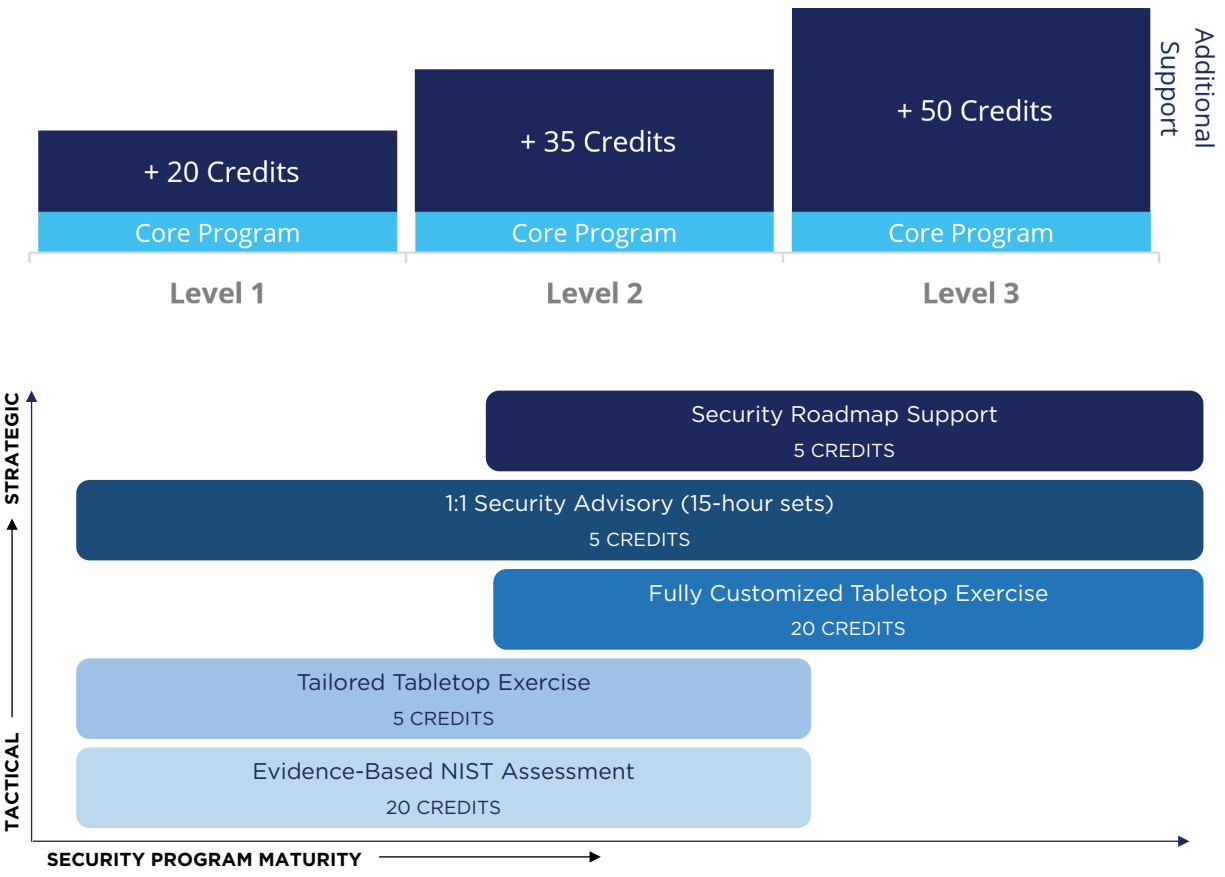
As part of your ON-CHEC membership, you have access to both our core program and credit-eligible services, each designed to enhance your security posture and strengthen the community’s collective cyber resilience.

Every tier provides a set number of credits you can apply toward these credit-eligible services, allowing you to tailor your experience and address specific needs within your institution.

	Feature	Benefit
Core Program	Guidance through Security Alerts and Advisories	Timely alerts and advisories on emerging cybersecurity threats, ensuring proactive risk management and mitigation.
	Weekly Threat Intelligence Meetings	Receive actionable threat intelligence and expert advice on risk mitigation strategies.
	Community Calls and Cybersecurity Incident Debriefs	Regular community calls and incident debriefs provide a platform for members to share insights, lessons learned, and best practices in cybersecurity incident response.
	Monthly Webinars	Featuring industry experts and thought leaders, covering a wide range of topics such as cybersecurity trends, best practices, and emerging technologies.
	Strategic Support for National Cybersecurity Assessment (NCA) Participation	Guidance in understanding and interpreting NCA results, leveraging data to inform the creation of strategic roadmaps, and ensuring a proactive approach to cybersecurity readiness and resilience.
	Annual ON-CHEC Day Event	Key topics provide members with valuable insights and strategies for enhancing cyber resilience.
	Cybersecurity Frameworks and Policy Templates	Access to sample cybersecurity frameworks and policy templates tailored specifically for higher education institutions, facilitating the development of robust cybersecurity programs.
	ON-CHEC Support Network	The Power of Shared Experience: ON-CHEC team is ready to connect you with a community of peers who share similar challenges and can offer unique support.
Credit-Eligible Services	Incident Response Readiness	Tabletop Exercise: Tailored or Fully Customized
	Security Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evidence-Based NIST Assessment• Security Roadmap Support• 1:1 Security Advisory

Membership Options: Maximize Value with Our Credit-Eligible Tiers

ON-CHEC offers three distinct tiers – Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 – ensuring every institution finds the right fit for its unique objectives and budget. Each tier includes our core program plus a varying number of credits that can be applied to credit-eligible services, giving you flexible, cost-effective choices.*



*Credits must be used within the program term and cannot be carried over or refunded.

Invest in Security with Confidence

Explore our 2025-2026 fees table to determine the best tier for your institution's needs.

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Full-Time Enrolment* <40,000	CAD 18,417	CAD 30,695	CAD 42,973
Full-Time Enrolment* >40,000	CAD 24,556	CAD 36,834	CAD 49,112

*Full-Time Enrolment of the Institution as reported by the Institution to the province of Ontario



How to Get Started

Contact our Community Engagement team to discuss the right membership tier for your institution: communitydev@orion.on.ca