Plan your AWS Certification Journey

Which AWS Certification should I start with?

New to IT and Cloud

From a non-IT background, switching to a cloud career?

Start with: AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner that validates foundational knowledge of AWS Cloud and terminology.

Outcome: Positions you for entry-level cloud jobs and to earn additional AWS Certifications.

Line-of-Business Roles

In sales/marketing or other business roles?

Start with: AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner that validates foundational knowledge of AWS Cloud and terminology.

Outcome: Better communication and collaboration on cloud with stakeholders and customers.

IT Professionals

Do you have 1-3 years of IT or STEM background?

Start with: An Associate-level AWS Certification that aligns with your role or interests.

Outcome: Validation of AWS Cloud knowledge and skills, confidence, and credibility to build your cloud career.

AWS Certification Paths

Below are top cloud job roles, role responsibilities, and AWS Certification paths aligned with those roles. Select the role(s) you are interested in and get started or continue your AWS Certification journey to achieve your career goals. *Note: AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner is an optional step for candidates with an IT or STEM background.*
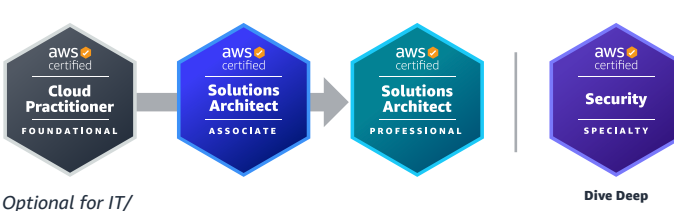
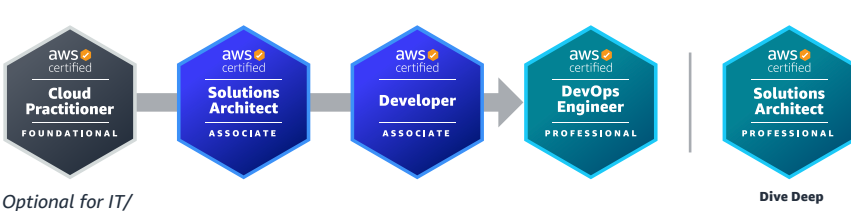| Roles and responsibilities	AWS Certification paths

Architecture

Solutions architect

Design, develop, and manage cloud infrastructure and assets, work with DevOps to migrate applications to the cloud.

Cloud Practitioner (FOUNDATIONAL) → Solutions Architect (ASSOCIATE) → Solutions Architect (PROFESSIONAL) → Security (SPECIALTY) — Dive Deep
Optional for IT/ cloud professionals
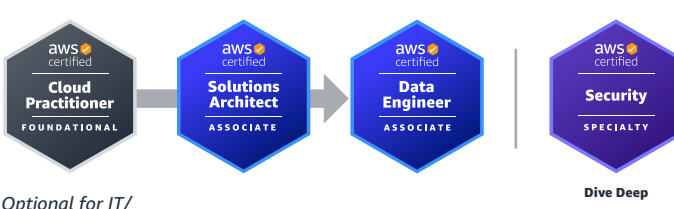
Application architect

Design significant aspects of application architecture including user interface, middleware, and infrastructure, and ensure enterprise-wide scalable, reliable, and manageable systems.
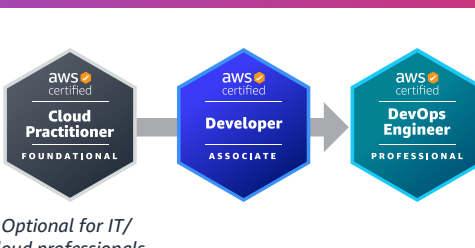
Cloud Practitioner (FOUNDATIONAL) → Solutions Architect (ASSOCIATE) → Developer (ASSOCIATE) → DevOps Engineer (PROFESSIONAL) → Solutions Architect (PROFESSIONAL) — Dive Deep
Optional for IT/ cloud professionals

Data Analytics

Cloud data engineer

Automate collection and processing of structured/semi-structured data and monitor data pipeline performance.

Cloud Practitioner (FOUNDATIONAL) → Solutions Architect (ASSOCIATE) → Data Engineer (ASSOCIATE) → Security (SPECIALTY) — Dive Deep
Optional for IT/ cloud professionals

Development

Software development engineer

Develop, construct, and maintain software across platforms and devices.

Cloud Practitioner (FOUNDATIONAL) → Developer (ASSOCIATE) → DevOps Engineer (PROFESSIONAL)
Optional for IT/ cloud professionals

Operations

Systems administrator

Install, upgrade, and maintain computer components and software, and integrate automation processes.

Cloud Practitioner (FOUNDATIONAL) → SysOps Administrator (ASSOCIATE) → DevOps Engineer (PROFESSIONAL) — Dive Deep
Optional for IT/ cloud professionals

Cloud engineer

Implement and operate an organization's networked computing infrastructure and Implement security systems to maintain data safety.

Cloud Practitioner (FOUNDATIONAL) → SysOps Administrator (ASSOCIATE) → Security (SPECIALTY) → DevOps Engineer (PROFESSIONAL) → Advanced Networking (SPECIALTY) — Dive Deep
Optional for IT/ cloud professionals

DevOps

Test engineer

Embed testing and quality best practices for software development from design to release, throughout the product life cycle.

Cloud Practitioner (FOUNDATIONAL) → Developer (ASSOCIATE) → DevOps Engineer (PROFESSIONAL)
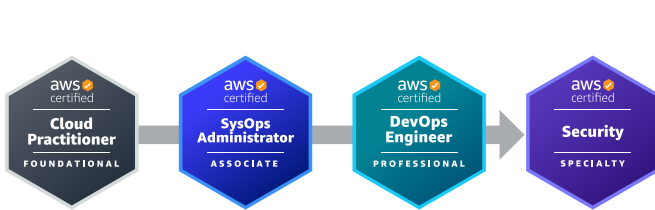*Optional for IT/ cloud professionals*

Cloud DevOps engineer

Design, deployment, and operations of large-scale global hybrid cloud computing environment, advocating for end-to-end automated CI/CD DevOps pipelines.

Cloud Practitioner (FOUNDATIONAL) → Developer (ASSOCIATE) → SysOps Administrator (ASSOCIATE) → DevOps Engineer (PROFESSIONAL) — Optional — Dive Deep
Optional for IT/ cloud professionals

DevSecOps engineer

Accelerate enterprise cloud adoption while enabling rapid and stable delivery of capabilities using CI/CD principles, methodologies, and technologies

Cloud Practitioner (FOUNDATIONAL) → SysOps Administrator (ASSOCIATE) → DevOps Engineer (PROFESSIONAL) → Security (SPECIALTY)
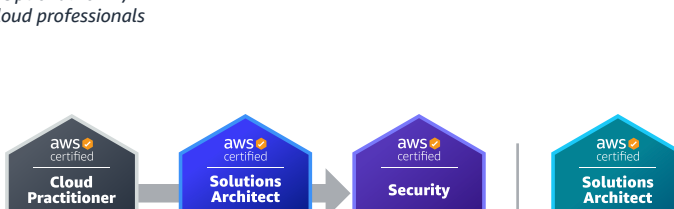*Optional for IT/ cloud professionals*

Security

Cloud security engineer

Design computer security architecture and develop detailed cyber security designs. Develop, execute, and track performance of security measures to protect information.

Cloud Practitioner (FOUNDATIONAL) → SysOps Administrator (ASSOCIATE) → Security (SPECIALTY) → DevOps Engineer (PROFESSIONAL) → Advanced Networking (SPECIALTY) — Dive Deep
Optional for IT/ cloud professionals

Cloud security architect

Design and implement enterprise cloud solutions applying governance to identify, communicate, and minimize business and technical risks.

Cloud Practitioner (FOUNDATIONAL) → Solutions Architect (ASSOCIATE) → Security (SPECIALTY) → Solutions Architect (PROFESSIONAL) — Dive Deep
Optional for IT/ cloud professionals

Networking

Network engineer

Design and implement computer and information networks, such as local area networks (LAN), wide area networks (WAN), intranets, extranets, etc.

Cloud Practitioner (FOUNDATIONAL) → Solutions Architect (ASSOCIATE) → Advanced Networking (SPECIALTY) → Security (SPECIALTY) — Dive Deep
Optional for IT/ cloud professionals

AI/ML

Machine learning engineer

Research, build, and design artificial intelligence (AI) systems to automate predictive models, and design machine learning systems, models, and schemes.

Cloud Practitioner (FOUNDATIONAL) → Solutions Architect (ASSOCIATE) → Developer (ASSOCIATE) → Data Engineer (ASSOCIATE) → Machine Learning (SPECIALTY)
Optional for IT/ cloud professionals

Ready to get started? **Select the exam(s)** aligned with your career goals and follow the steps below to approach exam day with confidence!

Step 1
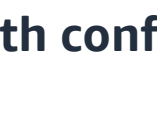Get to know the exam and exam-style questions
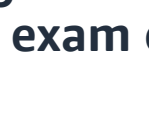
Step 2
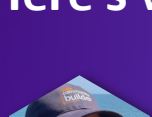Learn about exam topics in **AWS Skill Builder**

Step 3
Take exam prep training in **AWS Skill Builder**

Step 4
Assess your exam readiness with Official Practice Exams

Here's what AWS Certification holders have to say:

"Certifications add credibility and demonstrate my commitment to learning and implementing best practices in real-life projects. The AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Professional and AWS Certified DevOps Engineer – Professional certifications gave me the best ratio of time and effort to value and have done the most for my reputation."
—Igor Soroka, freelance cloud software consultant
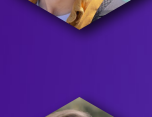
"Now I have a much better understanding of the AWS ecosystems, what services exist, and what use cases fit each service. I started with the AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Associate and I now hold 10 AWS Certification(s). What I learned really changed my perspective of what's possible in the cloud and transformed the way I work and how quickly I can get things done."
—Rola Dali, Senior Lead, Data Science