Microsoft Role-based Certification Roadmap

Build Azure
All about the Microsoft cloud
https://BuildAzure.com

A guide to navigating the Microsoft Role-based Certification landscape.

Why get certified?

There can be many reason to pursue a technical certification in Microsoft Azure. Microsoft certifications are among the most highly regarded certifications in the IT field. This goes for any Microsoft certification, and the Microsoft Azure related certifications are among those at the forefront of the leading edge of technology.

There are different certification paths to choose depending on your expertise and background. There are a few benefits Microsoft Azure certifications can offer regardless of the certification path you choose.

Microsoft Azure certifications help you prove your expertise and skills with the latest cloud technology that is powering the datacenters, applications, and solutions of the future.

Here are some of the top reasons to get certified with Microsoft technologies!

High Growth Opportunity

Often increased training and certification can lead to pay increases or even new job opportunities.

Become a Leader

Show your expertise in a verified and respected manner through Microsoft certification. You will even get badges that you can share on your resume and across social media to show what you've accomplished.

Higher Productivity

Certification will help you be much more productive with the various technologies you're working with. This increase in productivity and efficiency will lead you to many benefits such as pay increases or new job opportunities.

38%
Cloud related IT positions by 2021

35%
IT Professionals say they're more influential during cloud deployments

36.9%
IT Professionals claimed certification helped perform complex tasks more confidently

Sources:
IDC/Microsoft, Cloud Skills and Organizational Influence: How Cloud Skills Are Accelerating the Careers of IT Professional, May 2017
Pearson VUE, The Value of IT Certification Survey, January 2017
https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/learning/certification-benefits.aspx

Job Roles

There are four main job role categories that Microsoft has organized the role-based certifications into. These job roles are sort of large personas that group a broad set of job skills and duties into a specific role grouping. These allow Microsoft to better target groups of specific real-world jobs with the various certifications offered.

Developer

The Developer role is a persona that defines software developers using Microsoft technologies to design, build, test, and maintain solutions.

Administrator

The Administrator role is a persona that defines Administrators who implement, monitor, and maintain solutions using Microsoft technologies.

Solutions Architect

The Solutions Architect role is a persona that defines solutions architect that have experience using Microsoft Azure technologies to design solutions that meet the needs of the business.

Functional Consultant

The Functional Consultant role is a persona that defines consultants who can anticipate and plan for customer needs while leveraging Microsoft Dynamics 365 to meet those needs.

Expertise Levels

The job-role focused certifications are structured into 3 expertise levels.

Fundamentals

The "Fundamentals" certifications are targeted towards those just starting out with the technologies covered, having zero to 2 years of experience, or looking to change careers.

Just getting started, or changing careers.

Associate

The "Associate" certification are targeted towards professionals that already have experience working with the technologies covered, having 2 or more years of experience.

2 – 5 years of experience

Expert

The "Expert" certifications are targeted towards professionals that have advanced levels of experience and skills with the technologies covered. These professionals have two to five or more years of experience. Many Expert certifications require a specific Associate level certification as a prerequisite.

2+ years of experience

Microsoft Certified: Fundamentals

There are 3 Fundamentals level certifications available for those getting started with the technologies covered, or looking for a career change.

- Microsoft Certified: Azure Fundamentals
- Microsoft 365 Certified: Fundamentals
- Microsoft Certified: Dynamics 365 Fundamentals

While it's recommended to start with a Fundamentals certification, they are not required prerequisites to earning the Associate or Expert certifications

Microsoft Certified: Associate

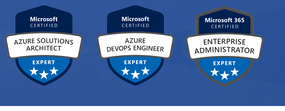
The largest of the Microsoft certification levels is the Associate level, for those with two years of working experience. These are the certifications targeted towards most professionals working in IT.

- Microsoft Certified: Azure Administrator Associate
- Microsoft Certified: Azure Security Engineer Associate
- Microsoft Certified: Azure Developer Associate
- Microsoft Certified: Azure AI Engineer Associate
- Microsoft Certified: Azure Data Engineer Associate
- Microsoft Certified: Azure Data Scientist Associate

Microsoft Certified: Expert

There are 3 Expert level certifications for those with more advanced expertise of Microsoft Azure and cloud technologies; for those with two to five years of deep technical experience. These are generally not the certifications you start with, but rather the certifications you work up towards after obtaining an "Associate" level certification.

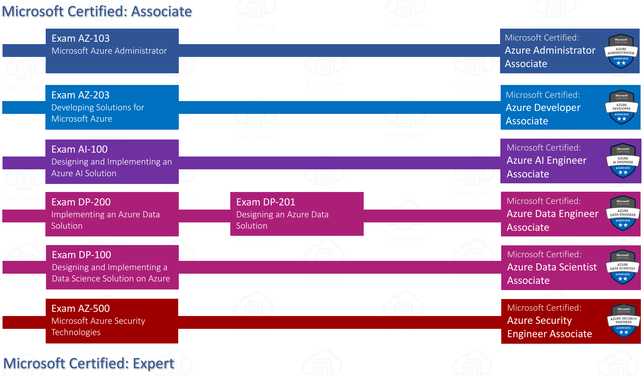
- Microsoft Certified: Azure Solutions Architect Expert
- Microsoft Certified: Azure DevOps Architect Expert
- Microsoft 365 Certified: Enterprise Administrator Expert



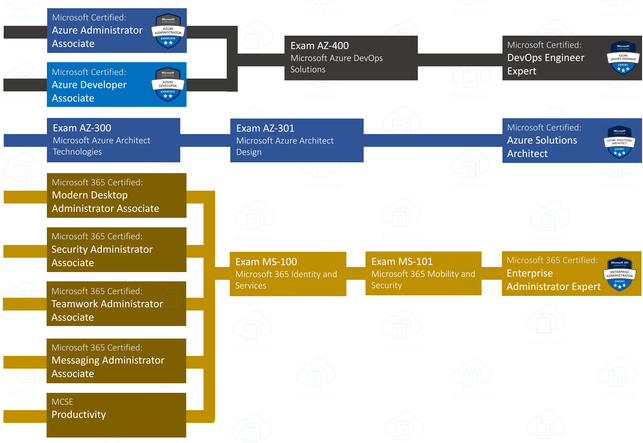
Certification Paths

Here are layouts of the different certification paths for the Associate and Expert level certifications.
Keep in mind this list is focused on the Microsoft Azure certifications, mostly, as these are the most popular.

Microsoft Certified: Associate



Microsoft Certified: Expert



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