

MICROSOFT CLOUD SKILLS TRAINING & CERTIFICATIONS FOR PROFESSIONALS

**BE CLOUD EMPOWERED -
TAKE YOUR CLOUD SKILLS
TO THE NEXT LEVEL**



Gold
**Microsoft
Partner**



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INTRODUCTION

Years into the COVID-19 pandemic and cloud adoption continues to increase. But an enormous migration and modernisation opportunity remain to be addressed.

As cloud computing becomes even more critical to IT and business at large, the demand grows for people with cloud skills who can become trusted partners in navigating these opportunities.

Certifications measure an individual's knowledge and skills against industry benchmarks and can validate that one has had the training, experience and expertise for the job.

To support IT professionals in becoming these trusted partners whether internally or as external advisers, Microsoft has developed a comprehensive suite of training materials and certifications.

In this eBook, learn why Microsoft cloud certification is important. Get insights on training and career paths. And find out why IT professionals often make DDLS their provider of choice for Microsoft cloud training and certification.

THE CONTINUING GROWTH OF CLOUD



Cloud services are booming and are inextricably linked to the efforts of organisations to achieve digital transformation.

According to a survey sponsored by Microsoft in **The Economist:**

72%

of organisations reported their industry's pace of digital transformation accelerated because of COVID-19.

Adopting cloud services promises increased productivity, improved scalability and flexibility, reduced IT costs, and improved resilience and business continuity.

Cloud adoption statistics suggest that:

94%

of enterprises use at least one cloud service

66%

of enterprises already have a central cloud team or a cloud centre of excellence

30%

of all IT budgets are allocated to cloud computing



Deloitte Access Economics, in its latest report on 'The Economic Value of Cloud Services in Australia' found that:

Cloud adoption by businesses in Australia has resulted in a cumulative productivity benefit to the economy of \$9.4 billion over the last 5 years.



In the 'State of New Zealand Cloud Transformation' by CCL, it was found that:

82% of organisations in New Zealand see the cloud as highly important to their strategy and growth.



A 2022 Survey on APAC businesses found that:

94 per cent of businesses in the Philippines said that cloud-based IT solutions are crucial in navigating the pandemic.

The range of cloud services used by businesses is enormous. It embraces processing, storage, networking; generic applications such as databases, data analytics tools and artificial intelligence; widely used productivity tools like Microsoft Office and Microsoft Dynamics CRM; and many highly specialised industry-specific applications.

THE CLOUD SKILLS GAP

IT professionals who have expertise in a range of cloud management techniques are essential if organisations are to manage their cloud environments efficiently and reliably.

37%



of Australian businesses surveyed cited the skills gap as their biggest challenge with cloud adoption. (Deloitte)

37%



of New Zealand organisations don't have the skills to resource cloud projects. (CCL)

70%



of Philippine enterprises believe that working with third-party IT vendors can help businesses respond to COVID-19 more quickly than relying on an in-house team. (Manila Times)

To alleviate this, many organisations outsource their cloud management to specialist cloud broker organisations.

Kathleen Mitford, Corporate Vice President for Azure Marketing also notes that:



One of the key insights from customers is that they want technology AND a trusted partner.

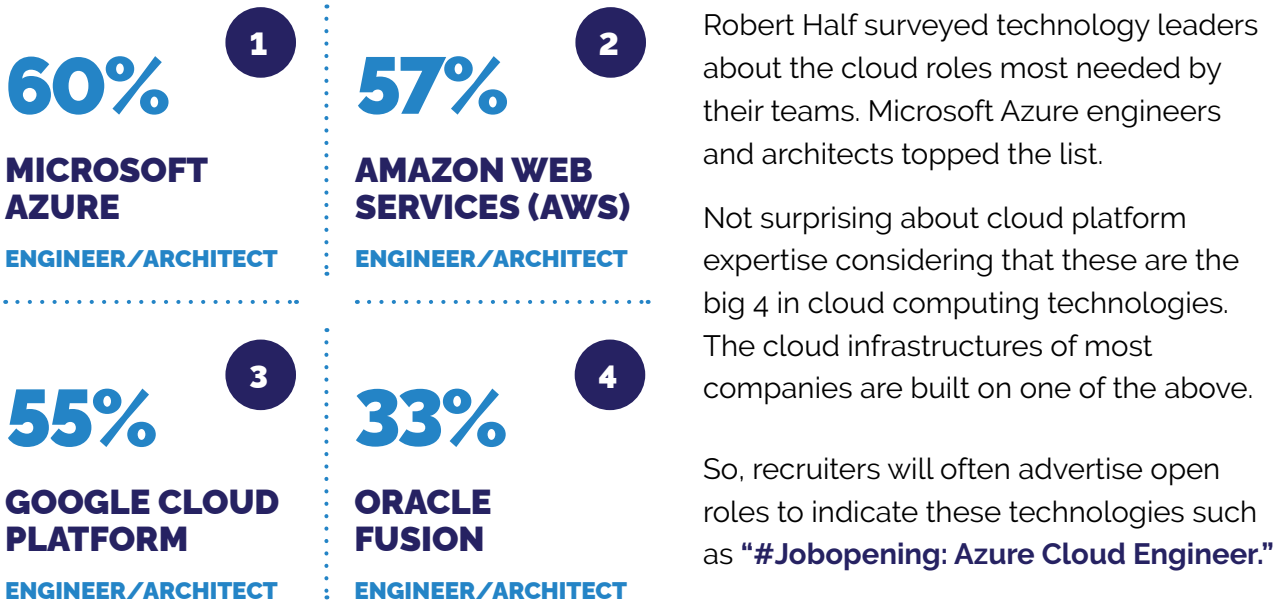


Cloud computing experts are needed to help organisations navigate the complexities of hybrid, multi-cloud, and edge environments.

Regardless of whether individuals are employed by end user organisations or by cloud brokers, people with skills specific to commissioning, configuring, operating and troubleshooting cloud services will be in demand for the foreseeable future.

Certification provides IT professionals with the opportunity to capitalise on this demand and make themselves more attractive to current and future employers.

WHICH CLOUD SKILLS ARE IN HIGH DEMAND?



Having demonstrable experience and better yet certification in these platforms is a must for cloud professionals.

But to differentiate yourself further from other candidates, you should also aim to sharpen your skills in the following:

- 1 Industry frameworks and methodologies:** It's one thing to understand the technology, it's another to have experience running cloud projects using methodologies like Agile, DevOps and Scrum.
- 2 Cloud security:** With increased rates of cyber attacks, appreciation for the common risks and vulnerabilities associated with cloud architecture is key to gaining trust for the management of business-critical data.
- 3 Machine learning (ML) and artificial intelligence (AI):** Cloud platforms now offer tools and services for accessing cloud-based AI and machine learning applications.
- 4 Cloud migration:** Organisations that are just starting to migrate from in-house to the cloud or from one platform to another will favour candidates with experience in this process.
- 5 Communication:** The value of people skills cannot be overstated. Cloud architects, in particular, need to collaborate with a diverse set of internal and external teams, providers and decision-makers.

THE BENEFITS OF GETTING CERTIFIED

1

CAREER FLEXIBILITY

A Microsoft Azure certification enables you to pursue a wide range of career options. You can take foundational courses and certification and from there, pursue role-based certifications to become a cloud architect, a developer or solution architect. The certification also supports you in finding job opportunities in various industries, in the private and public sector and in different locations.

2

ATTRACTIVE SALARY PACKAGES

An official Azure certification shows that you have specific technical skills rather than generic abilities. Certified cloud professionals are likely to get better recognition and compensation compared to other technology fields. Although salary ranges may differ across countries and organisations.

3

SHORTER LEARNING CURVE

Microsoft Azure's approach for certifications enables quick learning focused on a specific role. You do not have to learn how to use all the different Azure tools at once. So, beginners can easily adapt to the platform.

4

LOWER IT COSTS

Certified Azure professionals can help reduce IT costs for organisations, especially small to medium, by effectively scaling and managing hosted assets. You can also reduce costs in critical areas like power utilisation, new software redesign, and maintenance of information security systems.

5

IMPROVED SECURITY STANDARDS

The Azure certification provides the necessary knowledge you need to protect data while managing your organisation's cloud infrastructure.

6

DEMONSTRATING COMMITMENT

To gain an Azure certification, you must sign up for a course, perform the hands-on exercises, study, and then pass all exams. This implies that you can commit your time and resources towards achieving a goal, and that you are dedicated to improving your career objectives in the long term.

7

ENTERPRISE AGREEMENT SUPPORT

As a certified Azure professional, you can get a job in a company that makes the most out of Microsoft enterprise agreement and enjoy the lower prices and support for tools and services.

8

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Different certification types provide a solid foundation with advanced modules and certifications to support your professional development.

9

IMPROVED DEVOPS SKILLS

Azure offers a DevOps certification for candidates that already have some fundamental knowledge of Azure. To gain this, candidates must hold an associate-level certification either as an Azure developer or as an Azure administrator and have some project experience relevant to DevOps.

10

IMPROVED AI SKILLS

There is a growing demand for AI engineers that are comfortable working in Azure. To become a certified Azure AI engineer you have to pass a certification exam that tests your Azure and AI skills. The exam is ideal for experienced AI engineers interested in developing AI solutions in Azure. The certification exam tests your knowledge in natural language processing, computer vision, speech recognition, and bots.

STAND OUT WITH ROLE-BASED TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

Microsoft offers a comprehensive portfolio of training and certification with roles, skills and capabilities to meet industry and market needs.

DEVELOPER



Developers design, build, test, and maintain cloud solutions.

DATA ENGINEER



Data engineers design and implement the management, monitoring, security, and privacy of data using the full stack of data services.

DEVOPS ENGINEER



DevOps engineers combine people, process, and technologies to continuously deliver valuable products and services that meet end user needs and business objectives.

ADMINISTRATOR



Administrators implement, monitor, and maintain Microsoft solutions.

DATA SCIENTIST



Data scientists apply machine learning techniques to train, evaluate, and deploy models that solve business problems.

SECURITY ENGINEER



Security engineers implement security controls and threat protection, manage identity and access, and protect data, applications, and networks.

SOLUTION ARCHITECT



Solutions architects have expertise in computing, networks, storage and security.

AI ENGINEER



AI engineers use Cognitive Services, Machine Learning, and Knowledge Mining to architect and implement Microsoft AI solutions.

FUNCTIONAL CONSULTANT



Functional consultants leverage Microsoft Dynamics 365 and Microsoft Power Platform to anticipate and plan for customer needs.



THE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF MICROSOFT CERTIFICATIONS

Within each pathway, there are three levels of complexity: **fundamentals, associate and expert**. The fundamental certification is not a prerequisite for the associate certification, but individuals must achieve a mid-level badge before they can attempt to earn the final/expert certification. Each of these certifications is achieved by passing a series of exams.



FUNDAMENTAL CERTIFICATIONS

RECOMMENDED START

Ideal for individuals just starting in technology or thinking about a career change.

It validates your knowledge of fundamental technology concepts and has no prerequisites.



ASSOCIATE CERTIFICATIONS

TWO YEARS OF COMPREHENSIVE WORKING EXPERIENCE.

It is helpful to have related Fundamental certifications, but it is not required.

A role-based certificate, intended for those who want to pursue a specific role in IT across a profession in across products or capabilities in a Microsoft stack of products. It is usually associated with intermediate level courses and are a building block for the expert or specialist certificates. This helps you acquire proficiency in the core technical skills necessary in any organisation.



EXPERT CERTIFICATIONS

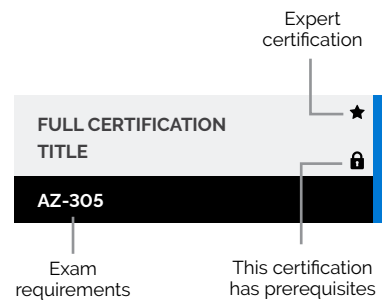
TWO TO FIVE YEARS OF DEEP TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE.

Many Expert certifications require a specific Associate level certification.

This is the highest certification awarded by Microsoft and is intended for IT professionals aiming to validate multifaceted technical abilities. This certification equips you with the requisite tools and know-how to come up with innovative solutions across multiple technologies – both offline and over the cloud.

AZURE

Microsoft Azure, often referred to as Azure, is a cloud computing service operated by Microsoft for application management via Microsoft-managed data centers. Advance your career, earn recognition, and validate your technical knowledge and ability in current and future industry job-roles with Microsoft Azure certifications. Growing your skills with Azure can help you turn ideas into solutions with more than 200 services to build, deploy, and manage—in the cloud, on-premises, and at the edge—using the tools and frameworks of your choice. Visit the certifications page to get started.



ROLE-BASED

Expand your technical skill set

AZURE ADMINISTRATOR ASSOCIATE AZ-104	AZURE DEVELOPER ASSOCIATE AZ-204
AZURE SECURITY ENGINEER ASSOCIATE AZ-502	AZURE STACK HUB OPERATOR ASSOCIATE AZ-502
AZURE NETWORK ENGINEER ASSOCIATE AZ-700	WINDOWS SERVER HYBRID ADMIN ASSOCIATE AZ-880 + AZ-801
AZURE AI ENGINEER ASSOCIATE AZ-102	AZURE DATA SCIENTIST ASSOCIATE DP-108
AZURE DATA ENGINEER ASSOCIATE AZ-203	AZURE DATABASE ADMIN ASSOCIATE DP-300
AZURE ENTERPRISE DATA ANALYST ASSOCIATE AZ-500	DEVOPS ENGINEER EXPERT AZ-400
AZURE SOLUTIONS ARCHITECT EXPERT AZ-305	

SPECIALITY

Deepen your technical skills and manage industry solutions

AZURE FOR SAP WORKLOADS SPECIALITY AZ-120
AZURE SUPPORT ENGINEER FOR CONNECTIVITY SPECIALITY AZ-720
AZURE COSMOS DB DEVELOPER SPECIALITY DP-420
AZURE VIRTUAL DESKTOP SPECIALITY AZ-140
AZURE IOT DEVELOPER SPECIALITY AZ-220

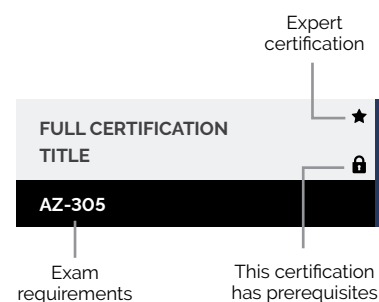
FUNDAMENTALS

Master the basics

AZURE FUNDAMENTALS AZ-500
AZURE DATA FUNDAMENTALS DP-900
AZURE AI FUNDAMENTALS AZ-900

MICROSOFT 365

Microsoft 365 is the world's productivity cloud designed to help you achieve more across work and life with innovative Office apps, intelligent cloud services, and world-class security. Training equips Modern Desktop Administrators with the skills to deploy, configure, secure, manage, and monitor devices and client applications in an enterprise environment.



ROLE-BASED

Expand your technical skill set

DEVELOPER
ASSOCIATE

MS-600

MODERN DESKTOP ADMIN
ASSOCIATE

MD-100 + MD-101

TEAMS ADMIN
ASSOCIATE

MS-700

ENTERPRISE ADMIN
EXPERT

MS-100 + MS-101

MESSAGING ADMIN ASSOCIATE

MS-203

SECURITY ADMIN
ASSOCIATE

MS-500

TEAMS VOICE
ENGINEER EXPERT

MS-720

SPECIALITY

Deepen your technical skills and manage industry solutions

EXCHANGE ONLINE SUPPORT
ENGINEER SPECIALITY

MS-220

TEAMS SUPPORT ENGINEER
SPECIALITY

MS-740

FUNDAMENTALS

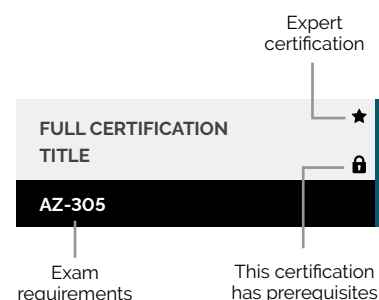
Master the basics

MICROSOFT
FUNDAMENTALS

MS-900

DYNAMICS 365

Microsoft Dynamics 365 is a product line of enterprise resource planning and customer relationship management intelligent business applications. Our approach to learning it is to develop an inclusive environment for every stage in an individual's career.



ROLE-BASED

Expand your technical skill set

DYNAMICS 365: SALES
FUNCTIONAL CONSULTANT
ASSOCIATE

PL-200 + MB-210

DYNAMICS 365: CUSTOMER
SERVICE FUNCTIONAL
CONSULTANT ASSOCIATE

PL-200 + MB-230

DYNAMICS 365: FINANCE
FUNCTIONAL CONSULTANT
ASSOCIATE

MB-300 + MB-330

DYNAMICS 365: SUPPLY CHAIN
MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONAL
CONSULTANT ASSOCIATE

MB-300 + MB-330

DYNAMICS 365: FINANCE AND
OPERATIONS APPS DEVELOPER
ASSOCIATE

MB-300 + MB-500

DYNAMICS 365: BUSINESS
CENTRAL FUNCTIONAL
CONSULTANT ASSOCIATE

MB-800

DYNAMICS 365: MARKETING
FUNCTIONAL CONSULTANT
ASSOCIATE

PL-200 + MB-220

DYNAMICS 365: FIELD SERVICE
FUNCTIONAL CONSULTANT
ASSOCIATE

PL-200 + MB-240

DYNAMICS 365 SUPPLY CHAIN
MANAGEMENT, MANUFACTURING
FUNCTIONAL ASSOCIATE

MB-300 + MB-320

DYNAMICS 365: COMMERCE
FUNCTIONAL CONSULTANT
ASSOCIATE

MB-300 + MB-340

DYNAMICS 365: FINANCE AND
OPERATIONS APPS SOLUTION
ARCHITECT EXPERT

MB-700

SPECIALITY

Deepen your technical
skills and manage
industry solutions

CUSTOMER DATA
PLATFORM SPECIALTY

MB-260

FUNDAMENTALS

Master the basics

DYNAMICS 365
FUNDAMENTALS (CRM)

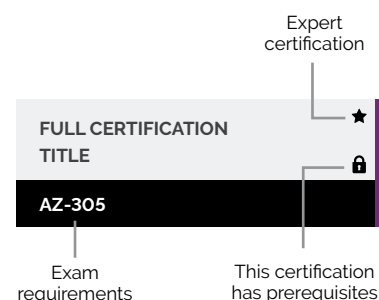
MB-910

DYNAMICS 365
FUNDAMENTALS (ERP)

MB-920

POWER PLATFORM

Work together to meet challenges effectively with Microsoft Power Platform—analyse data, build solutions, automate processes, and create virtual agents. Microsoft Power Platform training and certification supports in maximising the business intelligence, app development, and app connectivity software applications.



ROLE-BASED

Expand your technical skill set

POWER PLATFORM
APP MAKER ASSOCIATE

PL-100

POWER BI
DATA ANALYST ASSOCIATE

PL-300

POWER AUTOMATE RPA
DEVELOPER ASSOCIATE

PL-500

POWER PLATFORM FUNCTIONAL
CONSULTANT ASSOCIATE

PL-200

POWER PLATFORM
DEVELOPER ASSOCIATE

PL-400

POWER PLATFORM
SOLUTION ARCHITECT EXPERT

PL-600

SPECIALITY

Deepen your technical skills and manage industry solutions

FUNDAMENTALS

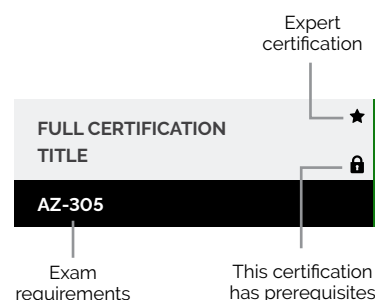
Master the basics

POWER PLATFORM
FUNDAMENTALS

PL-900

SECURITY

Microsoft Security training enables to help protect people and data against cyberthreats to give you peace of mind. Deepen your expertise in leverage Microsoft security products that provides protection against different types of malicious software, such as computer viruses, spyware, rootkits, and trojan horses.



ROLE-BASED

Expand your technical skill set

AZURE SECURITY
ENGINEER ASSOCIATE

AZ-500

MICROSOFT 365 SECURITY
ADMINISTRATOR ASSOCIATE

MS-500

SECURITY OPERATIONS
ANALYST ASSOCIATE

SC-200

IDENTITY AND ACCESS
ADMINISTRATOR ASSOCIATE

SC-300

INFORMATION PROTECTION
ADMINISTRATOR ASSOCIATE

SC-400

CYBERSECURITY
ARCHITECT EXPERT

SC-100

SPECIALITY

Deepen your technical skills and manage industry solutions

FUNDAMENTALS

Master the basics

SECURITY, COMPLIANCE, AND
IDENTITY FUNDAMENTALS

SC-900

MICROSOFT CERTIFIED LEARNING PARTNERS

For individuals looking to skill up for their next role, Microsoft Learning Partners offer a breadth of training solutions including blended learning, in-person, and online to meet your learning objectives. Microsoft Learning Partners around the world have met program requirements to teach training content developed by Microsoft and delivered by Microsoft Certified Trainers (MCTs) like the MCT at DDLS.

Microsoft Azure training is delivered by Microsoft certified instructors from a global network of approved learning partners, like DDLS.

DDLS offers a wider variety of Certified Microsoft courses than any other IT training organisation, scheduled more often and with more Microsoft certified and highly experienced trainers on our staff than any other training organisation.

LEARN A NEW SKILL

With just one course, you can develop practical skills that cover the technology adoption life cycle—from planning to implementation to support. And you gain a level of proficiency that can only be taught through hands-on labs, simulations, and the real-world application of skills.

START A NEW CAREER

The industry instructors who teach Microsoft Official Courses can help you gain IT skills that directly transfer from the classroom to the workplace. Courses offer access to valuable digital resources that remain available to you long after you complete a course.

PREPARE FOR CERTIFICATION

Microsoft Official Courses are built with Microsoft Certification in mind and are taught by qualified industry instructors.

WHY CHOOSE DDLS FOR YOUR MICROSOFT CLOUD TRAINING?

DDLS is your best choice for training and certification in any of Microsoft's leading technologies and services. Delivering effective training across all Microsoft products for more than 30 years, DDLS is Australia's first Microsoft Gold Learning Solutions Partner.

We can advise you on the right courses to choose and help align training plans to certification outcomes.

OUR EXPERTS HELP YOU BECOME AN EXPERT

DDLS has the largest community of Microsoft Certified Trainers.

Instructor-led training is delivered in our campuses, at your premises, or online. We have campuses across Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines. More Certified Microsoft courses than any other IT training organisation, along with more scheduled classes, make it easier for you to acquire the skills you need with convenience and flexibility.

ALL THE MICROSOFT SKILLS YOU **NEED**

DDLS offers a large range of Microsoft certifications across the core solution areas of Apps and Infrastructure, Data & AI, Modern Workplace and Business Applications.

We are the first Microsoft Gold Certified Partner for Learning Solutions in Australia, and the preferred training provider to many large public sector and private organisations in Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines.

All DDLS Microsoft courses follow Microsoft Official Curriculum (MOC) and are led by Microsoft Certified Trainers. Join more than 5,000 students who have undertaken one or more of our quality Microsoft courses.

► **DDLS ANYWHERE**

Flexible delivery modalities to suit your every need – instructor-led, virtual instructor-led, hybrid, self-paced and boot camps.

► **INSTRUCTOR-LED TRAINING**

Hands-on half or full-day core product training in classroom-based sessions for groups of 12 people.

► **DDLS PLUS**

Your online learning pathway to extend knowledge beyond courses with exam preparation, learning paths and communities.

► **EXPERT INSTRUCTION**

Highly qualified, cross-vendor certified instructors with technical expertise, proficiency and extensive hands-on experience.

► **COURSE ADVISORS**

Customer care centre to ensure we respond to your queries in a timely manner and with the best recommendations.

► **MORE COURSES, MORE OFTEN**

We offer a comprehensive public schedule of training courses.

► **AWARD WINNING**

Recognised by vendors and professional bodies as the best training provider in Australia. Partner of choice for Microsoft, Google, AWS, Cisco, VMware, ITIL, Citrix, EC-Council and Prometric.

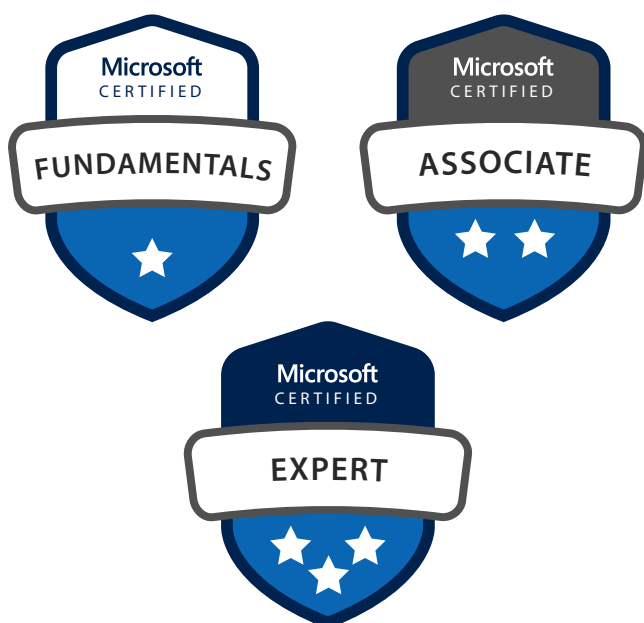
► **COURSES IN COMPLEMENTARY SKILLS**

In addition to cloud computing, we offer courses on Agile Project Management, DevOps, ML and AI and Communication and Leadership.

YOU'VE DONE THE HARD WORK, IT'S TIME TO GET CERTIFIED.

Microsoft certification exams are managed by Pearson Vue. You can opt to do an online self-proctored exam to avoid commuting. Although there is a network of testing centres.

We recommend the self-proctored exam as you can take it from the comfort of your home or from your office.



**LEARNING SOLUTIONS FOR
PROFESSIONALS**

THE PROCESS IS SIMPLE:

- ▶ **STEP 1**
Complete your training course, and public sector and in different locations.
- ▶ **STEP 2**
Get an exam voucher (sometimes inclusive to course or purchased as an add on).
- ▶ **STEP 3**
From the VUE website, complete the system checks and provide relevant photographs.
- ▶ **STEP 4**
Schedule your exam and wait for it to begin.
- ▶ **STEP 5**
Gain a Microsoft role-based certification plus a Cred.ly badge and make sure to share them on LinkedIn.



LEARNING SOLUTIONS FOR PEOPLE & BUSINESS.

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU.

To build your cloud computing skills and to future-proof your career, get in touch with us today.

Our consultants are standing by to help you choose from one of over 700+ instructor-led courses or to identify a training solution that suits your needs.

Speak to a consultant
1800 U LEARN (853 276)

Email
training@ddls.com.au

Find out more
www.ddls.com.au



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