



Step 3: Prepare for Exams

Review Exam Preparation Guides

Before you register for any exam, you should become familiar with the exam's objectives. Microsoft exam preparation guides and training texts will give you information about the skills that are measured by each exam.

- Microsoft Learning Exam Preparation Guides¹⁰ – Check out a listing of exam preparation guides, searchable by exam title or exam number.
- Microsoft Press Certification and Training Texts¹¹ – Get official Microsoft Press self-paced training for the expertise you need on the job, as well as on Microsoft certification exams.

Step 4: Take a **FREE** Practice Test

Practice Tests

When working toward certification, it's important to reduce your likelihood of re-testing. When you're ready to take an exam, take a free, comprehensive practice test first to find out if you may need additional study, training, or hands-on work experience before you take the real thing. MeasureUp¹² will prepare you for exam day using innovative technology.

- Microsoft Certification Practice Tests¹³ – Microsoft Certified Practice Test Providers (PTPs) provide the highest quality products and services so you can gauge your readiness for an Microsoft Certification exam.

Step 5: Complete Your Exams

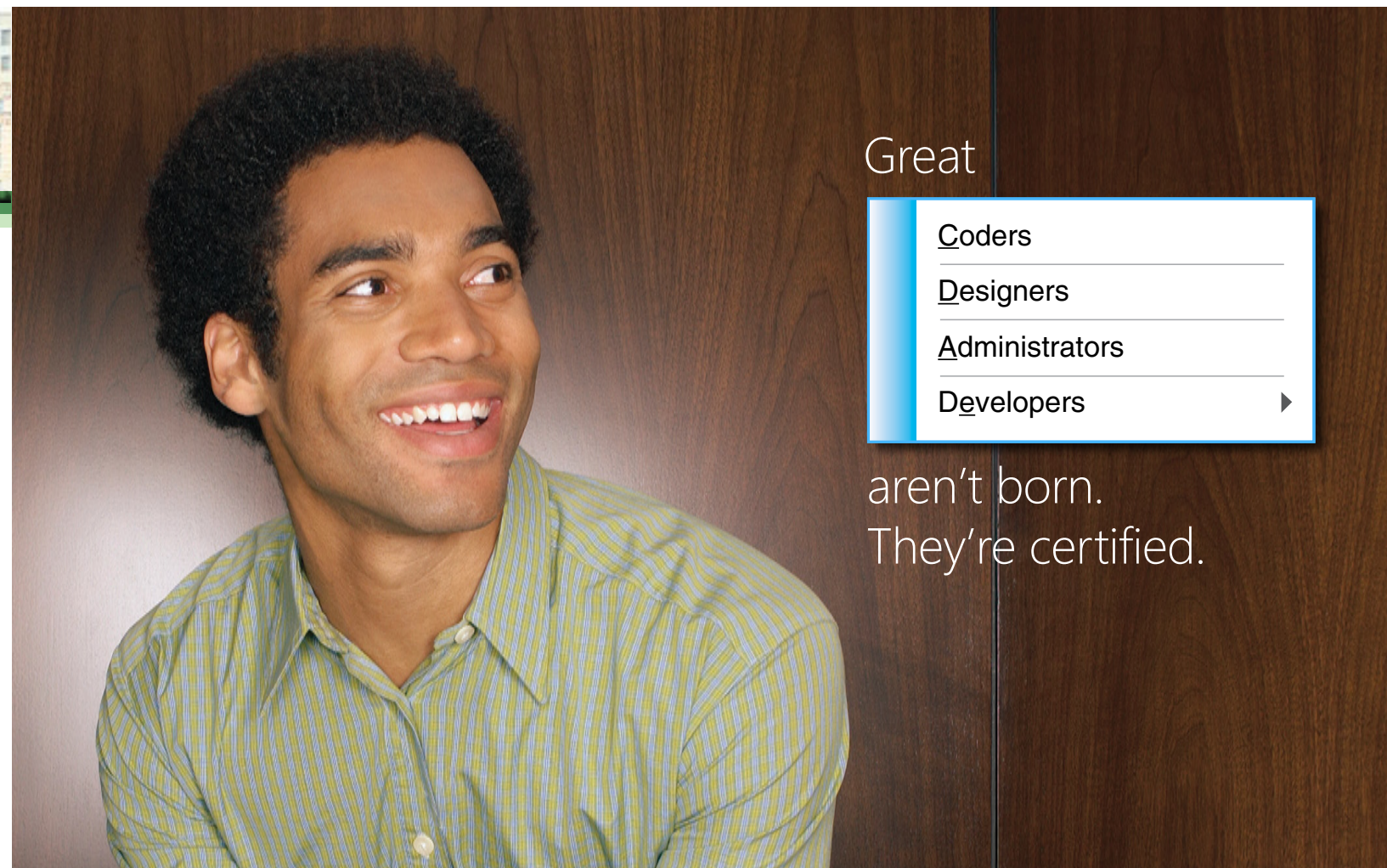
By taking the steps to become Microsoft certified, you'll distinguish yourself from other developers and IT professionals. Your demonstrated expertise with the latest Microsoft products and platforms will earn you a respected place on the job and with your industry peers. Embraced by industry professionals worldwide, Microsoft certification remains one of the most effective ways to reach your long-term career goals. You'll also have access to career-related tools, private newsgroups, and exclusive discounts and invitations to Microsoft certified community-only events.

To stay updated with the latest news and certifications from Microsoft Learning, subscribe to our e-mail newsletters.¹⁴

Microsoft certification exams are administered by independent testing centers worldwide. Find an independent testing center near you.¹⁵

Welcome to Microsoft Certification

We wish you best of luck on the path to industry recognition and career advancement!



Great

- Coders
- Designers
- Aministrators
- Developers ▶

aren't born.
They're certified.

Microsoft Certification Planning Guide For Professionals

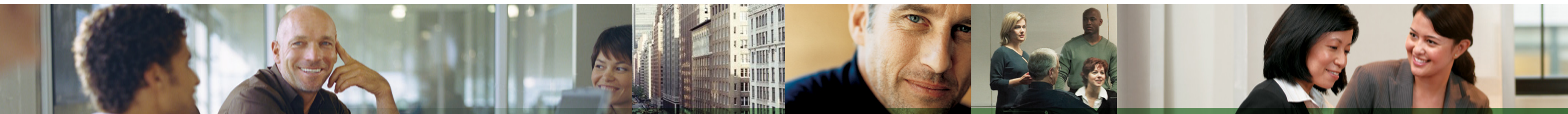
Congratulations on deciding to achieve your Microsoft certification. By achieving Microsoft certification, you validate your technical skills in customer solutions while raising industry-wide awareness of your capabilities. By providing a widely recognized, objective validation of technical ability, Microsoft certified professionals deploy and manage Microsoft technologies faster, smarter, and with reduced costs while increasing productivity.

Footnotes

1 <http://redmondmag.com/salariesurveys/article.asp?EditorialID=91>
 2 <http://www.microsoft.com/learning/mcp>
 3 <http://www.microsoft.com/learning/mcp/newgen>
 4 <http://www.microsoft.com/learning/assessment>
 5 http://www.microsoft.com/mspress/findabook/list/subject_category_T.aspx
 6 <http://www.microsoft.com/learning/training/find>
 7 <http://learning.microsoft.com/Manager/default.aspx?brand=Learning>
 8 <http://www.microsoft.com/learning/elearning.mspx>

9 <http://www.microsoft.com/learning/MODL>
 10 <http://www.microsoft.com/learning/mcpexams/prepare/findexam.mspx>
 11 http://www.microsoft.com/mspress/findabook/list/subject_category_T.aspx
 12 http://www.measureup.com/Site/display_article.aspx?id=955
 13 <http://www.microsoft.com/learning/mcpexams/prepare/practicetests.mspx>
 14 <http://www.microsoft.com/learning/newsletters/default.mspx>
 15 <http://www.microsoft.com/learning/mcpexams/register>

- Step 1: Choose your path
- Step 2: Get trained
- Step 3: Prepare for exams
- Step 4: Take a practice test
- Step 5: Complete your exam



Boost Your Career with Microsoft Certification

With every certification you achieve, you'll add value to your organization and take your professional reputation to a higher level:

- Move further along the path to career advancement
- Validate your real-world technology skills
- Increase your productivity
- Deploy technologies faster, smarter, and with reduced costs

The benefits of certification also include:

- Industry recognition of your technical proficiency and proof of your technical leadership
- Personalized logos that identify your certification status to colleagues and clients
- Access to discounts on products and services from Microsoft and selected companies
- Invitations to conferences, training sessions, and special events
- Access to career-related resources that will help enhance your skills and keep you in the know

According to Redmond magazine's 11th annual survey of compensation for Microsoft IT professionals¹, Microsoft certification can lead to more earning power, with average salaries for Microsoft Certified Professionals showing a notable increase in 2006 over the previous year. The survey also indicates that Microsoft certification equates to salary increases with every added year of professional experience. Other findings include:

- 43% of respondents reported salary increases as a result of Microsoft certification
- 57% of respondents expected to receive pay bonuses that year
- More than 40% of respondents reported that Microsoft certification was a factor in improving their ability to find or keep a job or lead to a promotion

In addition, the Gartner 2006 IT Market Compensation Study found that organizations take certification into consideration when considering candidates, their competency, and their overall value.

- **Validate your skills.** Hiring managers consider certification as part of the job requirement and tend to view certifications as a more objective measure of a candidate's skill level than self-reported skills and competency.
- **Add value.** The added market value that a certification brings can be as high as 30%-40%. The average salary uplift reported across all certifications in the study was in the 5%-11% range.
- **Stay current.** Certification numbers are growing as evidenced by double digit growth of certifications in economic and academic sectors, as professionals seek to round out their achievements with IT skills that have commercial appeal.

Now that you've decided to get your Microsoft certification, what's next?

With its innovative new generation certification architecture, Microsoft provides a simpler and more targeted framework for IT managers to validate core skills within the spectrum of professions of the IT industry. This clarified learning path enables you to build a compelling competitive advantage with a more relevant, flexible, and cost-effective way to showcase your skills.

Step 1: Choose Your Path

The first step to Microsoft certification is choosing a path that capitalizes on your professional experience. There are a wide range of certifications that cover the spectrum of professions within the IT industry, and you can decide which certification is appropriate and will support your career goals.

- Microsoft Certifications Overview² – Find out why Microsoft Certifications help you stand out from other IT personnel.

Microsoft New Generation Certifications

The new generation of Microsoft certifications provides a simpler and more targeted framework for the validation of core skills. New Generation Certifications are the most relevant, flexible, and cost-effective way to showcase your skills because they are:

- **Role-based**, emphasizing a primary skill set and job role
- **Rigorous**, providing more in-depth validation of your knowledge
- **Fast**, offering shorter certification paths

Want to learn more about new generation certifications? Visit the New Generation of Microsoft Certifications³ site for the latest information on all the new requirements.

Step 2: Get Trained

Whatever your style or schedule, Microsoft Learning offers training resources that will complement the way you learn, including study guides, tutorials, and instructor-led training. These comprehensive training offerings will help you build technical solutions and stay competitive today and in the future.

- Microsoft Skills Assessments⁴ – This free, 30-question skills assessment and learning plan will help you improve any areas of weakness.
- Microsoft Press Training Kits⁵ – Self-paced training for the expertise you need on the job.

- Find Training⁶ – Find a training resource to help you build your skills on Microsoft products and technologies.
- Learning Manager⁷ – Track your training progress and achievements with this workspace tool.

Microsoft E-Learning

If you learn best independently, Official Microsoft E-Learning Courses provide a simple and effective way for you to learn at your own pace and on your own schedule.

- Microsoft E-Learning⁸ – Take E-learning courses to improve your skills, prepare for a project or an exam, or earn certifications. Most E-learning courses include hands-on virtual labs.

Microsoft Official Distance Learning

Microsoft Official Distance Learning (MODL) is an exciting new learning platform that blends instructor-led training, live discussion, real-world based scenarios, and self-directed study into one rich and accessible educational experience—delivered right to your desktop. With MODL, you get:

- One-on-one time with an expert Microsoft Certified Trainer (MCT)
- Rich peer-to-peer interaction and support
- Real world scenarios and exercises that you can work through at your own pace
- Hundreds of interactive activities in each course, and game-like lab environments
- Plenty of time between sessions to study course material
- Individualized assessments that include detailed instructor feedback and scored results

MODL courses currently being offered are Microsoft Windows Server 2003 and Microsoft SQL Server 2005.

- MODL⁹ – Find out how the unique MODL format allows you to learn anytime, anywhere.