

# Certification Roadmap

Microsoft Imagine Academy provides the technology skills you need to be successful in the classroom and in your career. Imagine Academy members receive reduced pricing on Microsoft Certification exams to promote continued learning and to validate beneficial technology skills for a variety of careers.

Start by choosing your area of study and certification path

Secondary Students:

- ★ **Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS)**  
MOS Certification validates Microsoft Office skills that are valuable for a wide range of jobs and other life pursuits. Earning MOS Certification proves you have the ability to use Office applications for different on-the-job needs. Becoming a Microsoft Office Specialist provides valuable distinction to help you enter higher education or the workforce.
- **Microsoft Technology Associate (MTA)**  
MTA Certification validates understanding of basic technology concepts in software development and information technology. Earning MTA Certification proves you have the knowledge, capability, and commitment to perform the responsibilities required for an entry-level IT job. Becoming a Microsoft Technology Associate can give you a strong base to support further learning to be a professional software developer or an IT Pro. Earning an MTA Certification is recommended but not required to pursue the higher technology certifications described below.

Post-Secondary Students and Professionals:

- ✱ **Microsoft Certified Solutions Associate (MCSA)**  
MCSA Certification validates mastery of the core technical skills required to build a sustainable career. Earning MCSA Certification while in school enables students to develop professional competency in a classroom setting. Pursuing an MCSA Certification is recommended for those with access to hands-on practical experience and a foundation of core knowledge about information technology. An MCSA Certification is required in order to become an MCSE.
- ✱ **Microsoft Certified Solutions Developer (MCSD)**  
MCSD Certification is recommended for professionals or students in a 4-year academic program. The MCSD builds off the MTA Certifications for software development. Earning MCSD Certification while in school enables students to acquire job-like software development experience in a classroom setting. Becoming a Microsoft Certified Solutions Developer will prepare you to be competitive for mid-level software development jobs.
- Microsoft Certified Solutions Expert (MCSE)**  
MCSE Certification demonstrates your ability to build innovative professional solutions across multiple technologies, both on-premises and in the cloud. Earning MCSE Certification demonstrates readiness for complex, real-world IT workplace requirements for Enterprise Devices and Apps, Messaging, Private Cloud, Communication, Server Infrastructure, SharePoint, Data Platform, and Business Intelligence.

Additional Microsoft Certification paths are available at:  
[www.microsoft.com/learning](http://www.microsoft.com/learning)

