AWS Certification Path 2026

All 13 AWS certifications you can book, by level, with a suggested path for each role.

As of November 4, 2026
Latest version: cloudninja.pro/certifications

Foundational

No prior AWS experience needed

- `CLF-C02` Live — **Cloud Practitioner**
- `AIF-C01` Live — **AI Practitioner**

Associate

About 1 year of AWS experience

- `SAA-C03` Live — **Solutions Architect Associate**
- `DVA-C02` Changing version — **Developer Associate**
  DVA-C02 until November 30, 2026; DVA-C03 from December 1, 2026
- `SOA-C03` Live — **CloudOps Engineer Associate**
- `MLA-C02` Beta — **Machine Learning Engineer Associate**
  MLA-C02 beta; generally available January 14, 2027 (per AWS announcement). MLA-C01 still bookable in Korean, Japanese and Simplified Chinese
- `DEA-C01` Live — **Data Engineer Associate**

Professional

About 2 years of hands-on AWS

- `SAP-C02` Changing version — **Solutions Architect Professional**
  SAP-C02 until November 16, 2026; SAP-C03 from November 17, 2026
- `DOP-C02` Live — **DevOps Engineer Professional**
- `AIP-C01` Live — **Generative AI Developer Professional**

Specialty

Deep expertise in one domain

- `SCS-C03` Live — **Security Specialty**
- `ANS-C01` Retiring — **Advanced Networking Specialty**
  Last day December 31, 2026, no replacement announced

Business

AI strategy, no coding

- `AIB-C01` Beta — **AI Business Strategist**

Certification paths by role

Our suggested order. AWS sets no prerequisites, so you can start with any exam; optional steps help if you are new to AWS.

Cloud architect

You design systems on AWS and want the most widely recognised track.

`CLF-C02` Cloud Practitioner (optional) → `SAA-C03` Solutions Architect Associate →
`SAP-C02` Solutions Architect Professional Changing version

Developer

You write and ship code that runs on AWS.

`CLF-C02` Cloud Practitioner (optional) → `DVA-C02` Developer Associate Changing version →
`DOP-C02` DevOps Engineer Professional

Operations and DevOps

You run, monitor and automate AWS workloads.

`CLF-C02` Cloud Practitioner (optional) → `SOA-C03` CloudOps Engineer Associate →
`DOP-C02` DevOps Engineer Professional

Data engineering

You build pipelines, lakes and warehouses, and may move into ML.

`CLF-C02` Cloud Practitioner (optional) → `DEA-C01` Data Engineer Associate →
`MLA-C02` Machine Learning Engineer Associate Beta

AI and machine learning

You build ML models or generative AI applications.

`AIF-C01` AI Practitioner (optional) → `MLA-C02` Machine Learning Engineer Associate Beta →
`AIP-C01` Generative AI Developer Professional

AI for business roles

You lead, sell or plan AI initiatives without writing code.

`AIF-C01` AI Practitioner (optional) → `AIB-C01` AI Business Strategist Beta

Security and networking

You secure or connect AWS environments.

`SAA-C03` Solutions Architect Associate →
`SCS-C03` Security Specialty or `ANS-C01` Advanced Networking Specialty Retiring

Status key

- **Live** bookable now
- **Beta** beta exam; results come after the beta ends
- **Changing version** the code shown is bookable until the date in its note, then the new version
- **Retiring** bookable until the last day in its note