



## Frequently Asked Questions

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### Overview

#### Does HP offer certification programs?

The HP career certification program is called ExpertONE. (Complete information on the HP ExpertONE program is available at [www.hp.com/go/certification](http://www.hp.com/go/certification).) HP is partnering with Certiport to develop and distribute an academic-focused version of the ExpertONE certification program—HP Accredited Technical Associate (ATA).

#### What certifications are available in the HP ATA program?

Four initial certification exams will be available: The three pillar certifications (Connected Devices, Networks, and Servers and Storage) and the Cloud certification.

Course	Exam	Certification
Designing and Deploying Connected Device Solutions	Designing and Deploying Connected Device Solutions	HP ATA—Connected Devices
<i>The HP ATA - Connected Devices certification provides the knowledge and experience required to discover a customer’s business objectives and to design a PC client and connected device solution that meets the customer’s requirements. In addition, knowledge and skill to deploy and troubleshoot the solution are also included.</i>		
Designing and Deploying Network Solutions	Designing and Deploying Network Solutions	HP ATA—Networks
<i>The HP ATA - Networks certification provides the knowledge and experience required to discover a customer’s business objectives and to design a wired and wireless switched and routed solution that meets the customer’s requirements. In addition, knowledge and skill to deploy and troubleshoot the solution are also included.</i>		
Designing and Deploying Server and Storage Solutions	Designing and Deploying Server & Storage Solutions	HP ATA—Servers and Storage
<i>The HP ATA – Servers and Storage certification provides the knowledge and experience required to discover a customer’s business objectives and to design an application hosting and data storage solution that meets the customer’s requirements. In addition, knowledge and skill to deploy and troubleshoot the solution are also included.</i>		
Designing and Deploying Cloud Solutions	Designing and Deploying Cloud Solutions	HP ATA—Cloud
<i>The HP ATA – Cloud certification provides the knowledge and experience required to discover a customer’s business objectives and to design an end-to-end IT solution that meets the customer’s requirements. This includes on premises elements, hosted and cloud services. In addition, knowledge and skill to deploy and troubleshoot the solution are also included.</i>		

#### What is the Pilot and how can test centers participate?

From November 15 through February, institutions may join the HP ATA Preview to pilot the English exams and bridge curriculum. For more information or to register, visit [www.certiport.com/hp](http://www.certiport.com/hp).



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#### ***What are the key dates to know with this release?***

The HP ATA pilot program begins on November 15, 2011. The HP and Certiport partnership will be announced publically on December 1, 2011. Until December 1, all HP-related communications must take place under a non-disclosure agreement. In February, the official program will be announced.

#### ***Why create this new line of HP certifications?***

The pace of business in our world is accelerating to staggering levels. The increase in information, the rate of transactions and interactions is exponential. All of these drivers are causing business leaders to reevaluate their business models and look to technology to give them a strategic advantage, but they need skilled IT professionals with the foundational skills and abilities to keep pace. This new certification program will help educators effectively teach and validate IT skills, while also providing students with credentials that demonstrate real-world prowess to prospective employers.

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## ***Certiport Authorized Testing Centers***

#### ***Why should academic institutions consider implementing the HP ATA program?***

HP certifications go well beyond simple concepts or product knowledge and focus on the application of knowledge in real world environments. The HP ATA program prepares students for employment as it teaches and assesses student's ability to design, implement and support IT solutions in a small and medium-sized business.

#### ***How do educational institutions access this new program?***

Existing Certiport Authorized Testing Center may access the exams through the normal test engine and make them available to test candidates. To become a CATC, visit [www.certiport.com/hp](http://www.certiport.com/hp).

#### ***What materials are available to help candidates prepare for the HP ATA certification?***

During the pilot, CATCs will receive "Bridge Curriculum" at no cost. "Bridge Curriculum" helps educators bridge their current IT curriculum with HP ATA materials. When officially launched in February 2012, the HP ATA program will also include MeasureUp practice tests, full curriculum, and the HP Remote Lab—an environment to help candidates learn and prepare for certification.

#### ***How can institutions provide relevant hands-on learning to their students as part of their course offerings?***

Certiport will offer institutions the ability to purchase access to HP Remote Labs for their courses. HP Remote Labs offers students a real hands-on learning environment by accessing actual HP equipment. This is different from simulated learning. Via an Internet connection, students will have access to state-of-the-art HP equipment relevant to each course. The official HP courseware that will be available at the February release will also contain HP Remote Lab exercises.

#### ***What is the fee for the HP Accredited Technology Associate Certification exam?***

Suggested Retail Price of the HP ATA exams will be US\$89 when the program is released in February. Academic institutions may purchase complete solution licenses for certification exams, courseware, practice tests and HP Remote Labs. Worldwide pricing for these solution licenses will be announced prior to the February launch.



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***Is the HP ATA program available only at academic testing centers?***

No. While the HP ATA program was created for an academic audience, it is not restricted to any specific industry sector.

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## **Candidates**

***What are the benefits of becoming certified?***

By certifying one's skills, individuals can validate their technical abilities and demonstrate proficiency. HP's associate-level certifications are based on IT skills required by industry, government, and education. The objectives reflect the skills needed to successfully design and deploy end-to-end customer IT solutions for a complexity level typically found within small- and medium-sized businesses.

In educational settings, industry-recognized certification programs ensure students and teachers are acquiring the knowledge and skills valued in today's workplace. For institutions seeking to keep curriculum vitalized and relevant, certification plays a critical role in bridging classroom learning to real-world application.

***For what types of jobs do these certifications prepare candidates?***

HP ATA certification directly applies to a broad range of IT job roles, including but not limited to:

- IT Architects
- System Engineers
- System Administrators
- Technical Support Engineers

***What are the necessary skills and knowledge candidates will need to have in order to pass the certification exams?***

The learning objectives for the HP ATA exams can be found here:

[www.certipoint.com/hpstudent](http://www.certipoint.com/hpstudent)

***Does a candidate need to take multiple exams in order to certify?***

No. Each time a candidate successfully completes an exam, he/she will earn the corresponding HP ATA certification. To complete the HP ATA—Cloud certification, a candidate must first complete the Connected Devices, the Networks, and the Servers and Storage certifications.

***Do the exams need to be taken in any order?***

No. Except for the HP ATA—Cloud certification, which must be preceded by the three pillar certifications, the certifications may be taken in any order.

***Can other certifications be substituted for the HP ATA certification?***

If a candidate has successfully completed the Cisco CCNA certification, he/she may use that as a substitute for the HP ATA—Networks certification requirement before taking the HP ATA—Cloud certification. More information will be provided prior to launch.

***How do candidates register for an HP ATA certification exam?***

Visit [www.certipoint.com/hpstudent](http://www.certipoint.com/hpstudent) to locate a Certipoint Authorized Testing Center.



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***After passing the exams, how will candidates receive their certifications?***

Upon successful completion of the HP ATA certification exams, results are immediately available on Certiport's Digital Transcript. Candidates may log into their Certiport portal account, access their Digital Transcript and print out their official HP ATA certification. Once candidates have received their HP Learner ID (within 5-7 business days of passing the exam), the HP ATA exam results will also be made available on HP's certification website (<https://hpcp.swjdallas.com/hpcpbenefits/hplogin.aspx>).

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## ***Topics and Technology***

***Do the HP ATA courses and exams focus on HP technology only?***

No. The HP ATA certifications focus on industry-standard principles. The courseware and lab will be based on HP equipment.

***What types of questions are used within the HP ATA program?***

The HP ATA certification exams will help validate a test candidate's knowledge through select-response (multiple choice) questioning.

***How many questions will be used per exam and how much time will be allotted?***

Upon formal release of the program, approximately 40-50 questions will be used with a 50-minute time limit. During the Pilot phase, 90 questions will be used with a 90-minute time limit.

***Will HP Remote Lab access be required for all institutions who offer the HP ATA exams?***

No. Institutions may choose how to best offer a hands-on training component. Some institutions have access to the necessary hardware or will choose to invest in that equipment in order to run the training themselves.