Hello, and welcome!

Have you ever stopped to think about how connected we all really are? Or about how you can access data, audio, or video from almost anywhere in the world? Picture an invisible infrastructure—one that stretches across borders and oceans. One that makes stops in homes and businesses all over the globe. One that has transformed the way everyday people and businesses store and access data. This is cloud computing. And like any sort of infrastructure, it requires a good level of knowledge and maintenance to succeed. In this course, you will gain an overall understanding of cloud computing and its concepts. And you will explore AWS core services, security, architecture, and more.

We invite you to take a minute to learn about the course by reviewing the information here and on the Syllabus and Documents page. This way, you will be better able to understand the expectations of the course as a whole. Then you can determine how to manage your time and efforts as you navigate through it.

Remember: You’re not alone. We’re here to support you on your journey!
Course Description and Competencies

What to Expect
In this course, you will study an overview of the cloud. You will also explore security and delivery, as well as computing, storage, and databases. And finally, you will study cloud architecture.

This course contains four modules of content. Each is made up of one to three units. Each unit contains:

• Learning objectives: Describe what you can expect to be able to do upon completion of the unit.
• A Student Guide: Includes case studies, demonstrations, labs, and practice quizzes.
• Teaching videos: Guide you step-by-step through the material.
• Knowledge checks: Questions to help you measure your understanding of the material.
• Additional resources: Supplemental materials to further your learning.

These units are designed to increase knowledge retention. Working through them thoroughly will best prepare you for your certification exam. Then, you can register for and take your AWS Cloud Practitioner exam. You must pass this exam to earn your 3 competency units.

This course covers the following competencies:

1. The learner articulates the value proposition of cloud solutions in business scenarios.
2. The learner defines cloud security and compliance.
3. The learner identifies cloud technology solutions in IaaS, PaaS, and SaaS models.
4. The learner determines the best-fit solution for a project based on the cost and support structures.

Your enrollment in this WGU Academy course includes your first two attempts at passing the certification exam.
Module: Upon completion of this module, you will be able to:

1. **Basics**
   - Define different types of cloud computing models.
   - Describe the AWS Cloud Adoption Framework (CAF).
   - Identify the fundamental benefits of AWS services (e.g., compute, storage, database, other network services).

2. **Security**
   - Identify security responsibilities of the customer and AWS.
   - Define identity and access management (IAM) users, groups, and roles.
   - Describe the virtual networking in the cloud with Amazon Virtual Private Cloud (VPC).

3. **Services**
   - Identify Amazon EC2 cost-optimization elements.
   - Describe common use cases for Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2).
   - Identify the best-fit solution for cloud storage and the best-fit database solution.

4. **Architecture**
   - Explain the importance of reliability and high availability.
   - Describe how AWS Trusted Advisor helps customers and interprets recommendations.
   - Describe how scaling and load balancing in AWS can be used to improve an architecture.
Technology Requirements

We want to be sure you have the tools to succeed! Review the Computer System and Technology Requirements to learn about the technology you’ll need. If you have questions about your setup, contact support@academy.wgu.edu.

You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader DC. If you haven’t already, download this free software. You may encounter an interactive form that contains fields that you can select or fill in. Review how to fill in a PDF form.

Key Contacts

Your Fellow Learners

Check out the Cloud Foundations Lobby in the course site! In this online community, you can ask questions and explore ideas. You can connect with your fellow learners. When you use this site, you will realize that other learners may have the same questions you have. You can all benefit from learning together!

Technical Support

If you encounter technical issues, be sure to contact the Help Desk. Just submit a Support Request for assistance.

Program Support

Do you have questions about your account? Student Support has answers. They can help with billing, switching courses, and other requests. You can contact them at (888) 320-0540 or support@academy.wgu.edu.

Accommodations

WGU provides compliant and accessible learning experiences. If you require accommodation, please contact us at the start of the course. You can email StudentAffairs@academy.wgu.edu or call (888) 320-0540. We are committed to ensuring that all students with disabilities have equal access to WGU’s services and materials. We strive to use best practices for accessibility. Our goal is to conform to existing U.S. laws. These include the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. Our learning management system (LMS) platform is Open edX. Open edX’s commitment to accessible content is published on their Website Accessibility Policy.