

Hitachi Data Systems Certified Professional Program: Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the Hitachi Data Systems Certified Professional Program?

A: The HDS Certified Professional program validates that our customers, partners and employees have acquired the appropriate skills, knowledge and abilities to be successful in the digital transformation journey.

It is a role-based program that offers a variety of exams in the areas of IT solutions architecture, implementation, management and administration using HDS hardware, software, solutions, services and technology. It features a two-tier assessment structure with qualification-level tests and certification-level exams that provide an evolution path as professionals increase their expertise and advance their careers.

Q: Who should become certified?

A: The HDS Certified Professional program is designed for all professionals who sell, design, deploy, integrate and support HDS solutions. It includes tests and exams for sales, pre-sales, architects, installation and implementation personnel as well as storage administrators.

Q: Why become certified?

A: The HDS Certified Professional program is an industry-leading certification program that allows you to:

- Validate your skills, knowledge and technical competencies.
- Establish your credibility and increase your value in the IT marketplace.
- Gain peer recognition and distinguish yourself from the competition.

Q: Which credential levels are available?

A: The HDS Certified Professional program features a two-tier assessment structure in which low-stakes and high-stakes testing is used in combination with four credential levels. This structure gives IT professionals the most appropriate assessment method for their roles, and also provides an upgrade path to accompany career growth.

QUALIFICATION via qualification-level (HQT-XXXX) tests:

- These low-stakes tests are short entry-level online assessments that either validate fundamental general knowledge, or confirm basic technical expertise usually acquired through course attendance.
- In most cases, passing one qualification test leads to a **QUALIFICATION** credential. Alternatively, passing a qualification test can also be a requirement for a certification credential. HDS currently offers two qualification levels: *ASSOCIATE* and *PROFESSIONAL*.

CERTIFICATION via certification-level (HCE-XXXX) exams:

- These high-stakes exams are designed to effectively and accurately validate that candidates have the skills, knowledge and abilities to perform specific tasks related to their jobs in real-life situations.
- To pass certification exams, candidates are expected to use knowledge acquired through multiple means and experiences, including formal and informal training and learning methods. It is therefore expected that certification exams will cover topics that are beyond the scope of any given course or set of courses that have been identified to support the exams.

- In most cases, passing one certification exam leads to a CERTIFICATION credential. Alternatively, some certification credentials may require passing a combination of qualification tests and certification exams. HDS currently offers two certification levels: *SPECIALIST* and *EXPERT*.

Q: How are the qualification tests and certification exams developed?

A: HDS qualification tests (HQT-XXXX) are either developed by HDS Academy instructors or HDS subject matter experts. The tests are then reviewed and validated by a team of subject matter experts who have practical experience.

All HDS certification exams (HCE-XXXX) are exclusively developed by a team of HDS subject matter experts with practical experience, following psychometric best practices and industry-standard processes and procedures for certification exam development.

Q: Which tracks are available?

A: Credentials are available for sales, pre-sales, architects, installation and implementation personnel as well as storage administrators.

Sales track: This track is intended for HDS partners and employees who sell products, solutions, services and technology from Hitachi Data Systems.

Pre-Sales track: This track is intended for HDS partners and employee pre-sales personnel who support the sales activities related to Hitachi Data Systems products, solutions, services and technology.

Architect track: This track is intended for HDS partners and employee architect personnel who assess, plan and design solutions that meet the business needs of HDS customers.

Implementation and Integration track: This track is intended for HDS partner and employee implementation and professional services personnel who deploy, integrate and support Hitachi Data Systems products and solutions.

Installation and Support track: This track is intended for HDS partners and employee installation personnel who install, configure and support Hitachi Data Systems products and systems.

Administration track: This track is primarily intended for end users and HDS customers who use, manage and administer Hitachi Data Systems products and solutions. It is also available to HDS employees and partners.

Basics and Fundamentals track: This is an entry-level track for audiences who seek basic knowledge and understanding of IT concepts, technologies and standards.

Q: Which exams are currently available?

A: The following qualification tests and certification exams are currently available.

Qualification tests:

Associate-level

HQT-0050 Hitachi Data Systems Qualified Associate – Storage Concepts

Professional-level

HQT-1000 Hitachi Data Systems Qualified Professional – Sales Foundation

HQT-2000 Hitachi Data Systems Qualified Professional – Pre-sales Foundation

HQT-3620 Hitachi Data Systems – UCP for SAP HANA architect
 HQT-4110 Hitachi Data Systems Qualified Professional – Modular storage installation
 HQT-4120 Hitachi Data Systems Qualified Professional – VSP G200 to VSP G800 storage installation
 HQT-4210 Hitachi Data Systems Qualified Professional – NAS installation
 HQT-4420 Hitachi Data Systems Qualified Professional – Content Platform installation
 HQT-4510 Hitachi Data Systems Qualified Professional – Compute Platform installation
 HQT-4610 Hitachi Data Systems – UCP with Unified Compute Platform Director installation
 HQT-6740 Hitachi Data Systems Qualified Professional – Storage administration

Certification exams:

Specialist-level

HCE-3210 Hitachi Data Systems Certified Specialist – NAS architect
 HCE-3610 Hitachi Data Systems Certified Specialist – UCP solutions architect
 HCE-4130 Hitachi Data Systems Certified Specialist – Enterprise storage installation
 HCE-4140 Hitachi Data Systems Certified Specialist – VSP G1500 and VSP F1500 storage installation
 HCE-5210 Hitachi Data Systems Certified Specialist – NAS implementation
 HCE-5420 Hitachi Data Systems Certified Specialist – Content Platform implementation
 HCE-5510 Hitachi Data Systems Certified Specialist – Compute Platform implementation
 HCE-5610 Hitachi Data Systems Certified Specialist – UCP with Unified Compute Platform Director solutions implementation
 HCE-5620 Hitachi Data Systems Certified Specialist – UCP for SAP HANA solutions implementation
 HCE-5910 Hitachi Data Systems Certified Specialist – Pentaho Business Analytics implementation
 HCE-5920 Hitachi Data Systems Certified Specialist – Pentaho Data Integration Implementation

Expert-level

HCE-3700 Hitachi Data Systems Certified Expert – Performance architect
 HCE-3710 Hitachi Data Systems Certified Expert – Replication solutions architect
 HCE-3720 Hitachi Data Systems Certified Expert – Mainframe replication solutions architect
 HCE-3900 Hitachi Data Systems Certified Expert – Pentaho solutions architect
 HCE-5710 Hitachi Data Systems Certified Expert – Replication solutions implementation
 HCE-5730 Hitachi Data Systems Certified Expert – Virtualization solutions implementation

Q: How long are the exams and what are the passing scores?

A: Exam details are found in the exam descriptions posted on the [HDS Certification website](#) and are subject to change.

Passing scores are set for each exam independently; refer to the exam descriptions.

Unless otherwise specified in the exam description, exam durations are set according to the following guidelines:

- *Sales and Pre-Sales* qualification tests: 2 hours
- All *technical* qualification tests: 1 hour
- All *certification* exams: 90 minutes; 120 minutes for non-English speaking countries

Q: What is the format of the exams?

A: The *Storage Concepts* (HQT-0050), *Sales Foundation* (HQT-1000) and *Pre-Sales Foundation* (HQT-

2000) tests are online, open-book examinations. They typically include 25 to 35 multiple-choice questions.

The technical qualification tests (HQT-XXXX) are closed-book, proctored examinations. They typically include 25 to 35 multiple-choice questions.

The certification exams (HCE-XXXX) are closed-book, proctored examinations. They typically include 60 to 65 multiple-choice questions.

Q: Where are the exams offered, and how do I register to take the exams?

A: All proctored certification exams (HCE-XXXX) and proctored technical qualification tests (HQT-XXXX) are offered through the Kryterion Webassessor system. The exams and tests are available at all Kryterion testing centers worldwide, or can be taken wherever an internet connection and a suitable environment are available, using the online proctoring feature.

Depending on your training center location and the format of the course, proctored technical qualification tests (HQT-XXXX) may also be available immediately at the end of the supporting training. Your local HDS training delivery organization can inform you about the availability of HQT-XXXX tests in combination with their supporting courses.

The *Storage Concepts* (HQT-0050), *Sales Foundation* (HQT-1000) and *Pre-Sales Foundation* (HQT-2000) are open-book, un-proctored tests and they can be taken online anywhere and at any time using Webassessor.

To use Webassessor, candidates must register here: <https://www.webassessor.com/hitachi/index.html>. To create an account, select "Create New Account" at the top right of the page.

Q: What are the Kryterion cancellation and reschedule policies?

A: For on-site proctored exams at Kryterion testing centers, candidates can cancel or reschedule a test session at least 72 hours (3 days) in advance. Test fees, vouchers or coupons used to pay for the exam will not be refunded for sessions cancelled within 72 hours, and additional fees may apply.

For online proctored exams with remote proctoring, candidates can cancel or reschedule an online proctored test session at least 24 hours (1 day) in advance. Test fees, vouchers or coupons used to pay for the exam will not be refunded for sessions cancelled within 24 hours, and additional fees may apply.

Q: How much do the exams cost?

A: Exam costs are based on the U.S. dollar value assigned and then converted to the local currency.

- The *Storage Concepts* (HQT-0050), *Sales Foundation* (HQT-1000) and *Pre-Sales Foundation* (HQT-2000) tests are US\$75.00 or equivalent in local currency.
- Technical qualification (HQT-XXXX) tests are US\$100.00 or equivalent in local currency.
- Certification exams (HCE-XXXX) are US\$225.00 or equivalent in local currency.

Q: How do I prepare for the exams?

A: Exam descriptions that are posted on the [HDS Certification website](#) include a *Supporting material* section that provides information regarding exam preparation. They also include a list of test objectives that identify topics covered by the exams.

Practical experience with the product(s) and/or solution(s) covered is also required to pass certification-

level exams.

Q: How do I get my credentials?

A: The HDS Certified Professional program office uses the *CertMetrics* credential management system from Alpine Testing Solutions Inc., available at <https://www.certmetrics.com/hitachi>.

CertMetrics self-service benefits include the ability for test-takers to:

- Review and update demographic data
- Check certification status
- View certification history
- Download logos and certificates
- Create and manage transcripts

For information on how to navigate the system and use its various functions, refer to the [User Guide](#).

Please note that to take advantage of the CertMetrics functionality, all candidates must first complete the *First-Time Login procedure* as described in the user guide.

Q: How do I get certification credit in Hitachi Data Systems Partner Programs?

A: A registered company email address is required to register and take Kryterion exams. Furthermore, a registered company email address is necessary to confirm your achievements for HDS Partner Program compliance. HDS reserves the right not to issue certifications if you use an email address that is not registered through the Partner Connect portal, or if you are unable to provide us with a registered email address.

If you are an HDS Partner and have used a private email address for taking exams, please update your Kryterion account with your work email address, and inform us at HDSCertifications@hds.com. Thank you for your cooperation.

Q: What are the recertification rules?

A: Credentials are stamped by the year. Qualification and certification credentials are valid for three years. Recertification must take place every three years by passing the same exam (if still available), or by passing a newer exam covering the same area of expertise or product range.

Credentials associated with partner programs also require recertification every three years.

Q: What is the re-take policy?

A: Participants must wait 72 hours before retaking a qualification test or a certification exam. The HDS Certified Professional program office may waive this requirement.