

A+ CORE SERIES (A+) CERTIFICATION

WHO ISSUES THE CERTIFICATION?

[CompTIA](#).

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CERTIFICATION?

The [A+ certification](#) is vendor neutral and focuses on foundational IT skills across a variety of devices and operating systems.

WHAT IS THE CAREER LEVEL OF THE CERTIFICATION AND WHO IS IT GEARED TO?

The A+ certification is an entry-level certification geared toward individuals interested in pursuing a career as an IT specialist or field technician. A+ also serves as a well-rounded certification for individuals who want to get into the IT industry and need a baseline skill set.

WHAT ARE THE EDUCATION AND/OR EXPERIENCE PREREQUISITES FOR THE CERTIFICATION?

There are no education prerequisites. However, 9-12 months of experience is highly recommended.

WHAT IS THE COST AND STRUCTURE OF THE CERTIFICATION'S EXAM(S)?

The A+ certification consists of two exams, Core 1 and Core 2, which focus on both knowledge and skills. Each exam includes a maximum of 90 questions, which must be completed within 90 minutes. The questions are a combination of multiple choice (single and multiple response), drag and drop, and performance-based. The exams cover the following domains: mobile devices, networking, hardware, virtualization and cloud computing, hardware and network troubleshooting, operating systems, security, software troubleshooting, and operational procedures. Candidates may take the exam either in-person or online. The total cost to take the two exams is \$464, which is \$232 for each.

WHAT IS THE GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATION?

International.

IS THE CERTIFICATION ACCREDITED?

Yes, CompTIA meets the ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB) accreditation program requirements and those set forth in ISO/IEC 17024:2012 *Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons* for the A+ program.

HOW LONG IS THE CERTIFICATION VALID?

The A+ certification is valid for three years from the date the exam was taken.

IS THERE A PROCESS FOR RENEWING THE CERTIFICATION, OR RECERTIFICATION?

A+ certification holders can renew their certification in three-year intervals in a variety of ways: certification holders can earn 20 continuing education credits, earn a more advanced certification from either CompTIA or

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other organizations (e.g., Amazon, Apple, GIAC, EC-Council, HP, VMWare, and Cisco), or complete an online, self-paced course offered by CompTIA.

CAN THE CERTIFICATION BE REVOKED?

CompTIA can revoke the certification if the certification holder violates CompTIA's ethics policy.

IS THE CERTIFICATION LINKED TO LICENSURE?

No.

HOW DOES THE CERTIFICATION RELATE TO OTHER COMPTIA CERTIFICATIONS OR THOSE OF OTHER CERTIFICATION BODIES?

The A+ certification serves as the foundation and aligns with other CompTIA certifications for career pathways in IT infrastructure and cybersecurity. For example, the cybersecurity pathway for technical specialists include the following CompTIA certifications: A+, Network+, Security+, Cybersecurity Analyst, and Advanced Security Practitioner. The A+ certification is one of four certifications that are part of CompTIA's core series.

WHAT ARE SOME ORGANIZATIONS OR INDUSTRIES THAT RECOGNIZE OR USE THE CERTIFICATION?

Blue Cross Blue Shield, Dell, HP, Intel, Nissan, and Ricoh are listed on CompTIA's website as companies that use the A+ certification. In addition, the A+ certification fulfills the U.S. Department of Defense Directive 8570/8140 for the information assurance technical level one roles.

ARE THERE ANY COMPANIES, CORPORATIONS, OR OTHER ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE PUBLICLY DECLARED THEY PREFER OR REQUIRE THE CERTIFICATION?

A search for "IT Specialist" on Indeed resulted in several thousand job postings that included the A+ certification as being required, preferred, or giving a hiring preference to those who hold the certification. In some job postings, individuals either needed to be CompTIA A+ certified or obtain the A+ certification within the first 90 days of employment. Examples of the organizations that required A+ certification in the job postings included: Amazon, Blackbaud, CellularOne, Garmin, General Dynamics, Northrop Grumman, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

WHAT OCCUPATIONS USE THE CERTIFICATION?

Associate network engineer, data support technician, desktop support administrator, end user computing technician, field service technician, help desk technician, service desk analyst, system support specialist, and technical support specialist are examples of occupations that use this certification.

DOES COMPTIA OFFER TRAINING MATERIALS TO HELP INDIVIDUALS PREPARE FOR THE CERTIFICATION EXAM?

Yes, CompTIA offers a variety of A+ certification preparation and training options ranging from e-learning, interactive labs, study books, online instructor training, video training, and the CompTIA Career Tech Academy.