Certifications

This list isn’t meant to be exhaustive. You MUST seek instructor approval prior to seeking certification.

If you have earned a certification that is still valid for 12 months past the start date of the course, you may choose to have that count as one of your certifications; however on the syllabus, note that to pass the class, you MUST obtain at least one certification during the duration of this course.

NOTE: These must be industry-level certifications. Test-out certifications are NOT industry-level, so they will NOT count.

Certification list

As the name of these certs continually change, I won’t try to list all of them and make this list pretty generic. Think of any topic that you feel comfortable with or would like to learn more about, see if there is an applicable cert, get it approved by your instructor.

- AWS CSA
- AWS DevOps Engineer
- AWS SysOps Administrator
- Any of the ‘plus’ certifications (network +, security +, A+, etc…). Other CompTia
- CISCO certifications (CCNA, CCDP, etc…)
- Microsoft certifications (MCSE)
- VMware certifications
- CISSP
- CISA
- ITIL
- Security certs (ethical hacking, security +, Owasp)
- Google cloud architect (there are probably other Google ones)
- Citrix
- Apple certified associate
- Docker certification
- Kubernetes certification
- Azure
- Puppet
- Ansible (others from Redhat)

Timelines

- Within the first few days of class, you should schedule a time to visit with your instructor. Come prepared to present your plan for the course. What cert(s) do you plan on obtaining? How do you propose to study for these certs? What materials will you use? When do you plan on taking the exam? What are your backup plans?
- Around midterm, you should plan on taking your first exam.
- Around the end of the semester, you should plan on taking your second exam.

Give yourself adequate time.

Notes

- If you can find other students desiring to obtain the same certification, it might be a good idea to form study groups and pursue certifications together.
- What if I am in another course and getting a certification, can I count it? Yes, as long as it is within the required timeframe as indicated on the syllabus.
- Yes, this will probably cost you some money, but it will be VERY valuable to you when you get your job. Many of the certs have academic pricing. Consult your instructor. (I probably would shy away from the real expensive certs)
- Don’t begin a cert until you have it approved.
- Some of the companies do provide onsite or online training, but these are generally much more expensive. You could probably do fine by researching a textbook or other online materials to use. (I.e. udemy has some great inexpensive courses on many certification topics)
- If you are working in IT, see if your employer will help cover the cost of training materials and exam fees.
- Check with your instructor often.