



Hitachi Vantara Certified Professional Program: Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the Hitachi Vantara Certified Professional Program?

A: The Hitachi Vantara 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 Hitachi Vantara 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 Hitachi Vantara Certified Professional program is designed for all professionals who sell, design, deploy, integrate and support Hitachi Vantara 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 Hitachi Vantara 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 Hitachi Vantara 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 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. Hitachi Vantara 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. Hitachi Vantara currently offers two certification levels: *SPECIALIST* and *EXPERT*.

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

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

All Hitachi Vantara certification exams (HCE-XXXX) are exclusively developed by a team of Hitachi Vantara 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 Hitachi Vantara partners and employees who sell products, solutions, services and technology from Hitachi Vantara.

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

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

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

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

Administration track: This track is primarily intended for end-users and Hitachi Vantara customers who use, manage and administer Hitachi Vantara products and solutions. It is also available to Hitachi Vantara 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 Vantara Qualified Associate - Storage Concepts

Professional-level

HQT-1000 Hitachi Vantara Qualified Professional - Sales Foundation

HQT-2000 Hitachi Vantara Qualified Professional - Pre-sales Foundation

HQT-4110 Hitachi Vantara Qualified Professional - Modular storage installation

HQT-4120 Hitachi Vantara Qualified Professional - VSP G200 to VSP G800 storage installation

HQT-4210 Hitachi Vantara Qualified Professional - NAS installation

HQT-4420 Hitachi Vantara Qualified Professional - Content Platform installation

HQT-4510 Hitachi Vantara Qualified Professional - Compute Platform installation

HQT-6740 Hitachi Vantara Qualified Professional - Storage administration

Certification exams:

Specialist-level

HCE-3210 Hitachi Vantara Certified Specialist - NAS solutions architect
HCE-3610 Hitachi Vantara Certified Specialist - UCP solutions architect
HCE-4130 Hitachi Vantara Certified Specialist - Enterprise storage installation
HCE-4140 Hitachi Vantara Certified Specialist - VSP G1500 and VSP F1500 storage installation
HCE-5210 Hitachi Vantara Certified Specialist - NAS solutions implementation
HCE-5420 Hitachi Vantara Certified Specialist - Content Platform implementation
HCE-5510 Hitachi Vantara Certified Specialist - Compute Platform implementation
HCE-5610 Hitachi Vantara Certified Specialist - UCP with Unified Compute Platform Director solutions implementation
HCE-5620 Hitachi Vantara Certified Specialist - UCP for SAP HANA solutions implementation
HCE-5910 Hitachi Vantara Certified Specialist - Pentaho Business Analytics implementation
HCE-5920 Hitachi Vantara Certified Specialist - Pentaho Data Integration implementation
HQT-3620 Hitachi Vantara - UCP for SAP HANA architect
HQT-4610 Hitachi Vantara - UCP with Unified Compute Platform Director installation

Expert-level

HCE-3700 Hitachi Vantara Certified Expert - Performance architect
HCE-3710 Hitachi Vantara Certified Expert - Replication solutions architect
HCE-3720 Hitachi Vantara Certified Expert - Mainframe Replication solutions architect
HCE-3900 Hitachi Vantara Certified Expert - Pentaho solutions architect
HCE-5710 Hitachi Vantara Certified Expert - Replication solutions implementation
HCE-5730 Hitachi Vantara 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 [Hitachi Vantara 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 Hitachi Vantara 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. Additional information and a Webassessor candidate user guide can be found here: <https://community.hitachivantara.com/docs/DOC-1008334>.

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 [Hitachi Vantara 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 Hitachi Vantara 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, certificates and badges
- 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 Vantara Partner Programs?

A: A registered company email address is requested to register and take exams through the Kryterion Webassessor system. Furthermore, a registered company email address is necessary to confirm your

achievements for Hitachi Vantara Partner Program compliance. Hitachi Vantara 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 Hitachi Vantara with a registered email address.

If you are an Hitachi Vantara Partner and have used a private email address for taking exams, please update both your Kryterion and CertMetrics accounts with your work email address, and inform us at Certifications@HitachiVantara.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 Hitachi Vantara Certified Professional program office may waive this requirement.

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