

Future-Ready Skills Pilot

(aka Project Padawan)

Program Guide

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Introduction

The **Future-Ready Skills Pilot** (aka **Project Padawan**) is a global pilot that provides educational institutions and educational non-profits (**Institutions**) with comprehensive resources and exclusive discounts to enable innovative education. This project provides Institutions access to Microsoft-developed and authorized curriculum so they can more easily offer in-demand technology content to their students and provide opportunities for students to earn industry-recognized certifications.

This **Program Guide** provides an overview of the Future-Ready Skills Pilot, including program benefits, curriculum, requirements, and information on how to participate. Together with this Program Guide, the Future-Ready Skills Pilot Program Agreement govern your participation in the program.

Program Overview

This program offers member Institutions with quality training resources on Microsoft technologies to help Institutions' educators, faculty, and staff (**Educators**) as well as its enrolled students and members (**Students**) obtain the skills needed to reach their academic and career potential. The program enables Institutions to:

- Offer quality technology curricula to help Students acquire skills on current Microsoft technologies
- Provide rich learning resources to Students and Educators
- Ensure Students graduate with the Microsoft technology knowledge required to be successful in today's job market
- Prepare Students and Educators to earn Microsoft Certification credentials
- Provide professional development opportunities for Educators

Benefits Overview

Program benefits are accessible online through services, applications, and websites provided by Microsoft.

Microsoft Curriculum

Designed to build future-ready skills for Educators and Students through a comprehensive curriculum including:

- Future-Ready Skills Pilot courseware and Microsoft Official Courses (MOC), developed by Microsoft
- Courses updates that reflect new Microsoft releases and best practices

This program includes access to training materials on cloud, data, artificial intelligence, and business applications. The training material includes an integrated program of Student materials and instructor resources designed for classes taught over a period of 4 to 16 weeks. The course materials cover Microsoft Certification exam objectives through lessons based on real-world scenarios and hands-on practice exercises.

Microsoft Certification Exams

Program members receive academic discount pricing for their Students and Educators to take [Microsoft Certification exams](#). Microsoft offers a range of certifications that cover the spectrum of professions within the IT industry. As a part of the Future-Ready Skills pilot your institution may receive free vouchers for Microsoft Certification exam subjects. These vouchers are subject to the terms and conditions of the pilot and compliance with all documented policies.

Microsoft Certifications are of the most respected credentials in the IT industry, stressing both technical knowledge and real-world experience using Microsoft technologies. By becoming certified in Microsoft technologies, your Educators stay current with the technologies they teach. Students who earn Microsoft Certifications enhance their credentials when entering college, applying for internships, or joining the workforce.

Benefits for Institutions

Program member Institutions receive the following benefits:

- Access to complete Microsoft-developed and authorized courses
- Access to support for Educators for training and syllabus integration
- Connection to on-campus events for Students and Educators

Benefits for Educators

Program member Educators receive the following benefits:

- Access to complete Microsoft-developed and authorized courses
- Access to resources that will enable Educators to be certified for the courses they are preparing to teach
- Professional development opportunities
- Access to free certification exams and practice test keys as a part of the pilot
- Invitation to conferences, webinars, and other events
- Support

Benefits for Students

Program member Students receive the following benefits:

- Access to complete Microsoft-developed and authorized curriculum as a part of their Institutional learning experience
- Access to free certification exams and practice test keys as a part of the pilot
- Opportunity to earn industry-recognized Certifications as a part of their Institutional learning experience

Future-Ready Skills Pilot Institution

As an institution in this pilot, your institution will have access to Microsoft-developed and authorized courses that can be delivered to Students by your Educators who meet the requirements.

Eligibility

Inclusion in the pilot is open to select entities who meet the Qualified Educational User requirements defined [here](#) for the country where it is organized.

Requirements for Institutions

To participate in this program, Institutions must meet the following requirements:

- Agree to the Future-Ready Skills Pilot Program Agreement and all requirements described in the Program Guide
- Appoint a Central Point of Contact who will be responsible for administering program materials at your institution and serve as the primary administrative point of contact with Microsoft for this pilot
- Benefits are for use only by Institution's Educators or its Students and only during the term stipulated in the Future-Ready Skills Pilot Program Agreement.

In addition, Institutions must be committed to offer and deliver at least one Microsoft curriculum and certification, for example, as a course that is part of an existing curriculum, as part of an existing course offering that has optional certification value add, or as a stand-alone course for professional development. To offer and deliver Microsoft curriculum and certification, Institutions must meet the following requirements:

- Nominate at least one Educator to be certified in the course that is to be offered
- Ensure that delivery of Microsoft curriculum is performed by an Educator who has a valid certification for the Microsoft-authorized curriculum they want to deliver Agree not to provide third-party organizations with training using content or software made available through this pilot. For example, Institution may not use benefits of this pilot to provide training to employees, contractors, customers or constituents of third-party companies and agencies, or to individuals who are not currently enrolled in Institution's training classes.
- Ensure at least 75% of Students in each class complete course pre and post evaluations
- Ensure Educator completes pre- and post-course evaluations and is available for feedback to the Microsoft pilot team
- Ensure institution completes pre- and post-course evaluations
- Ensure that Educators and Students comply with [Microsoft License Terms for Microsoft Instructor-Led Courseware](#)

Upon expiration or termination of Institution's participation in the pilot, all benefits and all rights granted under the Future-Ready Skills Pilot are immediately terminated. Institution must immediately cease all activity related to the program, including:

- Discontinuing all uses of program benefits

Testing Centers

Institutions that meet the requirements will [become an exam delivery provider testing center](#) and deliver Microsoft Certification exams on campus to support exam accessibility for Educators and Students. Certiport testing centers deliver the Fundamentals exams. Pearson VUE testing centers deliver the more advanced exams.

The benefits of becoming a testing center include:

- Accessible and convenient exam delivery service for Students and Educators
- Existing classroom lab equipment can be utilized as a testing facility or can be set up as a dedicated testing center

Note: Certiport and Pearson VUE (**EDPs**) are third-party vendors. Institutions are solely responsible for evaluating and determining whether becoming an EDP test center is appropriate for their Institution. Institutions may be required to enter into an agreement with an EDP to become one of their testing centers. Microsoft does not control, endorse, or sponsor the EDPs and Microsoft makes no warranties, express or implied, as to the EDPs or their offerings. Microsoft is not liable or responsible for any of the EDPs' products, services, or any dealings you may have with the EDPs.

Future-Ready Skills Educator

As an Educator in this pilot, you will have access to Microsoft-developed and authorized courses and access to support to meet the requirements to teach the courses.

Eligibility

To participate, an Educator must be nominated by a participating Institution. Educators must commit to complete the train-the-trainer session and pass the certification exam for the course they want to deliver.

Requirements for Educators

To deliver Microsoft curriculum and certification as a part of this pilot, Educators must meet the following requirements:

- Agree to the Future-Ready Skills Pilot Program Agreement and all requirements described in the Program Guide
- Be nominated by an approved Institution to become the Educator for the Microsoft curriculum and certification
- Have a valid certification for the Microsoft authorized curriculum they want to deliver
- Deliver Microsoft authorized courses only from a Microsoft-approved Institution
- Deliver only the Microsoft authorized courses that Microsoft has approved and for which Educator holds a certification
- Implement one complete Microsoft authorized curriculum each academic year
- Stay current on Microsoft services and the Microsoft authorized courses that Educator is certified to deliver
- Consistently deliver a high-quality learning experience for Students
- Ensure at least 75% of Students in each class complete course pre and post evaluations
- Comply with [Microsoft License Terms for Microsoft Instructor-Led Courseware](#)