Databricks Academy FAQ

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MIGRATION QUESTIONS

This section contains frequently asked questions about the Databricks Academy migration to a new learning management system.

What changed with the Databricks Academy?

In an effort to create a better learning experience for everyone, the Databricks Academy moved to a new learning management system to host and share training content. As part of this change, Databricks Academy training content and existing individual learner profiles were migrated over to the new platform.

I am a Databricks customer - how do I access my free training?

If you are a Databricks customer, please access your free training by following these steps. **NOTE: You do not need to purchase any training.** If you do not see the three catalogs shown in this link, please submit a support ticket here.

What was migrated from the previous platform to this new platform?

All training content including courses, role-based learning plans, and accreditations that were available in the previous platform are available in the new Databricks Academy.

Any courses you completed through December 29, 2021, have also been marked "Complete" in the new Databricks Academy. Unfortunately, training progress made during this migration process might not have been migrated over. If you are having any difficulty with your training progress, please submit a support ticket here. Please note - training progress migrated over will simply show whether or not you started a course (for most courses, you will not see how much of the course you completed).

What happens if I lost training progress in my eLearning courses during this migration process?

If you lost training progress during this migration process, please submit a support ticket here. Please note - for most courses, training progress migrated over will simply show whether or not you started a course (for most courses, you will not see how much of the course you completed).

What if I'm missing courses that I've enrolled in.

If you are missing courses that you've enrolled in, please search for them in the Databricks Academy catalog and enroll in them.

For instructor-led courses, please submit a support ticket here.

Does this migration affect my enrollment in any upcoming instructor-led classes?

No. Your enrollment status in instructor-led classes will not be affected.

Does this migration affect my enrollment in any paid certification exams?

No. Certification exam enrollments are not affected by this migration since they are managed by the exam proctoring vendor (Kryterion).

Why do I see additional learning plans in the new Databricks Academy that I didn't see in the previous platform?

The new Databricks Academy makes it easier to group similar courses together. Because of this, Databricks customers can expect to find courses organized into:

- Role-based learning paths
- Topic-based course groupings
- Product-based course groupings

Please see additional information about this topic under the “Training Offerings” section above.

Did role-based learning plans change (they seem to have fewer courses than they did in the previous Databricks Academy)?

As the Databricks Lakehouse Platform continues to evolve, so does Databricks Academy training content. The role-based learning paths have been updated to ensure that only courses that will help you earn a Databricks certification are included in them. Elective courses (courses not a part of the learning path) have been added to the Databricks Academy catalog for Databricks customers individually and also as part of topic-based / product-based groupings.

INSTRUCTOR-LED TRAINING QUESTIONS

Please see our Instructor-led Training FAQ page.

GENERAL TECHNICAL SUPPORT QUESTIONS

This section contains frequently asked questions about general technical support-related topics.

Why do I need to create a Learner Account?

Databricks has a Learning Management System (LMS) to manage our customers' training. For the best experience, we associate all of your past and current Databricks training and certifications to a single account. For this reason, you must create an account in order to access the Databricks Academy.

What should I do if a course or a learning plan is not working correctly?

If a course or a learning plan is not working correctly, please submit a support ticket here. To expedite your request, please be sure to include the exact name of the course/learning plan that is not working correctly and include the irregular behavior you are experiencing.

How can I have my LMS courses transferred if I leave my company to work somewhere else?

To transfer learning history, please submit a support ticket here.

What do I do if I cannot access the Databricks Academy?

If you were a user in the previous Databricks Academy, please login here and reset your password using the "Forgot My Password" option.

If you are a new user, please go to this page and sign up for the Databricks Academy.

How do I access self-paced training and register for upcoming instructor-led training?

Databricks Customers: Please login here and look for the Databricks Academy catalog. All courses in the "Databricks Academy Catalog" are available for you to take. If you find a course you like, you can enroll in a self-paced course (free) or pay to enroll in an instructor-led course (for a fee).

Non-Databricks customers: Please login here and look for the Databricks Academy Public catalog. The learning paths included in that catalog are available for you to purchase for a fee.

How do I cancel/change my registration for an upcoming instructor-led training course?

To cancel/change your registration please submit a support ticket here. To expedite your request, please be sure to include the exact name of the instructor-led course you need to cancel/change. If changing the session, please indicate the session you would like to attend instead of your current session.

I found a typo/mistake in the course material. How can I submit this feedback to Databricks?

If you find a typo/mistake in course material, the best way to let us know is by filling out the end-of-course survey with detailed feedback about what is wrong. If you have difficulties submitting the end-of-course survey, please submit a support ticket here with the issues you found.

How do I access a Databricks workspace?

Important: Access to a Databricks workspace is not part of your course purchase price. You are responsible for getting access to Databricks. Currently, there are a couple of available options:

Use your employer's workspace

If your employer is a Databricks customer, and you have access to your employer's Databricks workspace, we recommend using that workspace. Please make sure to check with your employer.

Use a Databricks trial account

If you cannot use an employer's workspace, you can use a Databricks trial. Try Databricks for free here.

NOTE: Not every course will run on the free Databricks trial.

REGISTRATION/LOGIN QUESTIONS

This section contains frequently asked questions about logging in/accessing the Databricks Academy.

What if I am a Databricks customer but do not have access to the Databricks Academy?

Follow this link to self-register for access to the Databricks Academy. Please use your company's domain to register. If you are unable to self-register, please submit a support ticket here.

What if I am a Databricks customer but used my personal email address in the previous Databricks Academy?

Please do not create a new account. Instead, please submit a support ticket here and include the following with your support ticket:

- Email, Employer/Company
- Clarify that you are an existing customer, used your personal email address, and now need access to the new Databricks Academy.

What if I am not a Databricks customer but would like access to the Databricks Academy?

Follow this link to self-register for access to the Databricks Academy. If you are a non-Databricks customer, your new Databricks Academy login will give you access to view training offerings available for purchase including role-based learning paths and instructor-led courses. If you are unable to self-register, please submit a support ticket here.

What do I do if I am an existing Databricks customer and cannot login to the Databricks Academy?

Please note that you must use your customer email address to login to the Databricks Academy. If you experience any issues at all, please submit a support ticket here.

CERTIFICATION FAQ

This section contains frequently asked questions about Databricks Certification Exams. Questions in the "General" section apply to all exams.

General Questions

Who should take Databricks certification exams?

All Databricks certifications are public-facing and meant for all individuals learning to use Databricks. This includes partners, customers, and the public.

How do I register for a Databricks certification exam?

Databricks certification exams are delivered via Kryterion. To register for an exam, follow these steps:

- Create an account (or login) to https://customer-academy.databricks.com/.
    - Databricks customers: Search for the "Databricks Academy - Recorded ILTs and Certifications" Catalog.
    - Non-Databricks customers: Search for the "Databricks Academy Catalog (Public)" Catalog
- Search for and click on each "Certification Exam Info" page you are interested in. All of these pages include a link to register for certification exams. If you have difficulty finding that link, you can register here.
- Click the Register button for the exam you would like to take.
- Follow on-screen prompts to schedule an exam with our partner proctoring service (note: You will need to create an account with our partner proctoring service).

How long do I have to complete each exam?

Our goal is to assess your skills, not your speed. For most of the exams, you will have 2 hours (120 minutes) to complete 60 multiple-choice questions. For some exams, you will have 1 hour and 30 minutes (90 minutes) to complete 45 multiple-choice questions. Each exam's time limit will be detailed in its respective page.

What is the minimum passing score for certification exams?

Your unrounded score must be 70.00% or better. This translates to correctly answering a minimum of 42 of 60 questions or 32 of 45 questions.

Are there any practice exams available for Databricks certification exams?

The Databricks Certified Associate Developer for Apache Spark 3.0 exam has a practice exam available for Python and Scala. There are no other practice exams available at this time.

What are the technology requirements for Databricks certification exams?

Please find tech requirements and preparation instructions on Kryterion's Online Proctored Exam Support page.

Can I use Windows or a Mac for the Databricks certification exams?

Please find tech requirements and preparation instructions on Kryterion's Online Proctored Exam Support page.

What type of camera, computer, and web browser are required to take the online-proctored Databricks certification exams?

Please find tech requirements and preparation instructions on Kryterion's Online Proctored Exam Support page.

How can I test my webcam before taking the Databricks certification exams?

Please find tech requirements and preparation instructions on Kryterion's Online Proctored Exam Support page.

How do I reschedule my certification exam?

If you need to reschedule your exam, and it's more than 24 hours from the start time, please login to your Webassessor account and reschedule. If you need to reschedule your exam, and it's within 24 hours of the start time, please contact Kryterion here.

Can I use my non-English keyboard as is, or do I have to switch to an English keyboard in order to take the Databricks certification exams?

Exams follow a multiple-choice format. You may use any keyboard as-is. This exam is written in English.

Are Databricks certification exams available in languages other than English?

At this time, exams are only available in English.

When do awarded certificates associated with Databricks certification exams expire?

All digital badges associated with Databricks certification exams expire two years after they have been awarded.

How much does it cost to take Databricks certification exams?

The majority of Databricks certification exams cost $200. Some Databricks certification exams cost $150. Please review each exam's registration item in Kryterion's Webassessor after login to identify its price. Please note that there are no free retakes for any Databricks certification exam.

How long will it take to get exam results?

Unofficial results are shared immediately at the conclusion of the exam. For passing scores, Databricks will review the proctor record and notify you when your digital badge indicating your certification status has been posted to credentials.databricks.com.

How do I use a voucher to register for a Databricks certification exam?

On the exam checkout page, you may enter your voucher code. Click Submit. Then, Check Out. Please note: Databricks will not issue retake vouchers for an exam.

What happens if I don't pass the exam the first time?

You are welcome to re-register and retake the exam as many times as you would like. Each attempt costs the exam's original price. Databricks will not issue free retake vouchers for any exam.

Would it be possible to see the breakdown of sections missed so that I can work on those areas before retaking a Databricks certification exam?

To maintain exam integrity, Databricks cannot release specific information regarding missed questions.

Is there a list of test centers for the Databricks certification exams?

All exams will be administered online with a live proctor through our exam partner, Kryterion Global Testing Solutions.

Can I have a hard copy of my certificate mailed to me?

No - please go to credentials.databricks.com to see the digital badges you have earned. We use this website because it is the best way to maintain verifiable, authentic credentials. You can share the digital badge as proof of certification.

Databricks Certified Associate Developer for Apache Spark

Is the Databricks Certified Associate Developer for Apache Spark exam open-book?

The exam proctor will provide a PDF version of the appropriate Spark API documentation for the language in which the exam is being taken. Previews of this API documentation are available here: Python and Scala.

How many questions are in the Databricks Certified Associate Developer with Apache Spark exam?

The exam consists of 60 multiple-choice questions. There are three main categories:

- Spark Architecture: Conceptual understanding (~17%)
- Spark Architecture: Applied understanding (~11%)
- Spark DataFrame API Applications (~72%)

Does the Databricks Certified Associate Developer for Apache Spark exam require Databricks-specific knowledge?

No. Test-takers will be assessed on their understanding of basic Spark Architecture and knowledge of the Spark DataFrames API, especially as it can be used to accomplish routine Spark DataFrame tasks.

What programming languages can I use to complete the Databricks Certified Associate Developer for Apache Spark exam?

The exam is available in two languages: Scala and Python.

The two exams are nearly identical with the exception that each one expresses the nuances of their particular language - colons vs curly braces, for example. Any concepts unique to a particular language (e.g. Dataset's encoders and decoders or Python's vectorized UDFs) are excluded from this exam.

How do I prepare for the Databricks Certified Associate Developer for Apache Spark exam?

Test-takers should have a basic understanding of Spark architecture and be able to apply the Spark DataFrame API to complete individual data manipulation taste like selecting, renaming and manipulating columns; filtering, dropping, sorting and aggregating rows; joining, reading, and writing partitioning DataFrames; and working with UDFs and Spark SQL functions. Databricks expects that developers who have used the Spark DataFrame API for at least 6 months should be able to pass this certification exam.

You can also access a variety of formal training courses and/or reference materials including, but not limited to, the following:

- Databricks Instructor-Led Training: Apache Spark™ Programming with Databricks
- Recommended Reading: Spark: The Definitive Guide and Learning Spark

What Spark 3.0 features are covered by the Databricks Certified Associate Developer for Apache Spark 3.0 exam?

The major change associated with the Spark 3.0 version of the exam is the inclusion of Adaptive Query Execution. For more information on AQE, please check on this Databricks blog post.

Can I pass the Databricks Certified Associate Developer for Apache Spark exam with just Spark SQL?

No. This exam will test your knowledge of the Spark DataFrames API.

Who should I contact for a test voucher if I am owed a free or discounted exam attempt for the Databricks Certified Associate Developer for Apache Spark exam?

Please fill out a test voucher inquiry at this link.

Databricks Certified Professional Data Engineer

Is the Databricks Certified Professional Data Engineer exam open-book?

No. Test-takers will not be allowed any resources while taking this exam.

How many questions are in the Databricks Certified Professional Data Engineer exam?

The exam consists of 60 multiple-choice questions. There are six main categories:

- Databricks Tooling (20%)
- Data Processing (30%)
- Data Modeling (20%)
- Security and Governance (10%)
- Monitoring and Logging (10%)
- Testing and Deployment (10%)

Databricks Certified Professional Data Scientist

Is the Databricks Certified Professional Data Scientist exam open-book?

No. Test-takers will not be allowed any resources while taking this exam.How many questions are in the Databricks Certified Professional Data Scientist exam?

The exam consists of 60 multiple-choice questions. There are four main categories:

- Machine Learning Basics (17%)
- Machine Learning Lifecycle (42%)
- Machine Learning Algorithms and Techniques (33%)
- Machine Learning Model Management with MLflow (8%)

What programming languages can I use to complete the Databricks Certified Professional Data Engineer exam?

While the exam only contains multiple-choice items, it requires knowledge of Python and SQL.

Does the Databricks Certified Professional Data Scientist exam require Databricks-specific or Spark-specific knowledge?

No. Test-takers will be assessed on their understanding of the basics of machine learning and data science, how to complete each stage of the machine learning lifecycle, how various machine learning algorithms and techniques are implemented, and how to manage machine learning models with MLflow.

Does the Databricks Certified Professional Data Scientist exam require an understanding of programming or any specific machine learning or data science libraries?

No. Test-takers will not be assessed on any programming tasks. The exam assesses an in-depth conceptual understanding of data science and machine learning. A conceptual understanding of the MLflow product will be assessed.

What programming languages can I use to complete the Databricks Certified Professional Data Scientist exam?

This exam does not have a programming component so there are no associated programming languages.

How do I prepare for the Databricks Certified Professional Data Scientist exam?

The minimally qualified candidate should have a complete understanding of the basics of machine learning, including the bias-variance tradeoff, in-sample vs. out-of-sample data, categories of machine learning, and applied statistics concepts; an intermediate understanding of the steps in the machine learning

lifecycle, including data preparation, feature engineering, model training, selection, and production, and interpreting models; a complete understanding of basic machine learning algorithms and techniques, including linear, logistic, and regularized regression, tree-based models like decision trees, random forest and gradient boosted trees, unsupervised techniques like K-means and PCA, and specific algorithms like ALS for recommendation and isolation forests for outlier detection; and a complete understanding of the basics of machine learning model management like logging and model organization with MLflow.

You can access a variety of format training courses and/or reference materials including, but not limited to, the following:

- Databricks Instructor-Led Training: Scalable Machine Learning with Databricks and Machine Learning in Production: MLflow and Model Deployment
- Databricks Self-Paced Training: Machine Learning in Production: MLflow and Model Deployment
- Recommended Reading: Learning Spark, Introduction to Statistical Learning and Elements of Statistical Learning

Spark 2.4 Removal

What happened to the Databricks certification exams for Apache Spark 2.4?

On August 20, 2021, Databricks Academy removed its certification exams assessing skills on Apache Spark 2.4.

Which exams were removed?

Three total exams were removed: Databricks Certified Associate Developer for Apache Spark 2.4 - Python, Databricks Certified Associate Developer for Apache Spark 2.4 - Scala, and Databricks Certified Associate ML Practitioner for Apache Spark 2.4 (Python only).

Why were the Apache Spark 2.4 exams removed?

These exams were removed from the certification catalog due to the decreasing usage of Apache Spark 2.4, the decreased demand for Spark 2.4 certification exams, and the lack of Databricks Runtimes that use Spark 2.4.

What if I already have an Apache Spark 2.4 certification?

All issued certifications for Apache Spark 2.4 will remain valid for the standard validity period.

What if I'm already registered for an Apache Spark 2.4 certification?

If you are registered for an Apache Spark 2.4 certification, you will be able to complete your exam if you schedule and complete your test prior to January 1, 2022. You also have the ability to transfer your certification registration to the appropriate Apache Spark 3.0 exam or receive a complete refund. To have one of these requests processed, please submit a service request here. To speed up your processing, please include "Apache Spark 2.4 Certification Help" in the Subject field.

GENERAL TRAINING OFFERING QUESTIONS

This section contains frequently asked questions about Databricks training offerings.

What is available to Databricks customers via the Databricks Academy?

In the Databricks Academy, you will find self-paced courses, instructor-led courses, accreditation exams, and certification exams.

- Self-paced courses - asynchronous virtual training available to individuals through the Databricks Academy. This type of training is free for Databricks customers. Each course is typically less than one hour in length.
- Instructor-led courses - live one to four-day training sessions made available to everyone - customers and the public, for a fee. These training offerings are delivered virtually and on-site.
- Accreditation exams - low stakes credentials resulting from an unproctored online exam administered through the Databricks Academy website. They are earned after demonstrating mastery of technology areas at the introductory level and are in alignment with self-paced training
- Certification exams - higher stakes credentials resulting from a proctored exam administered through a testing vendor. They are earned after demonstrating mastery of intermediate and advanced technical areas. They are in alignment with instructor-led training and are role-based. Unlike accreditations which are prepared for a general audience, certifications are designed to align with role-specific/tool-specific needs.

All of this content is organized into role-based learning paths, topic-based course groupings, and product-based course groupings (which we discuss below).

What is available to non-Databricks customers via the Databricks Academy?

Non-Databricks customers can purchase instructor-led courses or role-based learning paths via the Databricks Academy.

What are role-based pathways and which pathways are available through the Databricks Academy?

Role-based pathways are currently available for:

- Business Leaders (this is also our Databricks Fundamentals learning path)
- Data Analysts
- Data Scientists
- Data Engineers
- Platform Administrators

Currently, the Business Leaders/Databricks Fundamentals learning path is the first step of all role-based paths.

Role-based pathways are made up of courses that help prepare data practitioners to pass Databricks certification exams.

Note: Databricks Customers have access to role-based pathways for free. Non-Databricks Customers can choose to purchase role-based pathways for a fee.

What are topic-based/product-based course groupings and which groupings are available through the Databricks Academy?

Topic-based course groupings are groups of courses organized by similar/related topics. Currently, the following course groupings are available:

- Architecture
- Administration
- Data Analysis
- Data Engineering
- Data Science
- Fundamental Big Data Concepts
- Preparing to Use Databricks

Note: Databricks Customers have access to topic-based course groupings for free. Non-Databricks Customers do not have access to topic-based course groupings.

What are product-based groupings and which groupings are available through the Databricks Academy?

Product-based course groupings are groups of courses organized by Databricks product they cover. They are a great way to maintain up to date with the latest on specific Databricks products. Currently, the following course groupings are available:

- Apache Spark
- Auto Loader

- AutoML
- Databricks Connect
- Databricks Repos
- Delta Live Tables
- Feature Store
- MLflow

Note: Databricks Customers have access to product-based course groupings for free. Non-Databricks Customers do not have access to topic-based course groupings.

How many catalogs should I see available to me?

Databricks Customers should see three catalogs available to them:

- Databricks Academy Catalog - This catalog includes all courses, learning plans, topic/product-based course groupings, and credentials offered by Databricks Academy.
- Databricks Academy Role-Based Catalog - This catalog contains Databricks Academy courses organized into role-based learning pathways that help prepare learners for certification.
- Databricks Academy Recorded ILTs and Certifications - This catalog contains Databricks Academy recorded instructor-led courses, informational pages on available certifications exams, and certification exam overview courses.

Non-Databricks customers should see one catalog available to them:

- Databricks Academy Catalog (Public) - This catalog contains role-based learning pathways available for a fee.

Is there a way that I can see all Databricks Academy courses with their descriptions?

Yes. Please see the Databrick Academy Course Catalog for a list of course descriptions. The catalog is updated on the first day of each month.

Note that Databricks non-customers will only have access to a subset of these courses - ones that belong to a role-based learning pathway.

What is the best way to keep track of changes to the Databricks Academy?

To keep track of changes to the Databricks Academy (new courses, deprecated courses, changes to learning plans, etc.), please search for and enroll in the course titled “Databricks Academy: Latest Updates”. This course will be updated at the beginning of each month and will contain all of the information you need to stay up to date with Databricks Academy offerings.

BADGES FAQ

This section contains frequently asked questions about receiving/sharing Databricks Academy badges.

How do I see my Certifications and Badges?

Please go to https://credentials.databricks.com to see the badges you have earned.

What should I do if I passed my accreditation/certification and I haven't received my badge?

Data for badges is a weekly batch upload. Please allow 5-7 business days for your badge to be awarded to you. If after this time you still do not see your badge, please submit a support ticket here and include the day you earned your badge, and what you earned a badge for.

How do I connect my badges to LinkedIn?

Login to https://credentials.databricks.com and click "my credentials" in the top right. Select the badge you want to share and click "share" under that badge. You will have the option to either share in your feed or share to your profile.