



# **NUTANIX CERTIFIED ASSOCIATE**

## **QUICK START HANDBOOK**

**A comprehensive handbook for your journey to become a Nutanix Certified Associate.**

# Table of **Contents**

- 3 Introduction**
- 6 How to prepare for the exam**
- 12 Frequently asked questions**
- 13 What's next after the exam**



# Introduction

This handbook will provide you with tools and helpful tips you can use when preparing for your Nutanix Certified Associate (NCA) Certification exam.

## WHAT IS THE NCA CERTIFICATION?

The NCA exam tests your skills and abilities to navigate a Nutanix AOS cluster, as well as manage and operate Nutanix core offerings. Successful candidates demonstrate mastery of these skills and abilities.

## WHO SHOULD PURSUE THE NCA CERTIFICATION?

The NCA certification is perfect if you are just getting started with Nutanix solutions. A candidate for this certification has approximately six to 12 months of holistic IT infrastructure experience, as well as some hands on experience working with an AOS implementation.

Successful candidates are typically systems administrators, junior engineers or IT operators who are capable of operating and assisting in the management of a Nutanix Enterprise Cloud including AOS, Prism (Volumes, LCM, NCC), AHV and PRISM-OPS.



# WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF GETTING CERTIFIED?

In the rapidly changing environment of IT, high-value certifications are a proven method to gain and validate in-demand skills as a technical professional.

All Nutanix Technical Certifications have been designed from the ground up to recognize the real-world skills and knowledge needed to successfully deploy, manage, optimize, and scale the Enterprise Cloud.

## **BECOMING A NUTANIX CERTIFIED ASSOCIATE WILL ENABLE YOU TO:**

- ✓ Position yourself for advancement and expand your opportunities for new tasks or career paths
- ✓ Stand apart from other candidates in the job market
- ✓ Demonstrate your dedication to your career through continued learning
- ✓ Prove you are well-equipped to guide your organization along the next phase of their Cloud journey

## **PLUS, YOU'LL GET ACCESS TO EXCLUSIVE NUTANIX BENEFITS INCLUDING:**

- ✓ Digital badge from Credly to share on social media
- ✓ Exclusive access to the online certification merchandise store
- ✓ Special discounts on new certification releases and tickets for Nutanix .NEXT
- ✓ And more!



Here's what Nutanix customer Matt Vilord, ITC Manager for the City of Cape Coral, had to say about becoming certified:

“The educational services that Nutanix provides has been an asset to our **growth and development** of the staff at the city of Cape Coral.

This certification allows the staff to not only **support the product better**, but also... have better background during conversations for the capabilities, as well as, the possibilities of new projects.”

Click **HERE** to listen to more Nutanix customer stories to hear how training and certifications have helped them succeed.





# How to Prepare for the Certification Exam

Now that you've determined the NCA certification is right for you, it's time to start preparing for the exam.

Why should you prepare? So that you have the best possible chance of passing and getting your money's worth. That's why we've compiled a list of the best study tips to help you succeed. The best part is that these materials are on-demand and available when you are, so you can access them when you're ready, at your own pace.

Here are four best study tips to help you start preparing for your certification exam.

## Study Tip #1: Take the Training Course

The **Nutanix Hybrid Cloud Fundamentals (NHCF)** course will introduce you to the products, capabilities, and technologies that form the foundation of Nutanix's Hybrid Cloud solution.

You'll explore the history of this technology space and delve into essential Nutanix products, including AOS, AHV, and Prism and learn how these products can solve your business challenges. You'll also learn about fundamental aspects involved in operating the Nutanix Hybrid Cloud, such as cluster updates, managing virtual machines (VMs), reporting performance metrics, and more.

The material provided in the course covers approximately 80% of the objectives that appear on the NCA exam, so it's a great way to familiarize yourself with exam content. However, you should note that additional exposure to a Nutanix environment is highly recommended.



The course is offered through online or instructor-led training so you can access training based on your individual needs.

## ONLINE TRAINING

Our online training is perfect for individuals who prefer to learn on their time and at their own pace. Online classes provide a mix of interactive content that can be started, paused, and replayed as needed, allowing you to keep a flexible schedule.

Key benefits of online training include:

- ✓ **FLEXIBILITY TO LEARN ANYTIME.** Our extensive library of online training includes short videos, product demos, and certification practice exams all designed to give you the knowledge you need, when you need it.
- ✓ **SELF-PACED LEARNING.** Online training is designed with short, digestible content so you can learn at your own pace.
- ✓ **FREE TRAINING.** All of our online training courses are completely free.

### Instructor-Led Training

With live instructor-led training you'll receive detailed instruction and have the opportunity to collaborate with your peers and ask questions throughout the course. Instructor-led training is also available virtually so you can access the training through the comfort of your own home.

Key benefits of instructor-led training include:

- ✓ **ACCESS TO AN INSTRUCTOR.** A live instructor is available to address and explain complicated topics, answer questions, and provide live feedback throughout the class. These instructors have met our standards for excellence and bring their real-world experience to the classroom. vILT is available from our global network of Authorized Training Partners (ATPs).
- ✓ **HANDS-ON LABS.** Work with Nutanix products in a controlled environment and apply what you learned through detailed, interactive labs.
- ✓ **OPPORTUNITY FOR Q&A.** Interact with not only the instructor, but also with your fellow classmates.
- ✓ **FREE EXAM VOUCHER.** Following the training, you'll receive a voucher to complete the certification exam free of charge.

Click [here](#) to find out more about the training course and get started today.

# Study Tip #2:

## Study the Exam Blueprint Guide

The Exam Blueprint Guide provides an in-depth review of the exam objectives and important information you'll need to know for exam day. It also contains links to supplemental materials like best practice guides, ebooks, knowledge briefs, and more that can help you study further any areas you need to focus on.

### THE NCA EXAM BLUEPRINT GUIDE COVERS THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES:

- ✓ Describing Nutanix architectural concepts
- ✓ Identifying Nutanix products by use case
- ✓ Contacting Nutanix Support
- ✓ Describing VM entity components
- ✓ Applying procedures to maintain VM/cluster health
- ✓ Managing a VM
- ✓ Recognizing data protection entities
- ✓ Describing storage entity components
- ✓ Applying cluster management concepts

Prior to taking the exam, you should understand each of these objectives that are outlined in detail in Exam Blueprint Guide. Along with each objective, you'll find related tools that you should have experience with and documentation that contains information relevant to the objective.





Note, some documentation in the Exam Blueprint Guide will require access to the Support Portal, which can be accessed using a MyNutanix account. To create a new MyNutanix account, click [here](#).

Click [here](#) to download the NCA Exam Blueprint Guide.

## Study Tip #3: **Watch Nutanix Demos**

We've developed a custom YouTube playlist with a collection of videos specifically designed to help you prepare for the exam.

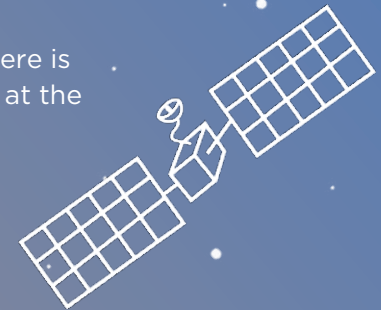
Click [here](#) to view the playlist.

While you're there, don't forget to subscribe to stay up-to-date on all the latest videos featuring product tips and demos.

## Study Tip #4: **Take the Practice Exam**

The practice exam is based on the same objectives as the live exam and has the same type of questions so you can familiarize yourself with the test-taking experience.

On the next page you'll find examples of multiple choice questions you'll see on the practice exam. There is one correct answer for each question. You'll find the correct answers and rationales for each question at the bottom of the next page.



1. An administrator needs to verify that only NICs of the same speed are configured in the same bond within a Nutanix AHV cluster.

Which command can the administrator run to ensure that right configuration was applied from the CVM?

- a. ovs-vsctl
- b. acli
- c. manage\_ovs
- d. ifconfig

2. What is the licensing requirement for VM Flash Mode?

- a. AOS Pro
- b. AOS Ultimate
- c. Prism Pro
- d. Prism Central

3. What is required in order to enable users to perform a Self Service Restore?

- a. The VM must be part of a Nutanix Protection Policy
- b. Nutanix VirtIO drivers must be installed
- c. The VM must have the previous version enabled
- d. Nutanix Guest Tools must be installed

Click [here](#) to enroll in the practice exam. You can take the exam as many times as you'd like.

Correct Answers:

- 1. C
- 2. B
- 3. D



## MORE WAYS TO STUDY FOR THE EXAM

We've outlined the core best practices to help you prepare for your exam. How you study also matters, so here are top pro tips to help with your self-study preparation.

### EXPLAIN IT TO SOMEONE ELSE.

Take what you've learned from the training materials and try explaining it to a loved one - or even just a rubber duck! If you can easily explain the objectives to someone else then you're ready to take the exam.

### CHECK OUT TEST DRIVE.

Try your hand at creating storage containers, VMs, and more. Test Drive enables you to evaluate features and functionality of Nutanix products - all at no cost. With Test Drive you can build your clouds your way in a few clicks and instantly complete all your IT tasks on a unified cloud platform. Click [here](#) to learn more.

### JOIN THE NUTANIX COMMUNITY.

Connect with cloud builders from around the world, learn from IT professionals in the industry, and share experiences through the Next Community Board, Xtribe, or by joining the Nutanix User Group. Learn more [here](#).

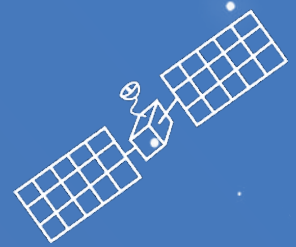
### SUBSCRIBE TO THE NUTANIX UNIVERSITY YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Check out our exam preparation playlists, which feature collections of videos on certification specific topics, and more on the Nutanix University Youtube channel. Click [here](#) to access the channel and click the "Subscribe" button on the page.



# Frequently Asked Questions

Below you'll find answers to our most commonly asked questions about the certification exam. If you don't find the answer you were looking for, please email [university@nutanix.com](mailto:university@nutanix.com).



## How do I set up a MyNutanix account?

To access the Nutanix University learning platform, you'll need to register for a MyNutanix account. To sign up for a new account, click [here](#).

## What is Remote Proctoring?

Remote proctoring allows us to offer Nutanix Certification exams at any location that meets the technical requirements. Meaning you don't have to travel to a testing center in another city or state.

The system will first confirm your identity. Then, during the exam, the system monitors your progress watching for certain behaviors that could indicate non-compliance with the exam rules.

This system gives us the flexibility to offer exams as widely as possible, while maintaining a secure environment. All of which increases the trust in – and value of your certification.

## When will I receive my exam results?

You'll receive your results on screen immediately after your exam, followed by a confirmation email shortly thereafter.

## What should I expect on exam day?

On the day of your exam, you'll start the exam by clicking the Exam Dashboard button under the Take the Exam task in the exam list at Nutanix University.

You should be in a quiet, well-lit area with no other people in the room. Your desk should be clear of all items. Multiple monitors and food are not allowed during the exam. You are permitted to have a glass of water at your desk during the exam.

Watch [this](#) video to learn more about setting up your location for exam day.



# What's Next After I Pass the Exam?

First - congratulations on your achievement of earning the NCA certification! Be sure to check out the Nutanix certification store and pick up swag to show off your new badge. This is an exclusive store just for those who have been certified.

When you pass the exam, you'll receive an official congratulations email from PSI. Follow the instructions in this email on how to access the store.

Now, you might be wondering what's next after you become certified. You can continue on your Multicloud Infrastructure journey through gaining hands-on work experience.

You can also begin exploring available certifications at the Nutanix Certified Professional (NCP) level. There are multiple options to choose from depending on your area of interest. Click [here](#) to learn more and determine which certification is right for you.

Training for each of these certifications is available to help you prepare for the exam. Click [here](#) to view the full list of available training courses.

**NUTANIX**  
UNIVERSITY

★★★  
EXPERT

★★★  
MASTER

★★★  
PROFESSIONAL

★★★  
ASSOCIATE





Achieving the Nutanix Certified Associate certification is a real accomplishment. With these best practices, you're ready to start preparing for the exam so you can take your skills to the next level.

We're always here to assist you along your Nutanix journey. Please reach out to **university@nutanix.com** for additional support.

### Stay Connected with Nutanix University



Nutanix  
University Blog

