



Program Guidebook

Bachelor of Science, Cloud Computing - Amazon Web Services track

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The Bachelor of Science in Cloud Computing - AWS track (BSCCAWS) degree program prepares IT professionals with hands-on knowledge and practical application of cloud computing infrastructure, platform, and software. Students will learn of the business advantages of moving to the cloud including functions specific to compute, storage, database, networking, and security. Students will earn foundational and associate level certifications from major cloud providers such as Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Microsoft Azure, and vendor agnostic certifications such as CompTIA, Linux, and ITIL. Students will learn how to manage the security of cloud deployed applications, work with DevOps principles, and global Identity and Access Management (IAM) functions. The curriculum emphasizes working in the AWS cloud environment and builds upon a core IT curriculum that includes systems and services, networking and security, scripting and programming, data management, business of IT, web development, and exposure to other cloud environments. Students seeking the BS in Cloud Computing - AWS track degree demonstrate additional competencies in software, engineering, operations, architecture, and development for cloud-based computing solutions across multiple industries.

Understanding the Competency-Based Approach

How do competency-based programs like those offered at Western Governors University (WGU) work? Unlike traditional universities, WGU does not award degrees based on completing a certain number of credit hours or a specific set of required courses. Instead, you will earn your degree by demonstrating your skills, knowledge, and understanding of essential concepts.

Progress through a degree program is measured not by the amount of time you spend in class but by your ability to demonstrate competency as you complete required courses along a Standard Path. To help you acquire the knowledge and skills you need to demonstrate competency and complete your courses and program, WGU provides a rich array of learning resources. Your program mentor will work closely with you to help you understand your program's requirements and help you create a plan for completing your courses. You will also work closely with course instructors as you engage in each course. As subject matter experts, course instructors will guide you through the content you must learn to demonstrate competency through the course assessments.

The benefit of this competency-based system is that it enables students who are knowledgeable about a particular subject to make accelerated progress toward completing a degree, even if they lack college experience. You may have gained skills and knowledge of a subject while on the job, accumulated wisdom through years of life experience, or already taken a course on a particular subject. WGU will award your degree based on the skills and knowledge you possess and can demonstrate—not the number of hours spent in a classroom.

Accreditation

Western Governors University is the only university in the history of American higher education to have earned initial accreditation from multiple regional accrediting commissions at once—earning simultaneous accreditation from ACCJC, HLC, NWCCU, and WASC. The university's accreditation from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) was reaffirmed in March of 2024. In addition to institution-level accreditation, each school has at least one program that is accredited by a programmatic accreditation. All programmatic accreditations are managed by the Academic Engagement department. Contact compliance@wgu.edu for additional information.

The Degree Plan

The focus of your program is your personalized Degree Plan. The Degree Plan is a detailed blueprint of the courses you will need to complete in order to earn your degree. The Degree Plan also lays out the accompanying learning resources and assessments that compose your program. The list of courses in the Degree Plan is often referred to as the standard path. The amount of time it takes to complete your program depends on both the amount of new information you need to learn and the amount of time you plan to devote each week to study. Your program mentor and course instructors will help you assess your strengths and development needs to establish a study plan.

Students vary widely in the specific skills and information they need to learn. For example, some students may be highly knowledgeable in a particular subject matter and would not need to engage in new learning opportunities. Other students may find that portions of the program require them to learn new information and that they need to take an online class or participate in a study module to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to fulfill program competencies in that area. Some individuals may be able to devote as little as 15–20 hours per week to the program, while others may need to devote more time. For this reason, pre-assessments are there to help your program mentor form a profile of your prior knowledge and create a personalized Degree Plan.

How You Will Interact with Faculty

At WGU, faculty serve in specialized roles, and they will work with you individually to provide the guidance, instruction, and support you will need to succeed and graduate. As a student, it is important for you to take advantage of this support. It is key to your progress and ultimate success.

Upon your enrollment, you will be assigned a program mentor—an expert in your field of study who will provide you with regular program-level guidance and support from the day you start until the day you graduate. Your program mentor will set up regular telephone appointments (weekly at first) with you, which you will be expected to keep. The mentor will review program competencies with you and work with you to develop a plan and schedule for your coursework. Your program mentor will serve as your main point of contact throughout your program—helping you set weekly study goals, recommending specific learning materials, telling you what to expect in courses, and keeping you motivated. In addition to regular calls, your program mentor is available to help you resolve questions and concerns as they arise.

For many of the courses at WGU, you will be required to complete performance assessments. These include reports, papers, presentations, and projects that let you demonstrate your mastery of the required competencies. A separate group of faculty members, called evaluators, will review your work to determine whether it meets requirements. Evaluators are also subject matter experts in their field of evaluation. If your assessment needs further work before it “passes,” these evaluators, who review your work anonymously, will provide you with instructional feedback to help you meet evaluation standards and allow you to advance.

Connecting with Other Mentors and Fellow Students

As you proceed through your Degree Plan, you will have direct contact with multiple faculty members. These communications can take a variety of forms, including participation in one-on-one discussions, chats in the learning communities, and live cohort and webinar opportunities. As a WGU student, you will have access to your own personal MyWGU Student Portal, which will provide a gateway to your courses of study, learning resources, and learning communities where you will interact with faculty and other students.

The learning resources in each course are specifically designed to support you as you develop competencies in preparation for your assessments. These learning resources may include reading materials, videos, tutorials, cohort opportunities, community discussions, and live discussions that are guided by course instructors who are experts in their field. You will access your program community during your orientation course to network with peers who are enrolled in your program and to receive continued support through professional enrichment and program-specific chats, blogs, and discussions. WGU also provides Student Services associates to help you and your program mentor solve any special problems that may arise.

Orientation

The WGU Orientation course will introduce you to the fundamentals of WGU’s competency-based education (CBE) and the expectations, policies, and protocols for students enrolled in a WGU degree program. Orientation will introduce you to WGU’s wide range of support resources and success centers. It also will provide you with study strategies recommended by current students and faculty that will help you succeed as a WGU student. Orientation ends with your first assessment at WGU, providing an opportunity to experience WGU’s performance assessment process before you begin your degree-focused coursework. The Orientation course must be completed before you can start your first term at WGU.

Transferability of Prior College Coursework

Because WGU is a competency-based institution, it does not award degrees based on credits but rather on demonstration of competency. WGU undergraduate programs may accept transfer credits or apply a 'Requirement Satisfied' (RS) in some cases. Refer to your specific program transfer guidelines to determine what can be satisfied by previously earned college credits. Students entering graduate programs must have their undergraduate degree transcripts verified before being admitted to WGU. In addition to a program's standard course path, there may be additional state-specific requirements.

[Click here for the Student Handbook](#)

WGU does not waive any requirements based on a student's professional experience and does not perform a "résumé review" or "portfolio review" that will automatically waive any degree requirements. Degree requirements and transferability rules are subject to change in order to keep the degree content relevant and current.

Remember, WGU's competency-based approach lets you take advantage of your knowledge and skills, regardless of how you obtained them. Even when you do not directly receive credit, the knowledge you possess may help you accelerate the time it takes to complete your degree program.

Continuous Enrollment, On Time Progress, and Satisfactory Academic Progress

WGU is a "continuous enrollment" institution, which means you will be automatically enrolled in each of your new terms while you are at WGU. Each term is six months long. Longer terms and continuous enrollment allow you to focus on your studies without the hassle of unnatural breaks between terms that you would experience at a more traditional university. At the end of every six-month term, you and your program mentor will review the progress you have made and revise your Degree Plan for your next six-month term.

WGU requires that students make measurable progress toward the completion of their degree programs every term. We call this "On-Time Progress," denoting that you are on track and making progress toward on-time graduation. As full-time students, graduate students must enroll in at least 8 competency units each term, and undergraduate students must enroll in at least 12 competency units each term. Completing at least these minimum enrollments is essential to On-Time Progress and serves as a baseline from which you may accelerate your program. We measure your progress based on the courses you are able to pass, not on your accumulation of credit hours or course grades. Every time you pass a course, you are demonstrating that you have mastered skills and knowledge in your degree program. For comparison to traditional grading systems, passing a course means you have demonstrated competency equivalent to a "B" grade or better.

WGU assigns competency units to each course in order to track your progress through the program. A competency unit is equivalent to one semester credit of learning. Some courses may be assigned 3 competency units while others may be as large as 12 competency units.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is particularly important to students on financial aid because you must achieve SAP in order to maintain eligibility for financial aid. We will measure your SAP quantitatively by reviewing the number of competency units you have completed each term. In order to remain in good academic standing, you must complete at least 66.67% of the units you attempt over the length of your program—including any courses you add to your term to accelerate your progress. Additionally, during your first term at WGU you must pass at least 3 competency units in order to remain eligible for financial aid. We know that SAP is complex, so please contact a financial aid counselor should you have additional questions. *Please note: The Endorsement Preparation Program in Educational Leadership is not eligible for federal financial aid.

Courses

Your Degree Plan includes courses needed to complete your program. To obtain your degree, you must demonstrate your skills and knowledge by completing each course's assessment(s). You may be asked to demonstrate competency in a course in several different ways, including proctored exams, projects, essays, research papers, and simulations, among others. Certifications verified through third parties may also be included in your program as a way to demonstrate competency. More detailed information about each assessment is provided in the course of study.

Learning Resources

WGU works with many different educational partners, including enterprises, publishers, training companies, and higher educational institutions, to provide high-quality and effective learning resources that match the competencies you are developing. These vary in type, and may be combined to create the best learning experience for your course. A learning resource can be an e-textbook, online module, study guide, simulation, virtual lab, tutorial, or a combination of these. The cost of most learning resources are included in your tuition and Resource Fee. They can be accessed or enrolled for through your courses. Some degree-specific resources may not be covered by your tuition, and you will need to cover those costs separately. WGU also provides a robust library to help you obtain additional learning resources, as needed.

Mobile Compatibility:

The following Student Handbook article provides additional details about the current state of mobile compatibility for learning resources at WGU.

[Mobile Access for Learning Resources](#)

Standard Path

As previously mentioned, competency units (CUs) have been assigned to each course in order to measure your academic progress. If you are an undergraduate student, you will be expected to enroll in a minimum of 12 competency units each term. Graduate students are expected to enroll in a minimum of 8 competency units each term. A standard plan for a student for this program who entered WGU without any transfer units would look similar to the one on the following page. Your personal progress can be faster, but your pace will be determined by the extent of your transfer units, your time commitment, and your determination to proceed at a faster rate.

Standard Path *for* Bachelor of Science, Cloud Computing - Amazon Web Services track

Course Description	CUs	Term
Introduction to IT	4	1
Applied Probability and Statistics	3	1
Introduction to Systems Thinking	3	1
Introduction to Physical and Human Geography	3	1
IT Applications	4	2
Network and Security - Foundations	3	2
Cloud Foundations	3	2
American Politics and the US Constitution	3	2
IT Foundations	4	3
Linux Foundations	3	3
Introduction to Biology	3	3
Integrated Physical Sciences	3	3
Networks	4	4
Network and Security - Applications	4	4
Business of IT - Applications	4	4
Scripting and Programming - Foundations	3	5
Web Development Foundations	3	5

Python for IT Automation	3	5
Applied Algebra	3	5
Cloud Applications	3	6
IT Leadership Foundations	3	6
Data Management - Foundations	3	6
Data Systems Administration	3	6
Data Management - Applications	4	7
Business of IT - Project Management	4	7
Managing Cloud Security	4	7
Composition: Writing with a Strategy	3	7
Scripting and Automation	2	8
Azure Fundamentals	3	8
AWS Cloud Architecture	3	8
Introduction to Cryptography	4	8
Cloud Deployment and Operations	3	9
AWS Developer	3	9
Internet of Things (IoT) and Infrastructure	3	9
Ethics in Technology	3	9

Technical Communication	3	10
Cloud Computing Capstone	4	10
Total CUs	121	

Changes to Curriculum

WGU publishes an Institutional Catalog, which describes the academic requirements of each degree program. Although students are required to complete the program version current at the time of their enrollment, WGU may modify requirements and course offerings within that version of the program to maintain the currency and relevance of WGU's competencies and programs. When program requirements are updated, students readmitting after withdrawal from the university will be expected to re-enter into the most current catalog version of the program.

Areas of Study for Bachelor of Science, Cloud Computing - Amazon Web Services track

The following section includes the areas of study in the program, with their associated courses. Your specific learning resources and level of instructional support will vary based on the individual competencies you bring to the program and your confidence in developing the knowledge, skills, and abilities required in each area of the degree. The Degree Plan and learning resources are dynamic, so you need to review your Degree Plan and seek the advice of your mentor regarding the resources before you purchase them.

IT Fundamentals

Introduction to IT

Introduction to IT examines information technology as a discipline and the various roles and functions of the IT department as business support. Students are presented with various IT disciplines, including systems and services, network and security, scripting and programming, data management, and business of IT, with a survey of technologies in every area and how they relate to each other and to the business.

This course covers the following competencies:

- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The learner describes fundamental data management functions in databases.*
- *The learner describes the basics of programming languages in software development.*
- *The learner describes the role of the IT department in IT infrastructure management, disaster recovery, and business continuity processes.*
- *The learner describes the structure, function, and security associated with networks.*
- *The learner evaluates ethical concerns in information technology.*
- *The learner explains different computer hardware and networking technologies and their developments.*
- *The learner identifies components of software and its relation to operating systems.*
- *The learner identifies computer hardware components.*

IT Applications

IT Applications introduces skills in identifying operating systems and their configurations and in implementing security principles across devices and networks. Learners will also gain skills in troubleshooting software, security, and malware issues, and in implementing basic operational procedures in documentation, change management, compliance, and communication. The course will introduce basic disaster recovery and business continuity procedures, scripting basics, and remote access technology solutions. The course prepares learners for the CompTIA A+ Core 2 certification exam.

This course covers the following competencies:

- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The learner identifies operating systems and their configurations.*
- *The learner identifies remote access technology solutions.*
- *The learner identifies scripting basics.*
- *The learner implements basic disaster recovery and business continuity procedures.*
- *The learner implements basic operational procedures in documentation, change management, compliance, and communication.*
- *The learner implements security principles across devices and networks.*
- *The learner troubleshoots software, security, and malware issues.*

IT Foundations

IT Foundations provides learners with an understanding of personal computer components and their functions in a desktop system; a knowledge of computer data storage and retrieval; and skills in classifying, installing, configuring, optimizing, upgrading, and troubleshooting printers, laptops, portable devices, operating systems, networks, and system security. This course also gives learners the ability to recommend appropriate tools, diagnostic procedures, preventative maintenance, and troubleshooting techniques for personal computer components in a desktop system; strategies for identifying, preventing, and

reporting safety hazards and environmental or human accidents in technological environments; and effective communication skills for interacting with colleagues and clients, including job-related professional behavior. The course prepares learners for the CompTIA A+ Core 1 certification exam.

This course covers the following competencies:

- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The learner configures common hardware and software components of mobile devices.*
- *The learner configures common hardware in computer systems.*
- *The learner configures wired and wireless networks.*
- *The learner creates client-side virtualization with cloud computing components.*
- *The learner troubleshoots hardware, software, and network issues with best practice methodologies.*

General Education

Applied Probability and Statistics

Applied Probability and Statistics is designed to help students develop competence in the fundamental concepts of basic statistics including: introductory algebra and graphing; descriptive statistics; regression and correlation; and probability. Statistical data and probability are often used in everyday life, science, business, information technology, and educational settings to make informed decisions about the validity of studies and the effect of data on decisions. This course discusses what constitutes sound research design and how to appropriately model phenomena using statistical data. Additionally, the content covers simple probability calculations, based on events that occur in the business and IT industries. No prerequisites are required for this course.

This course covers the following competencies:

- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The graduate applies principles and methods of probability-based mathematics to explain and solve problems.*
- *The graduate applies the operations, processes, and procedures of basic algebra to evaluate quantitative expressions, and to solve equations and inequalities.*
- *The graduate applies the operations, processes, and procedures of fractions, decimals, and percentages to evaluate quantitative expressions.*
- *The graduate evaluates categorical and quantitative data pertaining to a single variable using appropriate graphical displays and numerical measures.*
- *The graduate evaluates the relationship between two quantitative variables through correlation and regression.*
- *The graduate evaluates the relationship between two variables through interpretation of visual displays and numerical measures.*

Introduction to Systems Thinking

Introduction to Systems Thinking provides learners with the skills required to engage in a holistic systems-based approach to analyzing complex problems and solutions. This course introduces the foundational concepts and principles of systems thinking and provides opportunities to use a systems thinking approach to analyze and evaluate real-world case studies. The course will culminate with using systems thinking to develop a solution to an authentic complex problem. This course has no prerequisites, but general education math (C955 or C957) is preferred. Because the course is self-paced, learners may move through the material as quickly or as slowly as needed, with the goal of demonstrating proficiency in the five competencies covered in the final assessment. If learners have no prior knowledge of this material, they can expect to spend 30 to 40 hours on the course content.

This course covers the following competencies:

- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The learner analyzes complex problems and solutions using a systems thinking methodology.*
- *The learner applies the basic principles and foundational theory of systems thinking to a scenario.*
- *The learner designs a solution to a complex problem using systems thinking.*

Introduction to Physical and Human Geography

This is Introduction to Physical and Human Geography, a three-module course that addresses the question of what geography really is in today's complex world; how migration affects—and has been affected by—geography; and one of the biggest present problems related to geography: climate change. Because the course is self-paced, you may move through the material as quickly or as slowly as you need to, with the goal of demonstrating proficiency in the five competencies covered in the final assessment. If you have no prior knowledge of this material, you can expect to spend 30–40 hours on the course content.

This course covers the following competencies:

- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The learner analyzes the connections among the various factors contributing to climate change.*
- *The learner analyzes the message of a data visualization for a specific purpose.*
- *The learner analyzes the various causes and effects of human migration.*
- *The learner applies logical reasoning to the analysis of climate change.*
- *The learner interprets complex global systems through the lenses of physical and human geography.*

American Politics and the US Constitution

American Politics and the U.S. Constitution examines the evolution of representative government in the United States and the changing interpretations of the civil rights and civil liberties protected by the Constitution. This course will give candidates an understanding of the powers of the branches of the federal government, the continual tensions inherent in a federal system, the shifting relationship between state and federal governments, and the interactions between elected officials and the ever-changing electorate. This course will focus on such topics as the role of a free press in a democracy, the impact of changing demographics on American politics, and the debates over and expansion of civil rights. Upon completion of the course, candidates should be able to explain the basic functions of the federal government, describe the forces that shape American policy and politics, and be better prepared to participate in America's civic institutions. This course has no prerequisite.

This course covers the following competencies:

- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The graduate describes the influence of competing political ideologies on the development of the United States government.*
- *The graduate examines the influence of political parties, citizens, and non-governmental organizations on elections and other political processes inside a participatory democracy.*
- *The graduate examines the influence of the media, public opinion, and political discourse on American democracy.*
- *The graduate examines the struggle to balance individual liberty, public order, and state's rights.*
- *The graduate explains how the structure and powers of the United States government interact to form public policy.*

Introduction to Biology

This course is a foundational introduction to the biological sciences. The overarching theories of life from biological research are explored as well as the fundamental concepts and principles of the study of living organisms and their interaction with the environment. Key concepts include how living organisms use and produce energy; how life grows, develops, and reproduces; how life responds to the environment to maintain internal stability; and how life evolves and adapts to the environment.

This course covers the following competencies:

- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The graduate analyzes different types of cells based on their structures and biological functions.*
- *The graduate analyzes inter-dependencies of organisms and their environments.*
- *The graduate analyzes the basic chemical composition of cells and the basic processes that happen at the cellular level.*
- *The graduate analyzes the biological basis for and patterns of heredity and gene expression.*
- *The graduate analyzes the characteristics and classifications of living organisms.*

Integrated Physical Sciences

This course provides students with an overview of the basic principles and unifying ideas of the physical sciences: physics, chemistry, and earth sciences. Course materials focus on scientific reasoning and practical, everyday applications of physical science concepts to help students integrate conceptual knowledge with practical skills.

This course covers the following competencies:

- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The learner describes the nature and process of science.*
- *The learner describes the underlying organization, interactions, and processes within the Earth system including the Earth's structure and atmosphere, and Earth's interactions within the solar system.*
- *The learner examines applications of key chemistry concepts including the structure of matter and the behavior and conservation of matter in chemical reactions.*
- *The learner examines applications of physics including fundamental concepts such as forces, motion, energy, and waves.*

Applied Algebra

Applied Algebra is designed to help you develop competence in working with functions, the algebra of functions, and using some applied properties of functions. You will start learning about how we can apply different kinds of functions to relevant, real-life examples. From there, the algebra of several families of functions will be explored, including linear, polynomial, exponential, and logistic functions. You will also learn about relevant, applicable mathematical properties of each family of functions, including rate of change, concavity, maximizing/minimizing, and asymptotes. These properties will be used to solve problems related to your major and make sense of everyday living problems. Students should complete Applied Probability and Statistics or its equivalent prior to engaging in Applied Algebra.

This course covers the following competencies:

- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The learner analyzes graphical depictions of real-world situations using functional properties.*
- *The learner applies exponential functions and their properties to real-world problems.*
- *The learner applies linear functions and their properties to real-world problems.*
- *The learner applies logistic functions and their properties to real-world problems.*
- *The learner applies polynomial functions and their properties to real-world problems.*
- *The learner interprets the real-world meaning of various functions based on notation, graphical representations, and data representations.*
- *The learner verifies the validity of a given model.*

Composition: Writing with a Strategy

Welcome to Composition: Writing with a Strategy! In this course, you will focus on three main topics: understanding purpose, context, and audience, writing strategies and techniques, and editing and revising. In addition, the first section, will offer review on core elements of the writing process, cross-cultural communication, as well as working with words and common standards and practices. Each section includes learning opportunities through readings, videos, audio, and other relevant resources. Assessment activities with feedback also provide opportunities to check your learning, practice, and show how well you understand course content. Because the course is self-paced, you may move through the material as quickly or as slowly as you need to gain proficiency in the seven competencies that will be covered in the final assessment. If you have no prior knowledge or experience, you can expect to spend 30-40 hours on the course content.

This course covers the following competencies:

- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The learner composes constructive feedback of written texts.*
- *The learner constructs a written document with correct format, style, structure, and grammar.*
- *The learner formulates a strategy for editing and revising written text.*
- *The learner incorporates writing strategies and techniques for written communication.*

- The learner writes with purpose for a given context and target audience.

Ethics in Technology

Ethics in Technology examines the ethical considerations of technology use in the 21st century and introduces students to a decision-making process informed by ethical frameworks. Students will study specific cases related to important topics such as surveillance, social media, hacking, data manipulation, plagiarism and piracy, artificial intelligence, responsible innovation, and the digital divide. This course has no prerequisites.

This course covers the following competencies:

- Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.
- The learner describes ethical issues regarding data privacy, accuracy, access, and security.
- The learner explains professional ethical codes and their role in guiding professional behavior.
- The learner identifies interventions for personal bias and related legal concerns.
- The learner implements ethical decision-making frameworks in the information age.

Technical Communication

Technical Communication introduces skills in editing professional communications, evaluating the impact of professional etiquette in digital environments, and in creating artifacts that are persuasive, informational, and research-based. The course also introduces skills in delivering multimedia presentations using professional verbal communication skills.

This course covers the following competencies:

- Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.
- The learner creates technical artifacts that are persuasive, informational, and research based.
- The learner delivers presentations with professional verbal communication skills and multimedia.
- The learner edits corporate communications for proper grammar and punctuation.
- The learner evaluates the impact of business etiquette and communication in digital environments.

Network and Security

Network and Security - Foundations

Network and Security - Foundations introduces learners to the basic network systems and concepts related to networking technologies. Learners will gain skills in applying network security concepts for business continuity, data access, and confidentiality, and in identifying solutions for compliance with security guidance.

This course covers the following competencies:

- Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.
- The learner applies network security concepts for business continuity, data access, and confidentiality.
- The learner identifies basic network systems and concepts related to networking technologies.
- The learner identifies solutions for compliance with security guidance.

Network and Security - Applications

Network and Security - Applications prepares learners for the CompTIA Security+ certification exam. The course introduces learners to skills in identifying threats, attacks, and vulnerabilities to organizational security. The learner will also gain skills in designing security solutions for enterprise infrastructures and architectures, as well as in implementing security solutions across hardware, applications, and network services. Learners will be able to execute operations and incident response with tools, policies, forensics, and mitigation techniques, and to analyze information security controls, governance, risk, and compliance.

This course covers the following competencies:

- Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.
- The learner analyzes information security controls, governance, risk, and compliance.
- The learner designs security solutions for enterprise infrastructures and architectures.

- The learner executes operations and incident response with tools, policies, forensics, and mitigation techniques.
- The learner identifies threats, attacks, and vulnerabilities to organizational security.
- The learner implements security solutions across hardware, applications, and network services.

Cloud Applications

Cloud Applications prepares learners for the CompTIA Cloud+ certification exam. Learners will gain skills in designing cloud infrastructure and services and in recommending cloud security solutions, policies, and procedures. The course will also introduce skills in deploying cloud solutions for storage, networking, and security, and in managing cloud operations with processes, procedures, and improvements. Learners will also gain skills in troubleshooting cloud services issues in networking, security, and performance.

This course covers the following competencies:

- Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.
- The learner deploys cloud solutions for storage, networking, and security.
- The learner designs cloud infrastructure and services.
- The learner manages cloud operations with processes, procedures, and improvements.
- The learner recommends cloud security solutions, policies, and procedures.
- The learner troubleshoots cloud services issues in networking, security, and performance.

Information Technology Management

Cloud Foundations

Cloud Foundations introduces learners to real-world issues and practical solutions to cloud computing. This course covers the business value of cloud computing, examining cloud types, the steps to successful cloud adoption, and the effect cloud adoption has on IT service management, as well as the risks and consequences of implementing cloud solutions. This course prepares learners for the AWS Certified Practitioner certification exam. There are no prerequisites for this course.

This course covers the following competencies:

- Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.
- The learner articulates the value proposition of cloud solutions in business scenarios.
- The learner defines cloud security and compliance.
- The learner determines the best-fit solution for a project based on the cost and support structures.
- The learner identifies cloud technology solutions in IaaS, PaaS, and SaaS models.

Internet of Things (IoT) and Infrastructure

Internet of Things (IoT) and Infrastructure introduces students to emerging technologies connecting the internet to a variety of physical objects. The course reviews the business requirements for sensors and securely.. processing the data they generate. As new use cases emerge, ethical and privacy issues become relevant aspects of business development. There are no prerequisites for this course.

This course covers the following competencies:

- Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.
- The learner defines requirements and parameters for Internet of Things (IoT) ethics, access, and privacy issues.
- The learner describes Internet of Things (IoT) security solutions.
- The learner determines business requirements for data collection and analysis for the Internet of Things (IoT).
- The learner identifies emerging Internet of Things (IoT) use cases within organizations, marketplaces, and industries.
- The learner identifies Internet of Things (IoT) network and cloud architectures.

Operating Systems

Linux Foundations

Linux Foundations prepares learners for the LPI Linux Essentials certification, and is an introduction to Linux as an operating system as well as an introduction to open-source concepts and the basics of the Linux command line. Learners will gain skills in identifying the fundamentals of open-source software and to develop resources for data access and security.

This course covers the following competencies:

- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The learner develops resources for data access and security.*
- *The learner identifies the fundamentals of open-source software.*

Networks

Networks

Networks introduces skills in configuring networking components and a network infrastructure. Learners will gain skills in optimizing network operations for availability, performance, and security, and in troubleshooting network issues. The course prepares learners for the CompTIA Network+ certification exam. Network and Security - Foundations is a prerequisite for this course.

This course covers the following competencies:

- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The learner configures a network infrastructure.*
- *The learner configures networking components.*
- *The learner implements network security techniques.*
- *The learner optimizes network operations for availability, performance, and security.*
- *The learner troubleshoots network issues.*

Business of IT

Business of IT - Applications

Business of IT - Applications examines Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL®) terminology, structure, policies, and concepts. Focusing on the management of information technology (IT) infrastructure, development, and operations, learners will explore the core principles of ITIL practices for service management to prepare them for careers as IT professionals, business managers, and business process owners. This course has no prerequisites.

This course covers the following competencies:

- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The learner applies Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL) concepts, core components, principles, and models of service management.*
- *The learner applies the Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL) six activities of the service value chain.*

IT Leadership Foundations

IT Leadership Foundations is an introductory course that provides students with an overview of organizational structures, communication, and leadership styles specific to information technology in organizations. It also introduces students to some of the power skills that help make successful IT professionals, including time management, problem solving, and emotional intelligence. Students in this course explore their own strengths and passions in relation to the field. There are no prerequisites for this course.

This course covers the following competencies:

- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The learner communicates ideas, opinions, and information suitable for various professional settings.*
- *The learner recommends strategies for decision-making in team environments.*
- *The learner reflects on the emotional reactions of self and others in a variety of professional situations.*
- *The learner selects appropriate influential leadership strategies for workplace situations.*

Business of IT - Project Management

In this course, students will build on industry standard concepts, techniques, and processes to develop a comprehensive foundation for project management activities. During a project's life cycle, students will develop the critical skills necessary to initiate, plan, execute, monitor, control, and close a project. Students will apply best practices in areas such

as scope management, resource allocation, project planning, project scheduling, quality control, risk management, performance measurement, and project reporting. This course prepares students for the following certification exam: CompTIA Project+.

This course covers the following competencies:

- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The learner applies communication methods and change control processes within a project.*
- *The learner determines requirements of a project management plan.*
- *The learner identifies project factors, constraints, and risk strategies.*

Scripting and Programming

Scripting and Programming - Foundations

Scripting and Programming - Foundations introduces programming basics such as variables, data types, flow control, and design concepts. The course is language-agnostic in nature, ending in a survey of languages, and introduces the distinction between interpreted and compiled languages. Learners will gain skills in identifying scripts for computer program requirements and in using fundamental programming elements as part of common computer programming tasks. Learners will also gain an understanding of the logic and outcome of simple algorithms.

This course covers the following competencies:

- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The learner explains the logic and outcome of simple algorithms.*
- *The learner identifies scripts for computer program requirements.*
- *The learner uses fundamental programming elements as part of common computer programming tasks.*

Scripting and Automation

Scripting and Automation is the foundation for automating tasks in operating systems. Students will learn how to create PowerShell scripts that take tedious and repetitious tasks and turn them into programs that will save time. Students will learn PowerShell, an automation and configuration management tool based on a command-line shell and .NET Framework.

This course covers the following competencies:

- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The learner implements tools that automate manual processes for an organization.*
- *The learner writes scripts that automate configuration tasks.*

Web Development

Web Development Foundations

Web Development Foundations introduces students to web design and development using HTML, XML, and Cascading Style Sheets (CSS), the foundational languages of the web. This course also covers how to troubleshoot problems using developer tools and integrated development environments commonly employed in web development. There are no prerequisites for this course.

This course covers the following competencies:

- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The learner creates the structure of basic web documents using HTML.*
- *The learner implements web page formatting and interface aesthetics using CSS*
- *The learner resolves software problems in web development environments with debugging tools.*

Networking

Python for IT Automation

Python for IT Automation covers the fundamentals of the Python language and its features to control program flow, inform decisions, and automate IT tasks and processes. The course emphasizes a systematic approach to solving problems and the application of programming logic to administer secure, scalable, and resilient IT networks and systems.

This course covers the following competencies:

- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*

- The learner applies Python principles and syntax to manage variables, data structures, and operators and to perform IT tasks.
- The learner creates Python scripts using control structures to automate system tasks.
- The learner integrates Python scripts, modules, packages, and libraries to automate networking tasks and processes.

Data Management

Data Management - Foundations

Data Management Foundations offers an introduction in creating conceptual, logical and physical data models. Students gain skills in creating databases and tables in SQL-enabled database management systems, as well as skills in normalizing databases. No prerequisites are required for this course

This course covers the following competencies:

- Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.
- The learner defines primary and foreign keys in data normalization.
- The learner determines how to run queries for creation and manipulation of data in relational databases.
- The learner explains attributes of databases, database tables, and structured and associated query language (SQL) commands.

Data Systems Administration

Data System Administration provides learners with foundational skills to become a Database Administrator (DBA). This course illustrates how DBAs ensure businesses are able to leverage significant data to increase profitability and support key business functions. Topics include database management tools, account administration, recovery procedures, and maintenance through upgrades and migrations.

This course covers the following competencies:

- Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.
- The learner manages user accounts, roles, and privileges of data access according to enterprise standards and policies.
- The learner performs backup and restore procedures in accordance with enterprise policies and requirements.
- The learner performs database administration tasks from resource allocation to performance tuning.
- The learner upgrades database processes and procedures for business optimization.

Data Management - Applications

Data Management - Applications covers conceptual data modeling and introduces MySQL. Students will learn how to create simple to complex SELECT queries, including subqueries and joins, and how to use SQL to update and delete data. Topics covered in this course include exposure to MySQL; creating and modifying databases, tables, views, foreign keys and primary keys (FKs and PKs), and indexes; populating tables; and developing simple Select-From-Where (SFW) queries to complex 3+ table join queries. The following course is a prerequisite: Data Management - Foundations.

This course covers the following competencies:

- Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.
- The learner creates DML statements that insert, update, and delete data in data tables.
- The learner implements joins and aggregate functions in SQL queries.
- The learner queries database tables and views with SQL code.
- The learner recommends databases and database management systems to meet organizational needs.

Web and Cloud Security

Managing Cloud Security

Managing Cloud Security prepares learners to safeguard cloud data with identity and access management and to implement secure solutions in cloud service models. Learners will be introduced to skills in identifying security policies and procedures for cloud applications and in implementing operational capabilities, procedures, and training in relation to organizational needs. Learners will also gain skills in conducting risk analysis and risk management in alignment with disaster recovery and business continuity plans and in identifying legal, compliance, and ethical concerns.

This course covers the following competencies:

- Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course

plan together.

- *The learner conducts risk analysis and risk management in alignment with disaster recovery and business continuity plans.*
- *The learner identifies legal, compliance, and ethical concerns within a cloud environment.*
- *The learner identifies security policies and procedures for cloud applications.*
- *The learner implements operational capabilities, procedures, and training in relation to organizational needs.*
- *The learner implements secure solutions in cloud service models.*
- *The learner safeguards cloud data with identity and access management.*

Cloud and Virtualization

Azure Fundamentals

Azure Fundamentals provides the learner with skills needed to describe the following concepts: cloud concepts; core Azure services; core solutions and management tools on Azure; general security and network security features; identity, governance, privacy, and compliance features; and Azure cost management and Service Level Agreements. Learners will gain foundational knowledge of cloud services and how those services are provided with Microsoft Azure. This course is intended for students who are just beginning to work with cloud-based solutions and services or are new to Azure. Competency in this course is demonstrated by successfully completing the Microsoft Azure Fundamentals certification exam (AZ-900). There are no prerequisites to this course.

This course covers the following competencies:

- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The learner configures Azure groups and identities based on architectural standards in Microsoft Azure.*
- *The learner defines protective measures and network security protocols in Microsoft Azure.*
- *The learner describes cloud computing and cloud services categories.*
- *The learner describes core Azure services.*
- *The learner describes cost management and service lifecycles in Microsoft Azure.*
- *The learner explains Azure core solutions and management tools.*

AWS Cloud Architecture

AWS Cloud Architecture examines the skills and knowledge needed to effectively design structured cloud environments. Through practical application, students will gain experience in designing control measures for resilient architectures with cloud solutions and concepts, and to design high-performing and scalable architectures for software performance workloads. Students will also learn skills in designing security policies and access for cloud applications and architectures, and designing cost optimized storage, database and network architectures based on situational feedback.

This course covers the following competencies:

- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The learner designs control measures for resilient architectures with cloud solutions and concepts.*
- *The learner designs cost-optimized storage, database, and network architectures based on situational feedback.*
- *The learner designs high-performing and scalable architectures for software performance workloads.*
- *The learner designs security policies and access for cloud applications and architectures.*

Cloud Deployment and Operations

Cloud Deployment and Operations provides students with technical skills in the deployment, management, and operations of cloud services. This course allows students to examine stability and scalability, backup and recovery processes, and deployment best practices. Provisioning of cloud resources, monitoring of cloud resources, and managing connectivity are also examined. The following courses are prerequisites: Cloud Applications and AWS Cloud Architecture.

This course covers the following competencies:

- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The learner automates cloud provisioning processes and maintenance.*
- *The learner configures network connectivity as part of AWS network infrastructure design, troubleshooting, and remediation.*

- The learner determines optimal baseline for cost and performance using AWS Services.
- The learner implements AWS data and infrastructure protection services for information security and compliance.
- The learner implements AWS system scalability, elasticity, and backup systems in support of business continuity operations.
- The learner remediates issues based on the output of implemented AWS systems monitoring and logging services.

AWS Developer

AWS Developer examines the skills and knowledge needed to effectively implement automated and continuous testing processes for software deployments with cloud solutions. Students will learn to design software with Amazon Web Services (AWS), software development kits (SDKs), and command line interface (CLI), and to implement authentication, encryption, and authorization within an AWS environment. Students will also learn to design cloud service deployments with AWS infrastructure services, platform services, and features. Students will learn skills to monitor automated testing for quality control and to perform root cause analysis on testing or production failures. There are no prerequisites for this course.

This course covers the following competencies:

- Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.
- The learner designs cloud service deployments with Amazon Web Services (AWS) infrastructure services, platform services, and features.
- The learner designs software applications with Amazon Web Services (AWS), software development kits (SDKs), and command line interface (CLI).
- The learner implements authentication, encryption, and authorization within an Amazon Web Services (AWS) environment.
- The learner implements automated and continuous testing processes for software deployments with cloud solutions.
- The learner monitors automated testing for quality control.
- The learner performs root cause analysis on testing or production failures.

Cloud Computing Capstone

The Cloud Computing Capstone offers learners opportunities to demonstrate the culmination of their skills learned within the Cloud Computing program. In this course, learners will show their skills by defining system components and creating implementation plans for cloud solutions. The course also offers learners ways to demonstrate their skills in determining configurations for API, performing system administration tasks, and creating test plans for cloud solutions.

This course covers the following competencies:

- The learner creates implementation plans for cloud solutions.
- The learner creates test plans for cloud solutions.
- The learner defines system components for cloud solutions.
- The learner determines configurations for API and system administration tasks.

Information Assurance

Introduction to Cryptography

Introduction to Cryptography introduces skills in applying cryptography principles in alignment with organizational and information security guidelines. Students will determine requirements and techniques for cryptanalysis. This course builds skills in implementing encryption methods with symmetric and asymmetric algorithms.

This course covers the following competencies:

- Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.
- The learner applies cryptography principles in alignment with organizational and information security guidelines.
- The learner implements encryption methods with symmetric and asymmetric algorithms.

Accessibility and Accommodations

Western Governors University (WGU) is committed to providing equal access to its academic programs to all qualified students. WGU's Student Disability Services department supports this mission by providing support, resources, advocacy, collaboration, and academic accommodations in accordance with federal and state statutes and regulations to WGU students and prospective students. Potential and current students needing to request accommodation(s) are encouraged to contact Student Disability Services to initiate the request. To initiate the accommodation process, all potential and current WGU students must complete the secure online Accommodation Request Form located at' https://www.wgu.edu/wgu/ada_form. Potential and current students can reach the Student Disability Services team Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. MT at 1-877- 435-7948 x5922 or at sds@wgu.edu. Additional information on accommodations can be found in the student handbook Accommodations for Students with Disabilities policy.

Need More Information? WGU Student Services

Student Support Services team members also assist with unresolved concerns to find equitable resolutions. To contact the Student Support Services team, please feel free to call 877-435-7948 or e-mail studentservices@wgu.edu. We are available Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m, mountain standard time.