

TOP PAYING IT CERTIFICATIONS FOR 2020

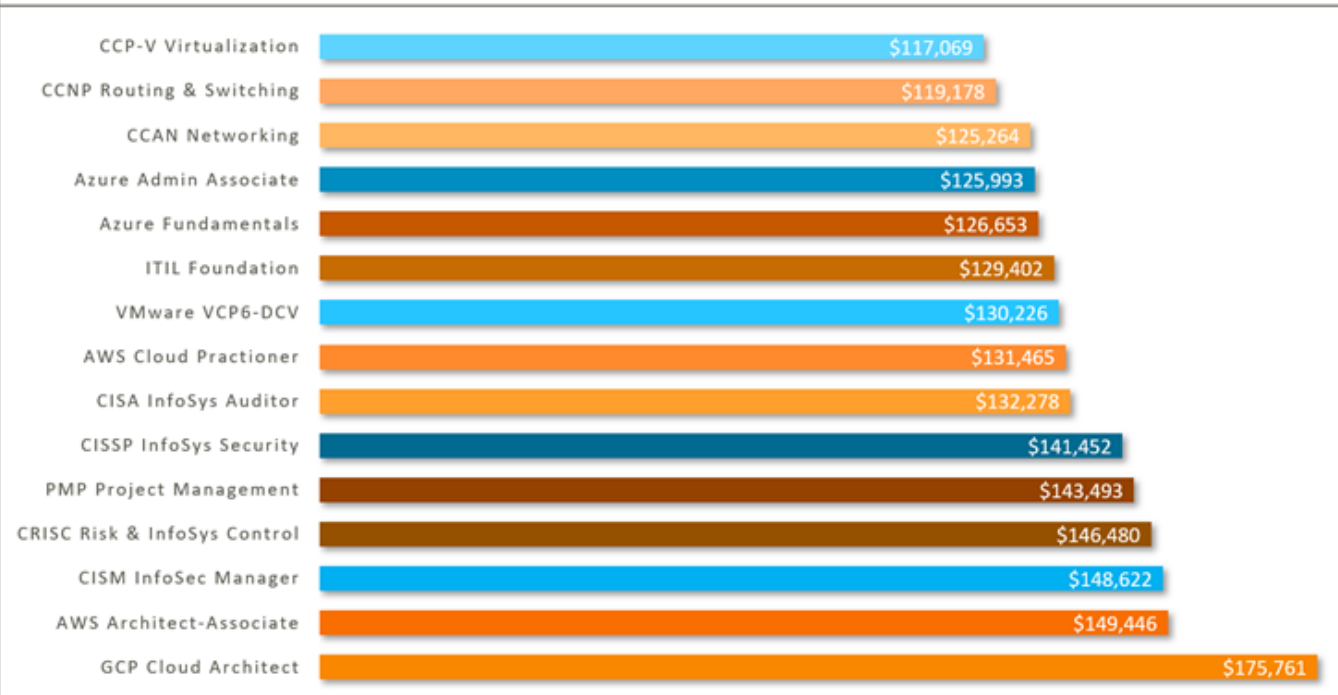


IT certifications are important credentials that can boost your value, your salary, and your employment opportunities. Validated by vendors through meticulous training programs, certifications demonstrate your competency or expertise in specific technologies, methodologies, and functions.

In this article, we're sharing the 15 top-paying IT certifications for 2020, as [reported](#) by Global Knowledge, and giving a brief overview of each.

Top Paying IT Certifications for 2020

Note: Average of U.S. salaries; shown in USD



Google Certified Professional (GCP) Cloud Architect

Average salary: \$175,761

This certification prepares IT professionals to design and manage a secure, high performance, robust and scalable [Google Cloud](#) architecture. These skills help organizations meet their requirements for operating dynamic, secure and profitable cloud infrastructure. Prior experience with Google Cloud Platform technologies is recommended. This certification marks the highest salary in this list, suggesting the growing demand and popularity of Google's cloud and the lack of certified cloud architects.

AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Associate

Average salary: \$149,446

Like the GCP certification, this certification exam validates your ability to architect and deploy secure and robust [AWS cloud infrastructure](#), based on design principles that meet changing customer requirements. The certification also validates the ability to follow the project lifecycle with implementation best practice guidelines. Prior training and preparation is recommended, including several months of hands-on industrial experience with AWS technologies.

CISM® Certified Information Security Manager

Average salary: \$148,622

This certification validates your expertise in a range of [IT security](#), governance, and risk management

disciplines. It is suitable for IT professionals with multiple years of experience in designing and managing an enterprise IT security program. IT professionals with over 20 years of experience in this domain pursue this certification to seek leadership positions in information security and risk management disciplines within the enterprise segment.

CRISC™ Certified in Risk and Information Systems Control

Average salary: \$146,480

CRISC validates the skills and experience to [manage and control risk](#) across technology and IT-enabled business processes. An important aspect of the certification is to evaluate how risk mitigation and management align with the organizational framework for innovation. Certified professionals understand how certain risk-based decisions at enterprise organizations can maximize business potential as they compete with fast-paced, agile, and innovative startup firms.

PMP – Project Management Professional®

Average salary: \$143,493

One of the most globally popular certification programs, the PMP shows that the project manager knows and implements best practices to define, plan, and deliver on project milestones with the most successful outcomes. Certified professionals must pass an exam as well as demonstrate relevant experience in [project management](#). Around half of all professionals pursuing project management certifications opt for the PMP certification program.

CISSP – Certified Information Systems Security Professional

Average salary: \$141,452

An exhaustive certification program in the domain of IT security, the CISSP covers the security functions associated with networking, access management, operations, development, communications, assets and risk management. Certified professionals can design, engineer, implement, and manage an exhaustive information security program at an enterprise IT organization and is therefore, highly valued in the security industry. The CISSP requires five years of professional experience in relevant domains.

CISA – Certified Information Systems Auditor®

Average salary: \$132,278

The CISA certification focuses on securing critical information and technology assets within your organization. The CISA covers information system acquisition, development, auditing, governance, IT management, operations, and asset protection. Founded in 1978, it is one of the oldest and most popular certification programs among IT professionals experienced in information security audit, control, and assurance domain.

AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner

Average salary: \$131,465

This certification validates the overall understanding of AWS cloud technologies and is particularly suitable for developers, ITOps, DevOps, administrators and cloud solution architects. Certified professionals are able to describe the basic technology, security, compliance, and financial aspects associated with AWS technologies. You'll be able to thoroughly identify documentation sources and seek relevant technical assistance and core characteristics of AWS technologies. Some AWS experience is recommended before pursuing this certification.

VMware Certified Professional 6 – Data Center Virtualization (VCP6-DCV)

Average salary: \$130,226

The VMware Data Center Virtualization certification validates the ability to build a [scalable virtual infrastructure](#) using the vSphere 6 technology. The evaluated skills include installation, configuration, and optimization of networking and storage assets, and administration of the infrastructure. New candidates follow a training program and exams before pursuing this certification. Prior experience with vSphere 6 technologies is recommended, although professionals holding VCP5 certification will only need to take a test center exam related to the latest vSphere technology.

ITIL® Foundation

Average salary: \$129,402

As one of the most popular ITSM frameworks, this is a well-pursued cross-platform certification. The [ITIL Foundation](#) is the first of the four certification levels that include ITIL 4 Managing Professional; ITIL 4 Strategic Leader; and Master. The ITIL Foundation certification validates the ability to understand the end-to-end operating model of the framework and how it can be used to improve the ITSM capabilities of IT-enabled business organizations.

Microsoft Certified: Azure Fundamentals

Average salary: \$126,653

This certification is focused on the core aspects of Azure cloud services, including security, compliance, and underlying technologies. The certification is aimed at candidates with non-technical background who are involved in the procurement, sales, and marketing of Microsoft Azure cloud-based services. It's also the [first step](#) in obtaining a range of role-based Azure certifications, although not necessarily a prerequisite.

Microsoft Certified: Azure Administrator Associate

Average salary: \$125,993

Among the three role-based [Azure](#) certifications, the Azure Administrator Associate is a highly

sought-after credential spanning cloud networking, security, and storage functions. Certified professionals have broad understanding on managing the resources for security, performance and scalability in compliance with the policy framework of an organization using Microsoft Azure cloud infrastructure. A prerequisite is the AZ-103: Microsoft Azure Administrator certification exam and can be followed with the Azure DevOps Engineer certifications.

CCA-N: Citrix Certified Associate – Networking

Average salary: \$125,264

This certification covers the network optimization and configuration functions for the Citrix NetScaler 10 app and desktop virtualization technologies. The certification validates the ability to apply network optimization for resilient and dynamic traffic routing, disaster recovery, troubleshooting issues, and server load balancing. The certification requires a training program and an exam.

CCNP Routing and Switching

Average salary: \$119,178

The CCNP Routing and Switching certification is suitable for professionals responsible for planning, implementation and managing local and wide area networks. They may be working across a range of job positions, including network and support engineers, analysts, and technicians. Recently, this certification has been replaced by a new [CCNA certification program](#). The program requires at least one year of relevant experience in the industry, training course followed by exams.

CCP-V: Citrix Certified Professional – Virtualization

Average salary: \$117,069

The CCP-V is aimed at experienced IT professionals, engineers, and consultants working with Citrix virtualization technologies. The certification highly sought by large enterprises operating complex infrastructure environments using Citrix Hypervisor technologies. The Citrix Certified Associate–Virtualization (CCA-V) is a prerequisite to the CCP-V and can be followed by the Citrix Certified Expert–Virtualization (CCE-V) certification.

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