



Frequently asked questions

SAP Partner 2025 certification requirements

Topic: SAP Certification

Date: February 2025

Business context and opportunity for SAP partners

Why is the current market environment and RISE with SAP offering so promising for SAP partners?

The shift to cloud-based innovation is accelerating. More than 7,000 customers have chosen RISE with SAP, and our partners have delivered 85% of these implementations. Beyond the initial go-live, customers continually need services and support, creating long-term revenue streams for partners.

How large is the potential market?

Over 1,500 customers went live in 2024, and approximately 10,000 more customers are expected to move to Cloud ERP in the coming years. Many still run on older on-premise SAP solutions, which face the end of mainstream maintenance on December 31, 2025. This end-of-maintenance date adds urgency and opportunity, as these customers will need guidance to transition smoothly.

Why is business transformation more critical now than ever?

Today's macroeconomic uncertainty and rapid change make ongoing business transformation essential. Customers must stay agile, adopt new innovations quickly, and continuously evolve their operations. Partners who can help customers adapt will position themselves as trusted advisors and secure long-term growth.

How do “clean core” principles factor into this opportunity?

While extensions can differentiate businesses, too many customizations create technical debt, limit agility, and slow innovation adoption. By adhering to clean core principles, customers remain future-proof and can seamlessly integrate the latest technologies. Partners who guide them on this path deliver long-term, sustainable value.

How can partners help customers navigate this journey?

Partners play a key role in driving sales, implementing RISE with SAP, facilitating cloud transitions, and ensuring customers stay up to date with continuous innovations. By strengthening their own SAP skills, partners can provide informed guidance, adapt quickly to change, and remain indispensable to customers' success.

Why must certifications be renewed annually?

Cloud-based innovation evolves rapidly, and as technology advances, the skills required to implement and support SAP solutions must also keep pace. Annual certification renewal ensures that partners maintain up-to-date expertise, enabling them to meet customers' evolving needs, deliver ongoing innovation, and stay competitive in a dynamic market.

Overview of 2025 partner certification requirements

What are the 2025 partner commitment goals?

Key requirements:

RISE with SAP projects (100% by July 2025): RISE with SAP projects (100% by July 2025): Every Enterprise Architect, Developer, Business Transformation Management Consultant, and Project Manager working on RISE with SAP projects must hold the specific required certifications for their role by July 2025. Certification requirements will be checked when challenges are identified by the customer or by SAP during the implementation project. In that case, the key roles listed above will be asked to share their SAP certification status. If any role is missing certification on relevant products, SAP reserves the right to remove the RISE with SAP Validated recognition from the Partner group.

| Topic Area | Description | Certification |
|--|---|--|
| Project Management: SAP S/4HANA Cloud Private Edition & SAP Activate | Manage all communications, standard implementations, and industry solution projects from start to finish. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SAP Certified Associate - Project Manager - SAP Activate: C_ACT• SAP Certified Specialist - SAP S/4HANA Cloud Private Edition: E_S4CPE |
| ABAP and SAP Cloud Development: ABAP Cloud, SAP Cloud Programming Model, SAP BTP Solution Architecture, and AI | Design and execute extension applications using the side-by-side extensibility concept on SAP BTP (e.g., ABAP Cloud, SAP Build). Develop apps with the ABAP RESTful Application Programming Model. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SAP Certified Associate - Back-End Developer - ABAP Cloud: C_ABAPD• SAP Certified Associate - Backend Developer - SAP Cloud Application Programming Model: C_CPE• SAP Certified Professional - Solution Architect - SAP BTP: P_BTPA*• SAP Certified Associate - SAP Generative AI Developer: C_AIG* |
| Integration Development | Connect SAP and non-SAP systems using SAP BTP Integration Suite. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SAP Certified Associate - Integration Developer: C_CPI |
| Low-Code No-Code / Pro-Code Development | Provide expert guidance on overall SAP technology, architecture, deployment, and governance. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SAP Certified Associate - Low-Code/No-Code Developer - SAP Build: C_LCNC |

| Topic Area | Description | Certification |
|--|--|--|
| Enterprise Architecture: SAP Enterprise Architecture Framework, SAP LeanIX | Provide expert guidance on overall SAP technology, architecture, deployment, and governance. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAP Certified Professional - SAP Enterprise Architect: P_SAPEA SAP Certified Associate - Enterprise Architecture Consultant - SAP LeanIX: C_LIXEA |
| Business Transformation Management: SAP Signavio | Analyze, enhance, and design business processes with a focus on the customer experience. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAP Certified Associate - Business Transformation Consultant: C_SIGBT SAP Certified Associate - Process Management Consultant - SAP Signavio: C_SIGPM SAP Certified Associate - Process Data Analyst - SAP Signavio: C_SIGDA |
| All Solution and Support Consultants | Interacts with product support on behalf of the end customer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Getting Started with Support from SAP (Record of achievement) |

**Not counted for 'RISE with SAP Competency' requirements yet*

Overall SAP practice (50% by end of 2025): At least 50% of all SAP practitioners within a partner's overall SAP practice must each hold a minimum of one valid certification from across the SAP cloud solution portfolio by the end of 2025. Achievement of the 50% requirement will be measured based on your current certifications across the SAP solution portfolio. View a [full list of certifications](#) for all solution areas online.

Important note: All SAP certifications obtained before April 2024 will expire on March 31, 2025.

How is SAP communicating the partner certification requirements?

Certification requirements will be integrated into Partner Business Plans, Partner Enablement Plans, and Terms & Conditions for Competency Framework and RISE with SAP Validated Partners. A legal notice via SAP PartnerEdge communications will outline these competency requirements.

Who is an SAP practitioner?

SAP practitioners include all individuals who configure, build/extend, or influence the design of SAP systems in a customer cloud project.

How are subcontractors considered?

Freelancers and contractors are counted toward the partner's certified workforce only if the partner creates an S-User for them and the individual links that S-User ID to their SAP Universal ID. This linkage confirms both their certification status and affiliation with the partner.

What are role-specific certifications?

Later in this document, you will find details on the certifications required per role, along with learning durations and role descriptions.

Scope and toolchain

Which client delivery projects are in scope for the 2025 certification requirements?

Customer projects that implement relevant RISE with SAP SKUs on contracts executed from April 1, 2024, onward and that are eligible for the SAP embedded launch activities are a priority. The requirement also applies to teams implementing RISE with SAP SKUs on contracts executed before April 1, 2024, and customers already live on RISE with SAP. These projects can be in the 'SAP for ME' application as follows: Customer Success > Projects > Customer Cloud Projects > Solution Area > SAP S/4HANA Cloud Private Edition.

Which RISE with SAP projects are in scope? Many RISE programs are ongoing. In the case of global rollouts, does this apply to all rollout waves or only the first implementation?

All partner-led customer projects implementing relevant RISE with SAP SKUs are in scope, including multi-phase or global rollouts. Projects on contracts executed from April 1, 2024, onward that qualify for SAP embedded launch activities are a priority. The requirement also applies to earlier contracts and to customers already live on RISE with SAP. For these live customers, ensure that any professionals still working on extensions, innovation adoption, or rollout phases are appropriately certified.

Which SAP products are in scope or prioritized in the integrated toolchain?

The toolchain includes:

- SAP Cloud ALM
- SAP Signavio
- SAP LeanIX
- SAP Business Technology Platform (BTP), specifically SAP Cloud Application Programming Model, SAP Integration Suite, and SAP Build

Measurement and tracking

How will the 100% requirement for RISE with SAP projects be measured and tracked?

- Measurement is global based on group performance across all regions, and tracking methods may evolve in 2025.
- SAP will conduct a project-level analysis of the achieved certifications amongst the key roles and facilitate the partner's certification process to reach 100% of the delta.
- Targets will be jointly agreed upon during the 2025 planning process.
- Certified practitioners will be tracked quarterly in executive forum dashboards against the targets in the partner business plan.
- Monthly progress reporting begins in January.
- RISE with SAP projects can be found in the 'SAP for Me' application and will be tracked initially in SAP Cloud ALM.

Is there a status update for RISE Validated partners across all entities?

Yes. SAP provides monthly executive reports that track progress and share updates with RISE Validated partners through their partner managers.

How will the 50% overall practice requirement be measured and tracked?

- Measurement is global based on group performance across all regions, and tracking methods may evolve in 2025.
- The SAP Partner Solution Enablement team will assess the partner's overall SAP practice to better understand the focus of the partners' resources, including a practice-level analysis of current certifications and reporting to provide guidance on priority certifications to target to achieve 50%.
- Targets will be jointly agreed upon during the 2025 planning process.
- Monthly progress reporting begins in January.

What is the baseline for achieving these targets?

- For the 100% RISE with SAP requirement: The baseline is the current team composition on RISE with SAP projects. SAP will assist partners to identify existing certification status, and which practitioners need to achieve certifications and/or move to 'get-and-stay certified' status before March 31, 2025.
- For the 50% overall SAP practice requirement: The baseline is the current number of practitioners in the partner's overall practice. SAP will assist partners to identify existing certification status and how many need to achieve certifications and/or move to 'get-and-stay certified' status before March 31, 2025.
- For the integrated toolchain certification requirements: Note that partners need certified practitioners on customer projects where the tool has been licensed by the customer.

How can partners see how many certified consultants they have?

To see the number of certified consultants, use the SAP Learning Hub analytics dashboard and filter by relevant certification codes. For more details, refer to this [FAQ](#).

What is the ultimate goal (North Star)?

Achieving these certification targets will have an impact on the bottom line. They should lead to improved delivery quality, faster time-to-value, better adherence to clean core principles, fewer support incidents, and greater toolchain adoption across all RISE with SAP projects.

Customer communications

How will these new expectations be communicated to customers?

Throughout 2025, SAP will highlight the importance of certifications to customers at key moments, commencing at SAP Sapphire in May. The intention is for joint SAP and partner communications at SAP Sapphire regarding the new requirements and the progress against the goals. A marketing and communications plan is under review and will be communicated later.

Where can customers see a partner's certification "ranking" or status?

SAP provides guidance in customer-facing portals like SAP Partner Finder and [sap.com](#). These resources highlight partner expertise and certification levels, helping customers make informed decisions. See an [example](#).

General SAP Certification guidance

How can individuals validate and maintain their skills?

The SAP Certification program streamlines skill acquisition and validation. With a single [SAP Learning Hub subscription](#), learners can prepare and get certified for new certifications and maintain certifications through short assessments to stay certified. Subscriptions include four digital certification exam attempts per subscriber. The SAP Certification program includes:

- **Get certified** – Demonstrate intermediate or advanced skills with role- and product-based certifications across key solution innovation. SAP Certification exams are proctored online and take 2-3 hours to complete.
- **Stay certified** – SAP certifications must be renewed annually with short assessments on the latest product updates. The assessment is a short, non-proctored quiz with unlimited attempts and tests only the delta knowledge of the latest product updates. Learners require an SAP Learning Hub subscription to access these assessments. Once successfully completed, your certification will be valid for an additional 12 months. Alternatively, learners without an SAP Learning Hub subscription can purchase and retake an SAP Certification exam every year.

I don't have an SAP Learning Hub subscription. How can I validate my SAP skills and get certified quickly?

SAP offers a streamlined option for anyone who needs a quick start or has immediate certification requirements. SAP Certification exam, two attempts is ideal if you want to rapidly validate skills now, especially under deadline pressures, or to complement existing SAP Learning Hub subscriptions. SAP Certification exam, two attempts include:

- Two exam attempts: You can choose to take an exam in two different certifications or have a second chance to successfully complete one certification.
- Certification-relevant self-paced learning content.
- 10 hours of access to certification-relevant hands-on practice systems.
- Single-user license (non-transferable once assigned).
- **Does not include** the “stay certified” maintenance feature available in SAP Learning Hub, so you may need to upgrade later to maintain certification longer-term.

Which SAP Certification option is right for me or my organization?

Choose **SAP Certification exam, two attempts** if you need to **get certified quickly** and don't require a full SAP Learning Hub subscription. It's cost-effective and provides two exam attempts, self-paced learning materials, and 10 hours of hands-on practice – all designed to help you meet immediate certification goals.

Opt for **SAP Learning Hub** if you want **long-term, continuous upskilling** with four exam attempts and the ability to “stay current” on SAP's latest releases. It's best for individuals and teams that expect ongoing training needs or plan to certify in multiple SAP solutions over time.

You can always start with SAP Certification exam, two attempts to achieve urgent requirements, then upgrade to SAP Learning Hub for deeper skill development when you're ready.

When will current SAP certifications expire?

All SAP certifications obtained before April 2024 will expire on March 31, 2025. Ensure all certified practitioners complete their 'stay certified' assessment before March 31, 2025, to retain and extend their certified status for another 12 months. If a certification expires, the practitioner will need to retake the full SAP Certification exam.

SAP certifications are valid for 12 months from the date a learner passed the exam. To extend the validity, they need to complete stay certified assessments before the expiry date listed in the “Certification” section of the [My Learning](#) page.

What are the steps to get certified and ensure I stay certified?

1. Ensure you have a valid [SAP Universal ID](#) linked with two e-mail addresses from different domain providers and register at least one active S-User provided by your company admin.
2. Check your current certification status in “[My Learning](#)” > “[Certifications](#)”.
3. We recommend subscribing to [SAP Learning Hub](#) subscription ([login to check](#)) to pass either the SAP Certification exam or the stay certified assessments.
4. For a new certification, prepare and schedule the SAP Certification exam via the appropriate [certification page](#). After passing, view the certification status in “[My Learning](#)” > “[Certifications](#)”.
5. Complete the annual stay certified assessment to maintain certification going forward. Note that you must complete the annual stay certified assessment (short quiz of delta skills, unlimited attempts) before the expiry date. Certifications obtained before April 2024 will expire on March 31, 2025.

If the certification has been retired, find a [recommended alternative](#) and complete the alternative exam by March 31, 2025, to maintain certified status.

Where can I find more information about SAP Certification?

For more information, visit the [SAP Certification page on the SAP Partner Portal](#), additional [FAQs](#), and [how-to videos](#).