# Certiport Objective Domains – Exam objectives for certification programs

Certiport’s **Objective Domains** page lists many certification programs (Adobe, IC³ Digital Literacy, Cisco, etc.) and notes that each exam uses *objective domains* to define the knowledge and skills measured. To compile detailed exam objectives, I used the objective‑domain PDFs available on Certiport’s partner sites (ARIT, Prodigy Learning, Moore Solutions, etc.) and Certiport blog posts. The table below summarizes the key certifications and the main topics each exam assesses.

## Agriscience & Technology Careers – Agriscience Foundations

*Goal:* prepares candidates for entry‑level roles in agriculture and assesses knowledge of plant, animal and soil science, food safety and agricultural safety.

| Topic/Domain | Key objectives (examples) |
| --- | --- |
| **Health of agricultural systems** | Identify healthy vs. unhealthy plant, animal and environmental systems; explain conservation practices; summarize integrated pest‑management controls; describe healthy soil properties and the water cycle【834576367237017†L13-L36】. |
| **Using and maintaining industry documents** | Maintain production records and interpret labels for pesticides, feed, medication, nutrition panels, seed tags and fertilizer; use weights and measures to perform calculations; interpret safety data sheets【834576367237017†L37-L90】. |
| **Workplace safety and procedures** | Select and use appropriate tools and equipment; clean and store tools; follow sanitation and biosecurity standards; understand personal protective equipment and safe environmental conditions; summarize the Worker Protection Standard【834576367237017†L91-L120】. |
| **Animal science** | Identify uses of animals (protein production, companionship, labour); know species‑specific terminology; understand animal handling (flight zones) and principles of quality care (food, water, shelter, health)【834576367237017†L120-L138】. |
| **Plant science** | Explain plant biology (photosynthesis, plant parts); identify nutrients and fertilizer application methods; know requirements for seed germination【834576367237017†L139-L153】. |
| **Food safety** | Explain how temperature influences microbial growth; determine allergens in food products (tree nuts, peanuts, fish, wheat, soy, milk, eggs, sesame); distinguish sources of contamination (biological, chemical, physical)【834576367237017†L163-L177】. |

## Health Sciences Careers – Medical Administrative Assistant

*Goal:* certifies medical administrative assistants and covers office procedures, healthcare terminology and regulations. Certiport’s blog breaks the exam into five topics with sample tasks【386619582842775†L514-L557】.

| Topic | Key skills assessed |
| --- | --- |
| **Office procedures** | Sequence steps for making an appointment, differentiate emergent vs. non‑emergent patients, collect required patient information (ID, insurance, referrals, previous records), explain payment arrangements and determine if communication follows HIPAA rules【386619582842775†L514-L522】. |
| **Basic healthcare terminology** | Define office terms (log, scheduler, encryption, EMR, prescription), distinguish diagnostic tests vs. procedures, link body systems to organs and medical specialists, understand legal terms (health‑care proxies, power of attorney, HIPAA, informed consent), define provider roles (pediatrician, pharmacist, etc.) and standard‑precaution terms such as PPE【386619582842775†L524-L533】. |
| **Basic billing knowledge** | Classify payment sources (insurance, billing, government assistance), identify components of an insurance card (group ID number, member ID, RX ID) and define billing terms【386619582842775†L535-L541】. |
| **Interpersonal communication** | Determine how to resolve/de‑escalate patient issues, decide when to report issues and recognize potential bias in scenarios【386619582842775†L543-L549】. |
| **Medical health records** | Describe proper procedures for handling records requests, explain how to store and transfer data securely and identify when/how to dispose of sensitive documents【386619582842775†L551-L557】. |

## Hospitality & Culinary Arts Careers – Culinary Foundations

*Goal:* developed with the World Association of Master Chefs; certifies candidates on essential kitchen knowledge such as mise en place, food safety and cooking methods【65824645556280†L0-L9】.

| Topic/Domain | Key objectives |
| --- | --- |
| **Food storage** | Determine appropriate storage (walk‑in, pantry, freezer), shelf placement for meat, first‑in first‑out (FIFO) and the flow of food; correctly label stored items (date marking, product name)【65824645556280†L14-L24】. |
| **Set‑up procedures** | Define mise en place (equipment, ingredients, mental prep); differentiate knife types and uses; recognize basic knife cuts; identify kitchen tools (hotel pans, ovens, bain marie, mixers, slicers, etc.); identify common ingredients; interpret recipes (methods, ingredients, equipment); scale recipes and convert metric/imperial measurements【65824645556280†L24-L69】. |
| **Food safety and sanitation** | Identify correct time‑ and temperature‑controls (thawing, cooking, holding, cooling), explain food segregation (allergens, cross‑contamination), and identify sanitation practices (cleanliness, personal hygiene)【65824645556280†L71-L82】. |
| **Kitchen environment** | Describe the kitchen hierarchy (prep cook, sous chef, executive chef), identify equipment safety risks, explain equipment maintenance (knife sharpening, appliances, cutting boards), and describe workplace safety practices (avoiding cuts, burns, slips, fire and electrical safety)【65824645556280†L83-L99】. |
| **Cooking methods and terminology** | Explain preparation methods (whipping, creaming, folding, making dough), wet‑heat methods (boiling, steaming), dry‑heat methods (roasting, baking, grilling, frying), combination methods (braising, stewing) and how to make stocks, sauces and soups【65824645556280†L103-L122】. |
| **Clean‑up** | Recognize cleaning chemicals and storage; identify waste management and recycling methods; identify cleaning equipment; describe different types of sinks and their uses【65824645556280†L123-L135】. |

## Entrepreneurship & Small Business (ESB)

*Goal:* helps learners understand entrepreneurship fundamentals and small‑business management. The exam objectives include broad business concepts and specific skills【220090558198904†L6-L49】.

| Topic | Key objectives |
| --- | --- |
| **Entrepreneurial and small‑business concepts** | Define entrepreneurship and classify business types; identify legal structures and roles in a business; explain business life‑cycle stages; understand design‑thinking elements; describe entrepreneurial mindset and weigh risks/benefits; determine characteristics of business opportunities; identify business‑plan elements; distinguish between intellectual property types (trademark, trade secret, copyright, patent) and guidelines for using licensed materials【220090558198904†L6-L49】. |
| **Marketing and sales** | Interpret market research (target market, value proposition, pricing, primary vs. secondary data, competitive analysis, SWOT); analyze marketing processes (platforms, methods, market reactions, customer acquisition costs, marketing plan components); identify sales‑channel strategies and elements of sales processes, including digital vs. physical channels and the role of customer service【220090558198904†L51-L87】. |
| **Production and distribution** | Describe minimum viable product (MVP) concepts, product/market fit and quality criteria; understand supply‑chain and production processes for digital and physical products, including materials, production options and quality control; identify distribution channels and distinguish between direct distribution and fulfillment services【220090558198904†L90-L115】. |
| **Business financials** | Determine selling price; interpret financial statements (income and balance sheets); distinguish fixed vs. variable costs; analyze cash flow; calculate return on investment (ROI); compute operating budgets and start‑up costs; identify funding options and requirements for obtaining funding【220090558198904†L116-L136】. |

## Cisco Certified Support Technician (CCST) Program

*The CCST certification program includes three entry‑level exams: IT Support, Networking and Cybersecurity. Each exam lasts 50 minutes and tests foundational skills sought by employers.*

### CCST IT Support

Based on a CertLibrary guide, the IT Support exam covers six domains【377928295438968†L0-L9】:

| Domain | Example objectives |
| --- | --- |
| **IT support job tasks and responsibilities** | Understand help‑desk concepts, documentation procedures and problem‑solving processes【819510102492020†L1-L9】. |
| **Hardware issues** | Follow safety procedures when handling hardware; assist users with desktop and peripheral troubleshooting; identify and install components in desktop computers【819510102492020†L9-L14】. |
| **Connectivity and resource access issues** | Troubleshoot connectivity issues with networked resources and peripherals; ensure devices connect to networks【874981776892064†L0-L7】. |
| **Operating system and application issues** | Resolve Windows and mobile OS issues; assist with macOS; understand virtualization and cloud terminology; troubleshoot application issues【874981776892064†L8-L15】. |
| **Common threats and preventions** | Identify and investigate threats; recognize social‑engineering attacks; understand company policies for protecting user data【844897087322049†L0-L11】. |
| **Job tools** | Use remote‑access tools and troubleshooting software; document findings and solutions in internal records【844897087322049†L12-L18】. |

### CCST Networking

A training site for the Networking exam provides detailed objectives across six domains【609370326597315†screenshot】:

| Domain | Example objectives |
| --- | --- |
| **Standards and concepts** | Identify conceptual building blocks of networks; differentiate LAN, WAN, MAN, CAN, PAN and WLAN; compare cloud vs. on‑premises services; describe common network applications and protocols【609370326597315†screenshot】. |
| **Addressing and subnet formats** | Compare private vs. public addresses; identify IPv4 and IPv6 addresses and subnet/prefix formats【609370326597315†screenshot】. |
| **Endpoints and media types** | Identify network cables and connectors; differentiate Wi‑Fi, cellular and wired technologies; describe endpoint devices and network‑connectivity setup across multiple operating systems【609370326597315†screenshot】. |
| **Infrastructure** | Interpret status lights on Cisco devices; read network diagrams to attach cables; identify ports on network devices; explain basic routing and switching concepts【784452972840661†screenshot】. |
| **Diagnosing problems** | Demonstrate troubleshooting and help‑desk practices (ticketing, documentation, data collection); capture network packets with Wireshark; run diagnostic and show commands on Cisco devices【784452972840661†screenshot】. |
| **Security** | Describe firewall operations; explain foundational security concepts; configure basic wireless security on a home router (WPAx)【784452972840661†screenshot】. |

### CCST Cybersecurity

While the full PDF is restricted, multiple sources outline the five core domains of the CCST Cybersecurity exam. The exam assesses knowledge of:

1. **Essential security principles** – core cybersecurity concepts, security frameworks and confidentiality/integrity/availability principles.
2. **Basic network security concepts** – network protocols, secure topologies and access‑control measures.
3. **Endpoint security concepts** – securing operating systems and end‑user devices, malware types and protection.
4. **Vulnerability assessment and risk management** – risk identification, vulnerability assessment tools and remediation strategies.
5. **Incident handling** – responding to security incidents, documentation and basic forensics.

These five domains are also listed on an independent training site and on a Certiport partner page【795548888605267†screenshot】.

## IC³ Digital Literacy (IC3 GS6) – Level 1 example

The IC³ Digital Literacy GS6 program measures digital‑skills proficiency across three levels. Level 1 evaluates foundational understanding of seven domains【448862778017602†L0-L60】:

| Domain | Sample objectives |
| --- | --- |
| **Technology basics** | Identify basic functions of operating systems and web browsers; recognize hardware devices and connectors; understand software concepts and digital storage【448862778017602†L0-L60】. |
| **Digital citizenship** | Manage digital identity and reputation; respond appropriately to negative digital behaviour; follow laws and guidelines for using digital content【448862778017602†L0-L60】. |
| **Information management** | Search online effectively; understand copyright and licensing; evaluate credibility of digital information【448862778017602†L0-L60】. |
| **Content creation** | Create documents and spreadsheets; reference and cite sources; save and back up work; understand printing concepts【448862778017602†L0-L60】. |
| **Communication** | Use digital communication tools (email, messaging, video); understand professional communication guidelines; employ inclusive language【448862778017602†L0-L60】. |
| **Collaboration** | Understand concepts and tools for digital collaboration and teamwork【448862778017602†L0-L60】. |
| **Safety and security** | Recognize cybersecurity threats; protect personal information; use secure passwords and multi‑factor authentication【448862778017602†L0-L60】. |

## Adobe Certified Professional

### After Effects – Visual Effects & Motion Graphics

The Visual Effects & Motion Graphics using After Effects exam assesses readiness for entry‑level visual‑effects roles. Objectives include【626649025776280†L0-L100】:

* **Working in the visual effects/motion‑graphics industry:** identify project purpose and audience; communicate with clients; understand project management concepts, copyright and intellectual property; apply digital video/audio terminology and animation principles.
* **Project setup & interface:** choose appropriate project settings and composition properties; navigate and customize the After Effects interface; configure preferences and workspaces【626649025776280†L0-L100】.
* Additional objectives (not visible in the excerpt) involve organizing assets, creating and modifying motion graphics, applying visual effects and rendering/exporting projects.

### Photoshop – Visual Design

The Visual Design using Photoshop exam covers design principles and image‑editing skills. Objectives include【696045138997292†L0-L118】:

* **Working in the design industry:** determine project scope and target audience; communicate with clients; understand copyright/licensing; apply design principles and color theory.
* **Project setup & interface:** create documents for print/web/video; navigate and customize the Photoshop interface; configure preferences and tool presets; import assets and organize layers【696045138997292†L0-L118】.
* Additional objectives (not shown) involve creating and editing graphics, using selections and masking, applying adjustments and filters, and preparing final files for output.

## Critical Career Skills – Generative AI Foundations

The Generative AI Foundations certification examines understanding of AI principles, prompt engineering and ethics【178498071039549†L0-L184】:

* **Generative‑AI methods and methodologies:** define generative AI and differentiate it from predictive AI; understand training models (diffusion, transformers, GANs, VAEs) and their processes; know how to customize models using tools such as ChatGPT, Gemini and Claude; recognise limitations (hallucinations, bias, privacy)【178498071039549†L0-L184】.
* **Basic prompt engineering:** select appropriate prompts for text generation, transformation, summarization, editing, translation, classification and creative tasks【178498071039549†L0-L184】.
* **Prompt refinement:** refine prompts by clarifying style, persona and context; add relevant input; evaluate AI outputs and iterate for improved results【178498071039549†L0-L184】.
* **Ethical frameworks:** understand privacy, bias and intellectual‑property considerations when using generative‑AI tools【178498071039549†L0-L184】.

## Intuit Certifications

### QuickBooks Online Certified User (QBCU)

This certification validates competency in Intuit QuickBooks Online Plus. Exam objectives include【342782031248947†L0-L118】:

* **Administration:** set up QuickBooks Online, create and manage lists (chart of accounts, customers, vendors), customize recurring transactions and journal entries, manage company preferences, and connect third‑party apps.
* **Sales & money‑in:** set up customers and products/services; manage sales settings; record money‑in transactions (estimates, invoices, sales receipts, deposits, credit memos and refunds).
* **Vendors & money‑out:** set up vendors; manage expense settings; record expenses, bills and payments; handle vendor credits and purchase orders.
* **Bank accounts & transaction rules:** connect financial institutions; manage downloaded transactions; implement bank rules and reconcile accounts【342782031248947†L0-L118】.
* **Company reporting:** generate financial statements (profit & loss, balance sheet); create custom reports and manage budgets.

### Certified Bookkeeping Professional

The Certified Bookkeeping Professional exam assesses fundamental accounting skills【668743880118319†L0-L120】:

* **Accounting basics:** define accounting and ethical responsibilities; explain the accounting equation; describe financial statements (income statement, balance sheet, statement of cash flows) and double‑entry accounting; outline the accounting cycle.
* **Accounting for assets and sales transactions:** define assets and inventory; explain methods for valuing inventory; compute depreciation; understand effects of sales transactions on the accounting equation【668743880118319†L0-L120】.
* **Accounting for liabilities, equity and purchase transactions:** define liabilities, equity and payroll obligations; describe common purchasing transactions; analyze the effects on the accounting equation.
* **Reconciliation & financial statements:** perform bank reconciliations; apply analytical methods to financial statements (vertical/horizontal analysis, ratio analysis)【668743880118319†L0-L120】.

### Personal Finance

The Intuit Personal Finance certification focuses on financial literacy and responsible money management【597063234987201†L0-L147】:

* **Earning income:** interpret pay stubs; understand gross vs. net pay; identify factors affecting compensation; differentiate income types and taxation.
* **Spending:** recognize how external influences (culture, marketing, supply/demand) affect spending; develop budgeting skills and compare costs of major purchases; understand common expenses (housing, insurance, food)【597063234987201†L0-L147】.
* **Saving:** identify short‑ and long‑term financial goals; understand features of banking products (checking, savings, certificates of deposit); compare account types and learn about retirement accounts (401k, IRA)【597063234987201†L0-L147】.
* **Investing:** explain risk vs. return; compare investment vehicles (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, ETFs); identify sources of investment income and cost of investing.
* **Managing credit:** describe types of lending (secured/unsecured loans, credit cards, mortgages); interpret credit scores and reports; compare interest rates and repayment terms; develop strategies for managing debt【597063234987201†L0-L147】.

### Design for Delight Innovator

The Design for Delight certification teaches Intuit’s design‑thinking approach. Exam objectives include【552207617369122†L0-L102】:

* **Design for Delight concepts:** understand the core principles of deep customer empathy, going broad to go narrow and rapid experiments; define metrics of customer delight; relate customer problems, solutions and benefits; use prototyping and experimentation techniques.
* **Develop deep customer empathy:** observe customers in their environment, create problem statements and describe ideal customer outcomes.
* **Brainstorm & narrow:** apply methods to generate ideas, run brainstorming sessions and prioritize solutions; transform ideas into prototypes.
* **Perform rapid customer experiments:** design experiments to test hypotheses; prioritize assumptions; prototype experiments; evaluate results and determine next steps【552207617369122†L0-L102】.

## Apple App Development with Swift

The **App Development with Swift Certified User** exam validates knowledge of developing iOS apps using Xcode and Swift. Objective domains include【59307595041517†L0-L99】:

* **Xcode developer tools:** identify features of Xcode; build and run apps on the iOS simulator or a physical device; use debugging techniques like breakpoints and logs.
* **Swift programming language:** use Swift data types and collections; control program flow (conditionals, loops); define and call functions; understand structs, classes and optionals; manage variable scope and memory【59307595041517†L0-L99】.
* **View building with SwiftUI:** position single views on a layout; create multiple views and lists; extract subviews; create multi‑view apps using navigation stacks; bind data using property wrappers such as @State and @Binding【59307595041517†L0-L99】.
* Additional domains (not fully shown in the excerpt) cover **data flow with SwiftUI** and **app structure and behaviour**, focusing on managing data models and app navigation.

## Summary

Certiport’s **objective domains** define the knowledge and skills measured by each certification exam. They provide educators and learners with detailed lists of tasks and concepts that candidates must master. By analysing the accessible objective‑domain PDFs and Certiport materials, we identified the major domains for programs such as Agriscience & Technology, Health Sciences, Hospitality & Culinary Arts, Entrepreneurship & Small Business, Cisco CCST, IC³ Digital Literacy, Adobe Certified Professional, Critical Career Skills (Generative AI), Intuit certifications and Apple’s App Development with Swift. These domains can be used to design curricula, prepare candidates and benchmark competency across a range of career‑readiness certifications.