

SQL Server 2019 Licensing and Cost based on the major editions available, along with their associated features and pricing models:

SQL Server 2019 Licensing and Cost

Edition	Licensing Model		Cost	Key Features	Best For
Enterprise Edition	Core-based Licensing	- \$7,128 per core (Open No Level pricing)**	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Unlimited virtualization with Software Assurance (SA).- Advanced security (Always Encrypted, TDE).- Advanced Analytics with Machine Learning Services.- High Availability features (Always On Availability Groups).- Advanced data warehousing features.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Large-scale enterprise environments.- High availability and disaster recovery.- Business intelligence and data warehousing.	
Standard Edition	Core-based Licensing or Server + CAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- \$1,859 per core (Open No Level pricing).- \$931 per Server + \$209 per CAL**.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Basic availability groups (2-node).- Standard analytics and reporting.- Data masking and encryption.- Integration with SSIS, SSRS, and SSAS.- Machine learning services (limited).- Hybrid cloud scenarios supported.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Small to medium-sized businesses.- Basic availability and security requirements.- Hybrid cloud and on-prem environments.	

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Developer Edition	Free	- Free	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full SQL Server Enterprise functionality. - Development and testing environment only. - Not for production use. - Includes support for containers and Kubernetes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developers building and testing SQL Server applications.
Express Edition	Free	- Free	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basic database engine features. - Up to 10 GB database size limit. - Limited to 1 GB memory and 4 cores. - Ideal for lightweight applications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small-scale applications. - Learning and entry-level use. - Independent software vendors (ISVs) for small-scale apps.
Web Edition	Core-based Licensing (via hosting provider)	- \$862 per core**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scaled down for web hosting. - Similar to Standard but optimized for web applications. - Full-text indexing and search. - Integration with ASP.NET and PHP apps. - Enhanced performance for web-based applications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Web hosting environments. - Web-based applications requiring SQL Server functionality.
SQL Server Big Data Clusters	Core-based Licensing (Enterprise or Standard)	- Enterprise or Standard edition licensing**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Combine SQL Server with Apache Spark and Hadoop for large-scale data analysis. - Supports containers and Kubernetes. - Scalable big data solutions. - Integration with data lakes and AI frameworks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Large-scale data analytics. - Enterprise data lakes and AI solutions. - Scalable big data environments.

Notes:

1. **Core-based Licensing:** SQL Server Enterprise and Standard editions can be licensed by the number of cores in the processor. A **minimum of 4 cores** must be licensed per SQL Server instance.
2. **Server + CAL Licensing:** In the Standard Edition, the server can be licensed with a **Server License** along with **Client Access Licenses (CALs)**, where each device or user needs a CAL. This option is typically more cost-effective for smaller organizations with fewer users.
3. **Software Assurance (SA):** Adds value like **license mobility**, **version upgrades**, and **unlimited virtualization** (Enterprise Edition only).

Licensing Guidelines:

- **Core-based licensing** is generally used when organizations have a large number of users or highly virtualized environments.
- **Server + CAL licensing** is suitable for smaller environments where the number of users or devices is limited.
- **Software Assurance (SA)** provides access to benefits like cloud readiness, unlimited virtualization rights, and version upgrades.

Note: Prices can vary based on the region, specific reseller, and applicable discounts (e.g., volume licensing agreements).

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