



Databricks Partner Champion Program

Onboarding Guide for Champion Candidates

Last updated: 15 April 2022

DATABRICKS INTERNAL

To be shared only with Partner Champion Candidates and Partner Leadership

Table of Contents

Overview	3
Expectations from a Partner Champion	4
The journey ahead	5
Prerequisite Checklist	5
Step 1: Baseline + Learning Plan	5
Step 2: Certifications and badges	7
Certification Prep Resources	7
Solutions Architect Essentials Badge 'Flight School'	8
Step 3: Checkpoints with CoE Leads and PSA	8
Step 4: Panel Discussion	9
Champion Badge Unlocked! Now what?	10

Overview

Congratulations on your nomination to become a Databricks Champion!

Being nominated to the Databricks champion program is an achievement in itself. Your CoE leadership is impressed with your technology prowess, your contributions to your projects and to the community, and most importantly, your dedication to raising the bar for yourself and your teams.

It is important to note that the Champions badges are issued by Databricks on the request of the CoE at your consulting organization. As such, we advise you to maintain active collaboration with your CoE at all times and ensure your goals align with CoE goals.

Expectations from a Partner Champion

Our champions are experts on Lakehouse + Databricks.

Evangelist / Thought Leader <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Have a deep understanding of Lakehouse and its pillars.2. Sales-pitch ready for new and upcoming features	Technical Expert <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Real-world experience on at least 1 Databricks implementation
Community Leader <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Actively participate in your Center of Excellence (CoE) or Community of Practice (CoP)2. Present at office hours3. Identify and mentor champions	Innovator <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Contribute to industry solution accelerators and go to market initiatives

The journey ahead

You are already seen as a Databricks technical expert by your peers, and now you will go through an intensive 4-step program to become an official Databricks Partner Champion.

Prerequisite Checklist

As a prerequisite to the program, please check off the following items with your PSA:

- ☐ Register your information [here](#).
- ☐ Get registered at the [Partner Academy](#)
 - ☐ Get plugged into your internal CoE / CoP
 - ☐ Get introduced to CoE leadership, fellow champions and practitioners
 - ☐ Get access to internal Demo/POC environments.
- ☐ Register for monthly [Partner Tech Talks](#) to stay current on latest developments, be sure to select the target date for your preferred session on the right hand side.

Step 1: Baseline + Learning Plan

As a Databricks Partner Champion, you are expected to have a sound understanding and be pitch-ready on multiple aspects of Lakehouse and Databricks.

1. Lakehouse (MANDATORY)

- a. What is Lakehouse?
- b. How does Delta Lake work?
- c. I have another partner proposing a DW-centric solution. Why Lakehouse?

Depending on the nature of the work you perform, you are also expected to have a **well-rounded awareness** on 2 out of the 3 topics below.

2. Building Data Pipelines on Databricks

- a. What is the Bronze / Silver / Gold architecture?
- b. Streaming
- c. What are Auto-loaders? What is the value?
- d. What are Delta Live Tables? What is the value?
- e. What are Multi-task Jobs? What is the value?
- f. How to orchestrate jobs from external orchestrators e.g. Airflow?
- g. How does Delta Change Feed make pipeline building simpler and faster?

- h. How to handle logging, testing and CI/CD?

3. Analytics using Databricks SQL

- a. Why is this feature important?
- b. Queries and Dashboards
- c. Integrations with external tools
- d. Serverless vs Classic Endpoints
- e. How to fine-tune performance and handle endpoint sizing?

4. Machine Learning on Databricks

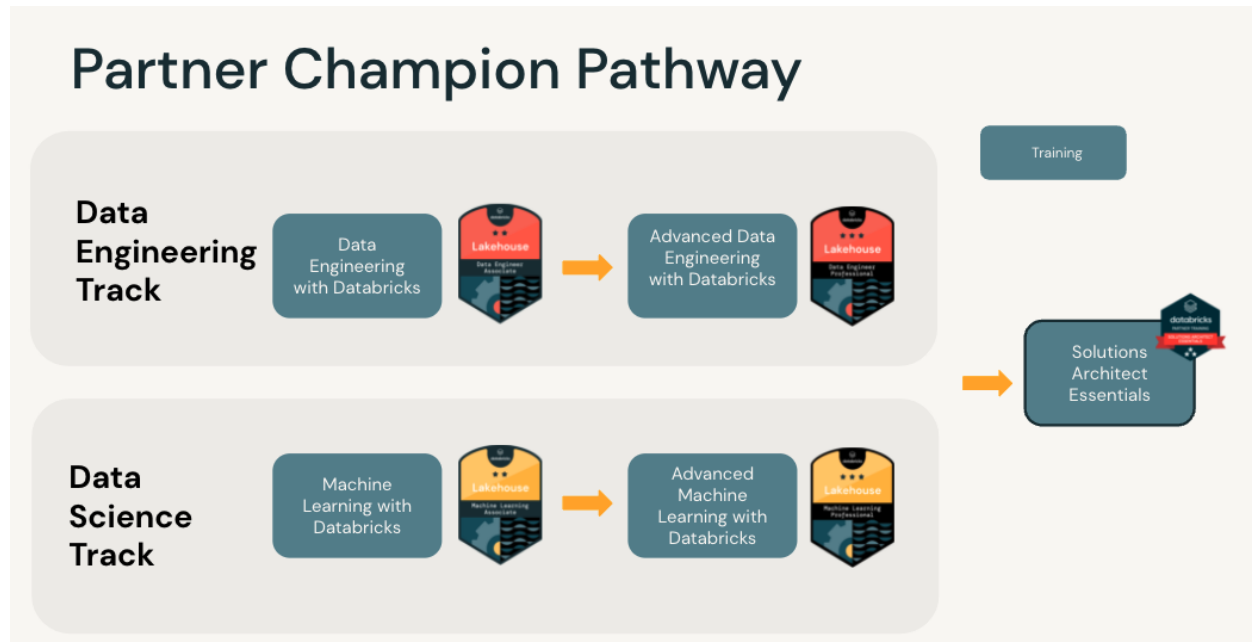
- a. ML Runtimes
- b. MLFlow
- c. Feature Stores
- d. AutoML
- e. Model serving

As part of onboarding, a Partner SA will work with you to assess your awareness levels on the below topics. You will develop a learning plan to cover the gaps identified – use the self-paced courses from the course [catalog](#) as a ready reckoner.

Step 2: Certifications and badges

Champion candidates will need to complete a total of THREE badges.

The candidate can choose from either of the two tracks : Data Engineering or Data Science.



The Associate and the Professional certificates in each track are proctored exams. Each Proctored certification exam will cost \$50 per attempt. **Please contact your COE lead or Databricks Partner team for discount codes.**

After the certifications, the candidates in each track proceed to obtain the Solution Architect badge by attending an instructor Led Training (ILT) class and completing required assignments.

Certification Prep Resources

Partner candidates pursuing certifications can leverage the below resources for preparation.

1. Self Paced Learning : Candidates can use self learning courses in the [partner academy](#)

2. Instructor Led Trainings(ILT) : Candidates can also attend ILT course. It is a 2–full day training held once a month for each geography (AMER, EMEA, APJ). The course is geared towards preparing candidates towards the proctored certification exams.

Self-paced and Instructor-Led Courses for Certification Preparation

As a partner, you have access to the [Partner Academy](#). Please login in using your company email id. Once logged in you have access to all Self Paced Learning and Instructor led training modules.

The self paced and instructor led training modules for various certification paths are as below:

Certification Exam	Self Paced Course	Instructor Led Course
Databricks Certified Data Engineer Associate (<i>practice exam</i>)	Data Engineering with Databricks	Data Engineering with Databricks
Databricks Certified Data Engineer Professional	Advanced Data Engineering with Databricks	Advanced Data Engineering with Databricks
Advanced Data Engineering with Databricks	Scalable Machine Learning with Apache Spark	Scalable Machine Learning with Apache Spark
Databricks Certified Machine Learning Professional	Coming Soon	<i>Machine Learning in Production (Coming Soon)</i>

Note: Before taking the certification test, please refer to the certification prerequisites and to ensure all of them are met.

To register for the certification exam, please either log in or create an account in our [certification platform](#). Further you can register for the exam using this [link](#).

Solutions Architect Essentials Badge ‘Flight School’

After completing certifications, we invite champion candidates to attend the Partner Solution Architect Essentials (PSAE) training.

This [PSAE Training](#) is a 3–half day instructor–led training hosted in different timezones.

The candidates can self–sign up for the sessions through the Partner Academy Portal according to their availability.

Step 3: Checkpoint with CoE Lead and/or PSA

This step is to prepare you for the final step – the panel discussion.

Your CoE Lead and/or the Partner SA will use the rubric from the Step 1 Baseline and review your learnings to get you prepped for the next step.

Step 4: Panel Discussion

You will present your accomplishments and your plans to a small and friendly panel of 1-2 members from your CoE and your Partner SA.

The typical outline for a panel discussion is as below:

Why do you deserve to be a Partner Champion?

- Introduce yourself
- What is your journey on Databricks?
- What Databricks work are you proud of?
 - What was the business problem?
 - What was the technical solution?
 - Code and Demo (bonus)
 - What were the business and technical results of your solution?
 - What would you change if you were to do this now?
- Why do you believe in Lakehouse+Databricks?
 - How would you convince a customer to adopt Lakehouse+Databricks ?
 - What current and upcoming Databricks features excite you the most ?
- Tell us about your contributions to the Databricks community
 - What have you done for the CoE at your company?
 - What have you done outside the CoE?
- What do you plan to accomplish as a Databricks Partner Champion?
 - How will you help develop within the CoE at your company?
 - What do you plan to achieve outside the CoE?
 - Which 5 colleagues or community members can you recommend for the program?

We will block off 60 minutes, but expect your presentation to be at least 30–35 minutes long. The panel will debrief after your presentation to review your champion readiness and make a joint decision on whether to award you the champion badge right away or defer it to allow you to work on specific topics.

Champion Badge Unlocked! Now what?

1. Pay it forward. Continue to work with your Databricks CoE / CoP.
 - a. Make a bigger impact by supporting deals and deliveries as a Databricks Expert
 - b. Recruit practitioners and broaden the reach of the CoE
 - c. Identify and mentor talented CoE members to become champions on their own.
2. Register for the monthly Databricks Partner Tech Talk at <https://databricks.com/p/webinar/partner-tech-talk-series>
Invite your colleagues too. We cover new features, roadmap and pro-tips every month.

For any questions, comments, or general feedback, please reach out to your Databricks Partner Solution Architect.

ALL THE BEST!