That’s a great decision! Azure is highly in demand, and getting certified will definitely boost your career. Since you’re already experienced in full-stack development, I’d recommend starting with **"Microsoft Certified: Azure Fundamentals (AZ-900)"** if you're new to cloud concepts.

Once you're comfortable, you can move to:

* **AZ-204 (Developing Solutions for Microsoft Azure)** – Ideal for developers who want to build cloud applications.
* **AZ-400 (DevOps Engineer Expert)** – If you want to train employees on CI/CD, automation, and DevOps practices.

**Phase 1: Learn Azure Fundamentals (AZ-900)**

**Goal:** Understand cloud concepts, Azure services, pricing, and security.  
**Duration:** ~2 weeks (1-2 hours/day)

**Topics to Cover**

✅ Cloud computing basics (IaaS, PaaS, SaaS)  
✅ Azure core services (Compute, Storage, Networking, Databases)  
✅ Azure pricing, SLAs, and cost management  
✅ Security, compliance, and identity management

**Resources**

📚 [Microsoft Learn - AZ-900](https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/certifications/exams/az-900/) *(Official Learning Path)*  
🎥 [YouTube: FreeCodeCamp AZ-900 Course](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5abffC-K40c) *(Great for beginners)*  
📖 [Microsoft AZ-900 Study Guide](https://query.prod.cms.rt.microsoft.com/cms/api/am/binary/RE4qS5b) *(PDF Guide)*  
📝 [Practice Tests](https://www.examtopics.com/exams/microsoft/az-900/) *(Free AZ-900 questions)*

🔹 **Action Item:** Sign up for a free [Azure account](https://azure.microsoft.com/free/) and get $200 free credits for hands-on practice.

**Phase 1: Azure Fundamentals (AZ-900)**.

### ****📌 Goal:****

By the end of this phase, you should understand cloud concepts, Azure core services, pricing, and security.

⏳ **Duration:** ~2 weeks (1-2 hours per day)

## **🔹 Step 1: Understand Cloud Computing & Azure Basics (Day 1-3)**

**Topics:**  
✅ What is cloud computing? (IaaS, PaaS, SaaS)  
✅ Benefits of cloud (Scalability, Cost Efficiency, Reliability)  
✅ Azure Overview (Regions, Availability Zones, Resource Groups)

**📚 Resources:**

* [**Microsoft Learn - Cloud Concepts**](https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/training/modules/describe-cloud-concepts/)
* [**YouTube: Cloud Computing Basics**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ytJ2w2LqAY)

**🛠 Hands-on Task:**

* Create a **free Azure account** → [Sign Up Here](https://azure.microsoft.com/free/)

## **🔹 Step 2: Azure Core Services (Day 4-7)**

**Topics:**  
✅ Azure Compute (VMs, App Services, Functions)  
✅ Azure Storage (Blob, File, Queue, Table)  
✅ Azure Networking (VNet, Load Balancer, CDN)  
✅ Databases (Azure SQL, Cosmos DB)

**📚 Resources:**

* [**Microsoft Learn - Azure Services**](https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/training/modules/describe-core-azure-services/)
* [**YouTube: Azure Core Services**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gd1hpIr3NA4)

**🛠 Hands-on Task:**

* Deploy a simple **Virtual Machine** on Azure
* Create a **Blob Storage container**

## **🔹 Step 3: Azure Security & Identity (Day 8-10)**

**Topics:**  
✅ Azure Security (NSG, Firewalls, Defender for Cloud)  
✅ Azure Identity (Azure AD, RBAC, MFA)  
✅ Compliance & Governance (Azure Policy, Blueprints)

**📚 Resources:**

* [**Microsoft Learn - Azure Security**](https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/training/modules/describe-security-concepts-methodologies-azure/)
* [**YouTube: Azure Security Basics**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rvIXhROHzbM)

**🛠 Hands-on Task:**

* Create an **Azure Active Directory user**
* Assign **RBAC roles** to different users

## **🔹 Step 4: Azure Pricing & Cost Management (Day 11-13)**

**Topics:**  
✅ Azure Pricing Calculator  
✅ Cost Management Tools  
✅ SLAs & Service Lifecycles

**📚 Resources:**

* [**Microsoft Learn - Azure Pricing**](https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/training/modules/describe-azure-cost-management/)
* [**YouTube: Azure Pricing Explained**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7I5GHnD9l7M)

**🛠 Hands-on Task:**

* Use **Azure Pricing Calculator** to estimate VM costs

## **🔹 Step 5: Exam Prep & Practice Tests (Day 14)**

**📚 Practice Tests:**  
📝 [**ExamTopics - AZ-900 Free Questions**](https://www.examtopics.com/exams/microsoft/az-900/)  
📝 [**MeasureUp - Microsoft Official Practice Test**](https://www.measureup.com/Microsoft-Azure-Fundamentals-AZ-900-P3577.aspx)

🎥 [**YouTube - Full AZ-900 Exam Cram**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=97YaKbvu6Jc)

## **🚀 Next Steps**

📅 **Schedule the AZ-900 exam** (Fee: ~$99) → [Register Here](https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/certifications/exams/az-900/)  
💡 Once you pass, you can start **AZ-204 (Azure for Developers)**

**Phase 2: Azure for Developers (AZ-204)**

**Goal:** Learn how to build, deploy, and manage applications on Azure.  
**Duration:** ~4-6 weeks

**Topics to Cover**

✅ Developing Azure Functions, Web Apps, and API Apps  
✅ Using Azure Storage (Blob, Queue, Table, CosmosDB)  
✅ Working with Azure SQL, Redis, and Event Hubs  
✅ Implementing authentication & authorization (Azure AD, OAuth)  
✅ Deploying apps using CI/CD (Azure DevOps, GitHub Actions)

**Resources**

📚 [Microsoft Learn - AZ-204](https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/certifications/exams/az-204/) *(Official Learning Path)*  
🎥 [Pluralsight AZ-204 Course](https://www.pluralsight.com/courses/developing-solutions-microsoft-azure-az-204) *(Great for hands-on learning)*  
📝 [AZ-204 Practice Tests](https://www.examtopics.com/exams/microsoft/az-204/)

🔹 **Action Item:** Start building a simple Azure-based project like a **MERN/Java app deployed on Azure App Service**.

**Phase 3: Advanced & Specialization (Optional)**

🔹 **AZ-400 (Azure DevOps Engineer)** - For CI/CD and DevOps best practices  
🔹 **AZ-104 (Azure Administrator)** - If you want to go deeper into infrastructure