This is how I passed the AWS Sysops Administrator – Associate (SAO-CO2) exam.

Certification Link - <https://aws.amazon.com/certification/certified-sysops-admin-associate/>

It is recommended that if you have no experience with AWS that you take the AWS Cloud Practitioner exam first. This exam is not required but it gives you both confidence in taking AWS exams and a foundation for the technology.

The starting point for any certification exam for me is the certification exam guide. You can find it at the certification link above. This gives an overview of what is covered on the exam. I like to create an outline with this information in Word and take notes as I study.

**Training**

I was able to go thru the official AWS Sysops course, but there are enough online courses that you can complete the certification without it. I used Stephane Maaek’s course on Udemy. In addition to his course, these are links to the training that get good reviews.

[Homepage | learn.cantrill.io](https://learn.cantrill.io/)

[Home - Tutorials Dojo | Your One-Stop Learning Portal](https://tutorialsdojo.com/)

**Experience**

Since this exam includes 3 labs, you will need real experience with AWS. This is where Amazon makes it easy, you can sign up for an AWS account and as long as you stay within the Free Tier you pay nothing. Now the Free Tier does not include every service that AWS offers but it is better than working with the online labs alone. Studying for this exam I pays a grand total of 51 cents. The key is to terminate and delete all resources after you finish what you are working on.

In addition to live experience, I used the following hands-on labs: [Amazon Web Services (qwiklabs.com)](https://amazon.qwiklabs.com/).

**Practice Exams**

I do like to use reputable practice exams. And in this case it was recommended to use TutorialsDojo. There were several questions that were really close to the real exam. And several similar. And TutorialsDojo seemed harder, so another confidence builder.

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