12-Month Certification Roadmap

This roadmap is designed to help you become a full-stack, backend-leaning senior developer who can build, deploy, and scale cloud apps, manage CI/CD pipelines, integrate AI solutions, and design modern data warehouses using Azure technologies. The plan balances Azure, DevOps, AI, and Data certifications with hands-on projects.

Phase 1 (Months 1–6) — Core Dev + AI + BI + DevOps

- Months 1–2: AZ-204 (Developing Solutions for Microsoft Azure) — Core Azure app development skills (Container Apps, Key Vault, App Config, SQL, Front Door).
- Month 3: AI-102 (Designing and Implementing an Azure AI Solution) — AI integration (Azure OpenAI, Cognitive Search, responsible AI).
- Month 4: PL-300 (Power BI Data Analyst) — DAX, modeling, dashboards, delivering insights to leadership.
- Months 5–6: AZ-400 (Designing and Implementing Microsoft DevOps Solutions) — CI/CD, GitHub Actions, infrastructure as code, monitoring.

Phase 2 (Months 7–12) — Data Engineering + Fabric

- Months 7–8: DP-203 (Data Engineering on Microsoft Azure) — Best practices for star schemas, ETL/ELT pipelines, orchestration, error handling (ADF, Synapse, Databricks).
- Month 9: Fabric Exploration Project — Move one workload into Fabric Lakehouse + Power BI (POC).
- Months 10–11: DP-600 (Implementing Analytics Solutions with Microsoft Fabric) — Lakehouse, Delta tables, OneLake governance, semantic models.
- Month 12: Integration Sprint — Combine Aspire apps, AI, CI/CD, Data Warehouse, and Fabric dashboards into a showcase project.

Certification Timeline (12 Months)

- Months 1–2: AZ-204 — Azure app development (core gap) - Month 3: AI-102 — AI solutions, hackathon ready - Month 4: PL-300 — Power BI, DAX, modeling - Months 5–6: AZ-400 — DevOps, CI/CD, IaC - Months 7–8: DP-203 — Data engineering, pipelines, warehouse best practices - Months 10–11: DP-600 — Fabric, Lakehouse, BI integration

Expected Outcomes

- Hold 6 certifications across Apps, AI, Data, and DevOps.
- Deploy, scale, and secure Aspire apps in Azure.
- Design and manage CI/CD pipelines and environment strategies.
- Productionize AI solutions with Azure AI services.
- Refactor and stabilize the existing data warehouse using best practices.
- Deliver modern dashboards and insights using Power BI and Fabric.