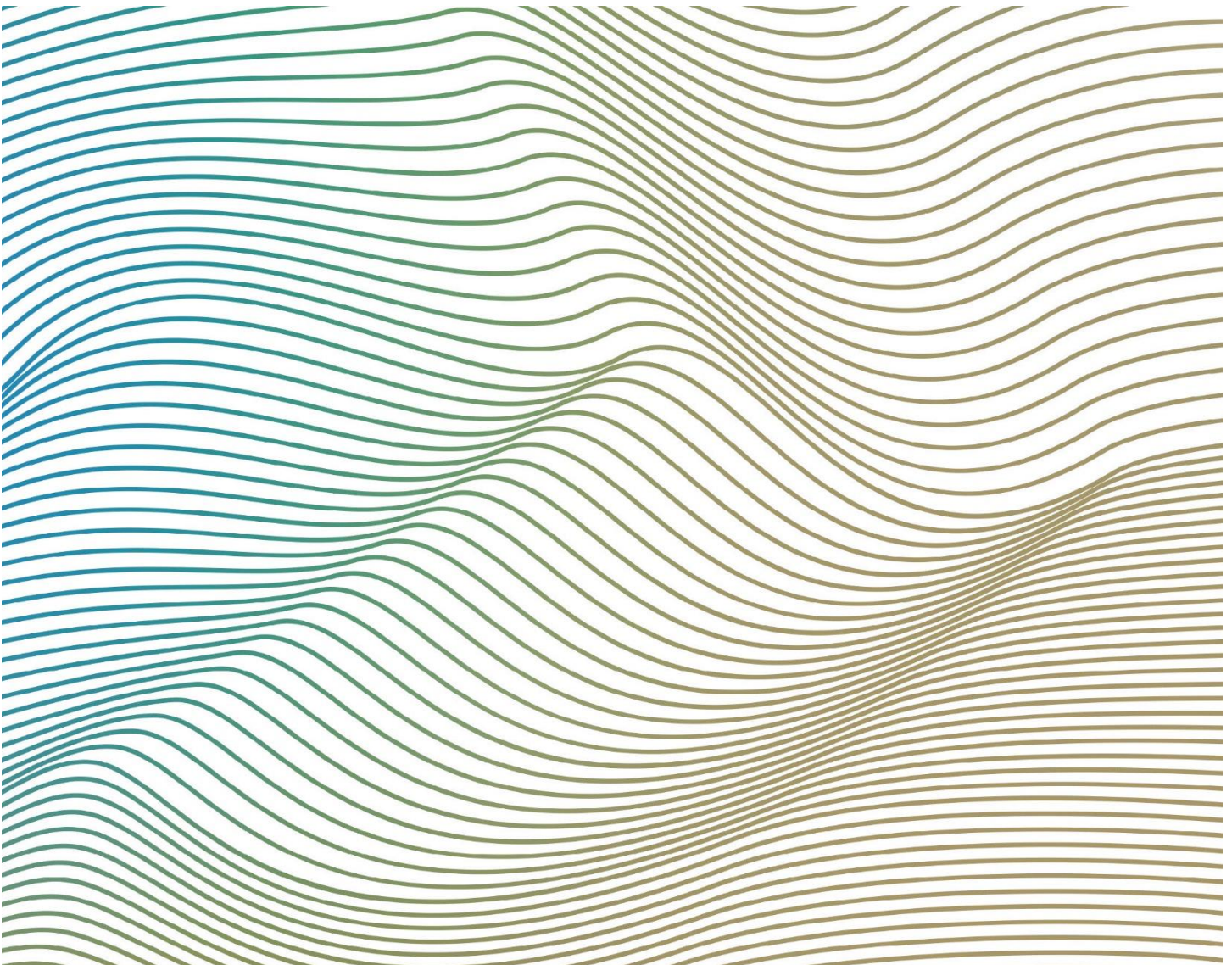


Alteryx Designer Core Certification Exam Prep Guide



Start Your Analytics Superhero Journey Here

The world is full of dirty data and complex problems. Luckily, there are analytic superheroes like you who harness their Alteryx powers for good. Whether you’re brand-new or a seasoned veteran, the Alteryx Certification Program provides you with ways to continue learning and a place to prove your Alteryx analytic skills. The Core Certification is where the learning journey begins.



Table of Contents

Exam Overview	3
Exam Outline	4
Steps to Certification Success	7
Certification Prep Timeline	8
Test Tips.....	9
Exam Prep Resources	10
Getting Started Learning Path	10
Interactive Prep Guide	10
Practice Exam	10
Core Prep Video Series.....	10
Weekly Challenges	11

Exam Overview

The Alteryx Designer Core Certification exam tests your knowledge of the “core” toolset in Designer and your ability to apply your knowledge and use the tools to solve real-world problems. The “core” toolset includes the tools that are used most often in Alteryx Designer and are fundamental to data preparation and analysis. The core toolset is the foundation for analysis in Alteryx Designer.

AUDIENCE: Everyone!

EXPERIENCE LEVEL: Intermediate

PRICE: Free

EXAM TYPE: Online, on-demand

TIME ALLOTTED: 2 hours

VERSION: The exam tests on the latest version of Designer

ATTEMPTS: 1 attempt every 7 days

QUESTIONS: 80

QUESTION TYPES: 73 multiple choice questions, 7 practical application questions

PASSING SCORE: 80%

POINT VALUES: 1 point for multiple choice, 3 points for practical application. Partial credit is awarded and deducted for matching and multiple-response questions (“Select all that apply”).

ALLOWED RESOURCES: This exam is “open book,” and we encourage you to be familiar with resources that are permitted for use during the exam: content on Alteryx Community, Alteryx Help Documentation, information on public websites, and sample workflows and other in-Designer resources.

PROHIBITED RESOURCES: You may not receive assistance from another person, allow another person to take the exam on your behalf, plagiarize any exam answers, or use unauthorized publications of exam answers. See the [Alteryx Certification Agreement and Policies](#) for more details.

RECERTIFICATION: The Alteryx Designer Core Certification expires after 2 years. You may retake and pass the Core exam OR the Alteryx Designer Advanced exam to renew your Core certification.

The Core exam is designed to help you prove and *improve* your skills: it’s free, online, on-demand, and open-book.

Exam Outline

The exam measures a candidate's knowledge and skills related to the objectives below.

The candidate should be able to demonstrate their ability to do the following with all tools covered on the exam:

- Identify the functionality, strengths, and limitations of the tool
- Identify when the tool would be used to create a given output
- Configure the tool to create a given output
- Differentiate the functionality of similar tools

Input / Output



- Tools: Browse, Input Data, Output Data, Text Input
- Identify how to efficiently connect to multiple data sources and write out multiple files
- Describe how Data Profiling provides insight into a data set
- Differentiate features of Input Data and Text Input tools
- Identify how to use wildcards to read in multiple files
- Identify symbols for delimiters in Input Data tool
- Identify how to disable all Browse tools
- Describe functionality of the Results window
- Identify common errors of the Output Data and Input Data tools
- Identify the correct file destination when relative paths are used in the Output Data tool
- Identify the files created with prepend and append configurations of the Output Data tool
- Identify the tool conversion capabilities of the Input Data and Browse tools

Join



- Tools: Append Fields, Find Replace, Join, Union
- Determine which tool will most efficiently blend a given set of data
- Identify common errors that may occur when joining data
- Identify the options available to align fields in the Union tool
- Differentiate the output of the Join tool when joined by name vs. position
- Differentiate how the Join tool and Union tool blend and arrange data
- Identify the records output in each anchor of the Join tool
- Describe the multiplicative result in rows when using the Append Fields tool

Preparation



- Tools: Data Cleansing, Filter, Formula, Sample, Select, Select Records, Sort, Unique
- Determine which tool will most efficiently blend a given set of data
- Identify the expression that would transform a given input into a given output
- Determine valid string and numeric formulas and expressions
- Differentiate ascending and descending sorting order
- Differentiate sorting order with dictionary order selected and deselected
- Identify how numbers are sorted when they are a string data type
- Identify the sampling options of the Sample tool
- Determine how the Data Cleansing tool removes characters from strings
- Determine the output of a Filter tool when configured with a compound expression
- Identify the logical operator that can replace two connected Filter tools
- Identify how case sensitivity impacts the output of the Unique tool
- Determine the output of a Unique tool when multiple columns are selected
- Identify operations that can be performed in the Formula tool for different data types
- Determine the output of a given conditional expression
- Identify valid syntax and functionality of expression statements
- Identify output of string expressions that use a 0-based index

Transform



- Tools: Cross Tab, Summarize, Transpose
- Determine which Summarize functions are valid
- Differentiate how Cross Tab and Transpose transform data
- Determine how the Group By action impacts the output of the Summarize tool
- Identify common errors that occur with the Cross Tab tool
- Identify how Key Columns are output from the Transpose tool

Parse



- Tools: DateTime, Text to Columns
- Match delimiters to their descriptions
- Determine the result of using multiple delimiters in the Text to Columns tool
- Use specifiers and separators to specify a custom format in the DateTime tool
- Identify how the Text to Columns tool handles columns with nulls
- Identify the output when the Text to Columns tool is configured to split to rows

General

- Recognize common UI elements and workflow settings, including: workflow dependencies, workflow constants, workflow optimization, keyboard shortcuts, group files, and Alteryx file types
- Determine the appropriate data type for a field and differentiate data types
- Identify how to add documentation and annotations to workflows
- Identify string data types that accept any Unicode character
- Identify ways to add tools to Tool Containers
- Identify Comment tool functionality

Practical Application

- Questions in the practical application section gauge your ability to use the tools above to solve problems. Practical application questions require you to connect to a provided data set in Alteryx Designer to solve the problem.

Steps to Certification Success

LEARN

1. Begin with the [Getting Started Learning Path](#). The interactive lessons and hands-on exercises will immerse you in the world of Designer.
2. Use your new skills to solve at least 4 [Weekly Challenges](#). Start with beginner challenges from the preparation, analysis, parsing, and cleansing categories (see page 11 for suggestions). If you get stuck, look at how others solved it and learn from their expertise.
3. Take a deep dive into each tool's functionality and configurations with the One Tool Examples in Designer (click on any tool in the tool palette and select "Open Example"). The details are important!
4. Analyze data that is meaningful to you. Formulate questions and build workflows that give you insight into your own data. This is a critical step in the learning process; not only will you be applying what you've learned but it also allows you to visualize how Designer can help you do your job more efficiently and effectively.

PREPARE

5. Review the exam outline to understand exactly what's on the exam, gauge your current skill level, and identify areas where you need to brush up.
6. Watch the [Core Prep Video Series](#) for a review of the Core tool set and to learn what to expect on exam day.
7. Take the [practice exam](#).



TEST

8. [Take the exam](#). Use your first attempt as a learning opportunity and take advantage of your open book resources to look up what you do not know. Refine your skills over the next 7 days and then retake the exam. Don't worry if it takes you a few tries to pass! Approach the exam as part of the learning journey and use it to help you assess your strengths and weaknesses and keep improving your knowledge and skills. Passing the exam isn't the end – it's just the beginning. Continue your certification journey by becoming Advanced Certified, share your knowledge on the Alteryx Community, or join a User Group.

Certification Prep Timeline

This schedule is a suggested timeline for new users to learn Alteryx Designer and earn the Core Certification. Each week's assignment takes approximately 5 hours to complete. If possible, we suggest condensing the first few weeks of this schedule to accelerate your learning and reduce time to value. Each learner is different, it may take more or less time for you to feel comfortable using Designer and earn your certification.

Week#	Learning Activity
1	Getting Started Learning Path Getting Started through Practice Exercise 1
2	Getting Started Learning Path Text to Columns through Practice Exercise 3
3	Getting Started Learning Path Cross Tab and Transpose through Capstone Project
4	Complete 2 beginner Weekly Challenges Review One Tool examples for these tools: Browse, Input Data, Output Data, Text Input, Append Fields, Find Replace, Join, Union, DateTime, Text to Columns
5	Complete 2 beginner Weekly Challenges Review One Tool examples for these tools: Cross Tab, Summarize, Transpose, Data Cleansing, Filter, Formula, Select, Select Records, Sort, Unique
6	Analyze your own data. Use the tools you know and your new skills to explore data that is meaningful to you.
7	Review the Core Certification Prep Guide and watch the Core Certification Prep video series.
8	Take the practice exam. Study any areas you need to brush up on, and then take your first attempt at the Core exam.
9	Do additional studying to prepare for your next attempt and retake the exam. Repeat until you pass!

Test Tips



Learn While Testing

The exam is part of the learning process. On your first attempt focus on learning instead of passing. Use your resources to look up answers you don't already know.



Read Carefully

Read each question carefully before answering. Pay close attention to tool configurations, screenshots, and data sets. The details matter! Read twice and solve once.



Use Your Resources

Search for answers using Google, Alteryx Community, and Help Docs. Use One Tool Examples to test out tool configurations. Use the Text Input tool to build out scenarios in Designer.



Pace Yourself

Spend about 75 seconds on each 1 point question and 4 minutes on each 3 point practical application question. If you finish early go back and check your answers. Use the full 2 hours.



Answer Every Question

In the exam platform, use the "Bookmark" feature to flag questions you'd like to come back and review later. Click on "See all questions" to view all unanswered and bookmarked questions.



Reflect, Review, Refine

After the exam, reflect on the tools and topics that you were unsure about. Review the category results you receive at the end of the exam. Refine your skills and never stop learning.

Exam Prep Resources

Getting Started Learning Path

The [Getting Started Learning Path](#) is a guided curriculum that will help you go from zero to Core Alteryx Designer superhero! Interactive lessons, articles, and hands-on activities allow you to build your knowledge and apply your skills. This learning path is the cornerstone of your Alteryx learning journey.

Interactive Prep Guide

The [Interactive Prep Guide](#) directs you to learning resources for each tool on the exam. Use these resources to target specific tools and concepts you're unfamiliar with or need to brush up on. If you're an experienced Designer user, review this guide, evaluate your strengths and weaknesses, and use the resources to bridge any skill gaps.

Ways to Prepare:



Watch training videos and Interactive Lessons



Read blogs, articles, and documentation



Solve Weekly Challenges

Practice Exam

Test out your skills with the [Core Certification Practice Exam](#). The exam includes 15 questions along with explanations of why the answers are correct, so you can continue learning while testing.

Core Prep Video Series

The [Core Prep Video Series](#) includes 4 training videos that cover exam tools and concepts and gives you a sneak peek at the exam platform and what to expect on exam day.

- [Part 1](#) – Inputs, outputs, data types, and workflow foundations
- [Part 2](#) – Prepping and blending data
- [Part 3](#) – Transforming and analyzing data
- [Part 4](#) – What to expect on exam day, the exam platform, and exam tips and strategy

Weekly Challenges

[Weekly Challenges](#) are a great way to put your skills into action and prepare for the practical application questions on the exam. There are over 250 Weekly Challenges organized by skill level and topic. Try solving the challenge on your own first; if you get stuck, look at how others solved it and learn from their expertise. The suggested challenges below focus on tools covered on the Core exam.

- [Women's World Cup Wins](#)
- [Retail Therapy](#)
- [Counting Combinations](#)
- [Reformatting Transactional Data](#)
- [Unofficial Holidays](#)
- [Where There's a Whale There's a Way](#)
- [Billboard Top 100](#)
- [An Odd String to Date Conversion](#)
- [Secret Santa Assignments \(BAH HUMBUG!\)](#)
- [Tabulating Flu Data](#)
- [Elapsed Classroom Times](#)
- [Working Fore the Weekend](#)
- [Fuel Me Once](#)
- [Crane Leasing](#)
- [How Long Were the Lights On?](#)
- [Pumpkin Production](#)
- [Losing Daylight](#)

alteryx

Alteryx Certification Program

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Ready to begin preparing for an exam? Check out the [certification prep](#) area to access prep guides, practice tests, and learning suggestions.

Get Certified

As a global leader in analytic process automation (APA), Alteryx unifies analytics, data science and business process automation in one, end-to-end platform to accelerate digital transformation. Organizations of all sizes, all over the world, rely on the Alteryx Analytic Process Automation Platform to deliver high-impact business outcomes and the rapid upskilling of their modern workforce.