Who should take this course?

This course is aimed at IT professionals who are tasked with building and managing solutions in the cloud. If you are a system administrator, system operator, cloud solution architect, or software developer (or want to become one), this course is a great place for you to start.

If you are a data analyst, data engineer, or data scientist (or want to become one), consider starting instead with [Google Cloud Platform Big Data and Machine Learning Fundamentals](https://www.coursera.org/learn/gcp-big-data-ml-fundamentals/home/welcome).

Prerequisites

To succeed in this course, you should be familiar with IT concepts such as operating systems and networks. It also helps to be familiar with the Linux command line, web servers, and text editors. If you do not have these skills, consider starting with the [Google IT Support Professional](https://www.coursera.org/specializations/google-it-support) certificate program available through Coursera.

The hands-on lab activities embedded in the course require the use of a desktop or laptop computer, a recent web browser, and an Internet connection. Auditing the course can be completed with a mobile device, but auditors do not earn a course completion certificate.

How this course teaches real-world skills

In addition to lectures and quizzes, this course contains hands-on labs in which you perform real-world tasks directly on Google Cloud Platform. Because these hands-on labs are provided to you through Google Cloud's Qwiklabs platform, there is no need for you to provide separate credentials or to incur Google Cloud Platform billing charges. Coursera will log you directly into Qwiklabs when you are ready to do a lab.

This course can be a part of your preparation for a job as a cloud solution architect, a cloud system administrator or operator, a cloud DevOps specialist, or a back-end software developer. Google Cloud Platform offers [professional certifications](https://cloud.google.com/certification/) to let you show the world that you can design, develop, manage and administer application infrastructure and data solutions on Google Cloud technology.

The new version of GCP Fundamentals: Core Infrastructure introduces Qwiklabs-based labs that convey specific GCP skills relevant to learners on both the Application Development learning track and the Cloud Architecture learning track. The labs do not have a specific language dependency. The use of Qwiklabs-based labs does not require learners to create a GCP account, to supply a credit card number, or to sign up for a free trial.

The new version of the course also introduces hands-on activities on Stackdriver and Deployment Manager, which later courses in both tracks rely upon.

The new version introduces a new module sequence. Because the audience has more prior familiarity with virtual machines than GCP’s other compute abstractions, Compute Engine is covered first in the sequence. The new version also extracts coverage of Cloud Datastore from the App Engine module and moves it to the storage module, because Cloud Datastore is now supported for use beyond App Engine.

The new version of the course reflects GCP product enhancements and changes since the last course version. New GCP regions and zones are now available. Cloud IAM folders and custom roles are now generally available, and the course covers both. The new name of Container Engine is Kubernetes Engine.