

MCPA Progress Tracker

Model Context Protocol Associate (MCPA) - Linux Foundation / Agentic AI Foundation

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Exam: online, proctored, multiple choice | Duration: 90 minutes | Fee: \$250 | Validity: 2 years | Spec version: 2026-07-28

Exam date booked: _____ Score target: _____ Study hours per week: _____

Domain Checklist - tick each domain when you can explain it out loud

☐ 1. MCP Fundamentals

16%

- MCP purpose and scope
- Core MCP concepts
- Interoperability and value

Confidence (circle one): 1 2 3 4 5

☐ 2. Architecture & Components

14%

- Schemas and structured data
- MCP hosts, clients and servers
- Model interaction flow

Confidence (circle one): 1 2 3 4 5

☐ 3. Interactions & Execution

26%

- Interaction patterns and response handling
- Error handling
- Tool invocation lifecycle
- Protocol primitives

Confidence (circle one): 1 2 3 4 5

☐ 4. Security & Governance

24%

- Trust boundaries
- Permissions and consent
- Risk and safety controls
- Auditability and observability

Confidence (circle one): 1 2 3 4 5

☐ 5. Use Cases & Ecosystem

20%

- Roles, responsibilities and adoption
- Operational use cases
- Ecosystem and portability

Confidence (circle one): 1 2 3 4 5

MCPA 4-Week Plan & Exam-Day Checklist

One box per week. Tick the week only when every line inside it is done.

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Week by Week

☐ Week 1 - Foundations

- Read the MCP introduction and architecture docs end to end
- Learn the lifecycle: initialize, capability negotiation, shutdown
- Master JSON-RPC 2.0 message shapes: request, response, notification, error

☐ Week 2 - Build and Connect

- Run a public MCP server inside a host such as Claude or VS Code
- Build a minimal server that exposes one tool and one resource
- Trace a full tool call from prompt to result, then break it and fix it

☐ Week 3 - Security & Governance (24% of the exam)

- Study trust boundaries, consent flows and least-privilege tool design
- Review OAuth 2.1 basics, token handling and authentication headers
- Learn audit logging and observability expectations for MCP deployments

☐ Week 4 - Use Cases and Timed Review

- Map real deployments: developer tools, data access, enterprise agents
- Re-read every domain where your confidence score is below 4
- Sit one full 90-minute timed self-test under exam conditions

Exam-Day Checklist

- ☐ Government-issued photo ID ready and name matches the registration exactly
- ☐ Quiet, private room with a clear desk and no second monitor
- ☐ Webcam, microphone and stable internet tested in advance
- ☐ Proctoring software installed and system check passed
- ☐ Phone off and out of reach; no notes, books or extra devices in the room
- ☐ Water bottle and a bathroom break taken before check-in starts
- ☐ Exam scheduled inside the 12-month eligibility window (one retake is included)