ACE Enhanced Certification Program

The Arista Academy Enhanced Certification Program launched June 1, 2025 as part of the new Learning Track approach for in-depth expertise in specialized technology domains, offering a clear path to validate skills. This document outlines the ACE Enhanced Certifications and illustrates changes from the previous program.

Four-Tiered Certification Structure

The enhanced program uses a four-tier certification system to define increasing levels of proficiency in technical complexity and specialization.

- **Associate - Level 1:** This entry-level certification serves as the foundational step, validating a fundamental understanding of core concepts presented in the Foundations track.

- **Specialist - Level 3:** Representing a significant progression, the Specialist level recognizes focused expertise in a particular sub-track (such as Operations or Engineering) within a broader learning track.

- **Professional - Level 5:** This advanced certification signifies a comprehensive understanding and demonstrated proficiency across an entire learning track (both Operations and Engineering), achieved through the acquisition of two Specialist-level certifications.

- **Expert - Level 7:** The highest level of certification, Expert status validates deep, specialized knowledge and the ability to provide thought leadership of Arista's networking and security architecture.

Levels Redefined

The enhanced certification program redefines the concept of "Levels," which were previously used (Levels 1-7) to categorize learning content with a general correlation to skill levels (e.g., Level 3 for advanced data center networking, Level 5 for Automation). Under the Enhanced Certification Program, specific "Level" numbers (1, 3, 5, and 7) are reused, but their meaning has been **redefined**. These now denote **proficiency** levels (Associate, Specialist, Professional, Expert) and are not related to the previous "Level-X" courses. Also note that Levels 2, 4, and 6 from the previous certification program are currently not used in the new program.

Learning Tracks with Sub-Tracks

The primary modification involves the implementation of new learning "tracks", each comprising content or role-specific "sub-tracks." A majority of tracks feature role-oriented Operations and Engineering sub-tracks, enabling individuals to secure a "Specialist Level 3" when either sub-track certification has been achieved. Upon acquiring both specialist certifications, individuals are automatically awarded the "Professional Level 5" designation for the entire track.

Certification Levels 1, 3, 5, and 7 now align with the updated certification structure and are decoupled from specific content or technologies, aiming to establish a consistent skill level across all tracks. *Note that Levels 2, 4, and 6 have been retired at this time*.

New Certification	Definition / Track
ASSOCIATE L1	Foundations Track, mastery of basic concepts
SPECIALIST L3	Mastery of Operations and / or Engineering sub-track (within any track)
PROFESSIONAL L5	Mastery of an entire track
EXPERT L7	Mastery of all tracks / concepts

Certification Exam Prerequisites

Arista Academy Certification exams have no prerequisites or required order of completion. Individuals can attempt any certification exam (from Associate L1 to Expert L7) in any track, and in any order, regardless of prior certifications, course completion or subscription to specific curriculum.
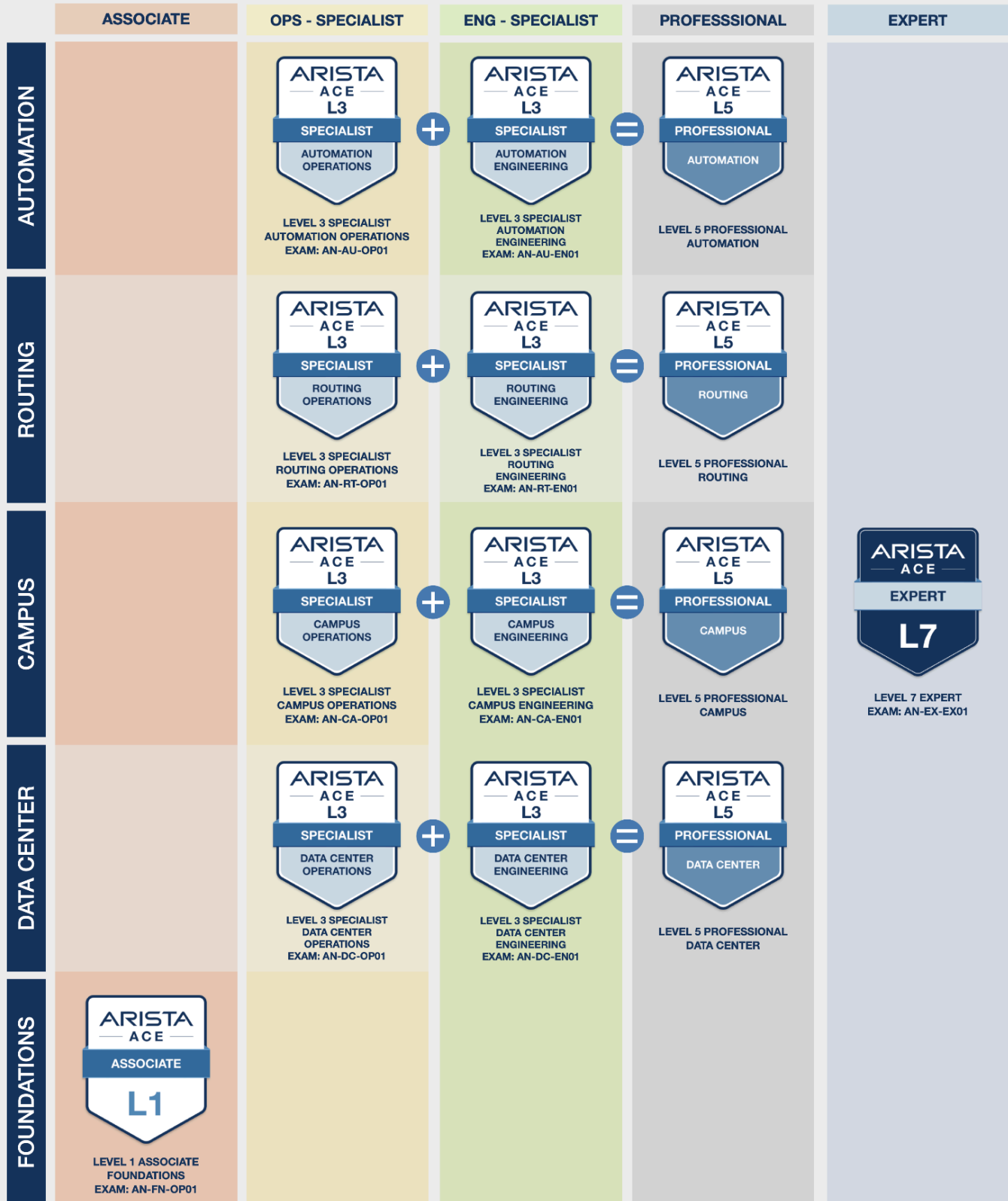
Example

An individual's path can start with the Associate L1 in Foundations. They can then specialize, in Data Center Operations, leading to the DC Operations Specialist L3 certification upon passing its exam. Subsequently, they might advance to the DC Engineering track, and become a DC Engineering Specialist L3. Notably, earning both Data Center Specialist certifications (Operations and Engineering) automatically awards the Data Center Professional Level 5 accreditation.

This same individual could seek similar certifications in other areas, such as Campus. As a pinnacle of professional growth, they could then aim for the Expert Level 7 exam. Achieving the Expert Level 7 certification eliminates the need to recertify for any lower-level Arista certifications, as it encompasses them all.

The new **Unified Learning Track Recertification Cycle** simplifies recertification, enabling the extension of all existing certifications (at same or lower levels across all tracks). This is achieved by either earning a new certification at the same or higher level, or renewing one Specialist or Professional certification every two years, thus eliminating multiple sequential exams.

CERTIFICATIONS

	ASSOCIATE	OPS - SPECIALIST	ENG - SPECIALIST	PROFESSSIONAL	EXPERT
AUTOMATION		ARISTA ACE L3 SPECIALIST AUTOMATION OPERATIONS — LEVEL 3 SPECIALIST AUTOMATION OPERATIONS EXAM: AN-AU-OP01	ARISTA ACE L3 SPECIALIST AUTOMATION ENGINEERING — LEVEL 3 SPECIALIST AUTOMATION ENGINEERING EXAM: AN-AU-EN01	ARISTA ACE L5 PROFESSIONAL AUTOMATION — LEVEL 5 PROFESSIONAL AUTOMATION	
ROUTING		ARISTA ACE L3 SPECIALIST ROUTING OPERATIONS — LEVEL 3 SPECIALIST ROUTING OPERATIONS EXAM: AN-RT-OP01	ARISTA ACE L3 SPECIALIST ROUTING ENGINEERING — LEVEL 3 SPECIALIST ROUTING ENGINEERING EXAM: AN-RT-EN01	ARISTA ACE L5 PROFESSIONAL ROUTING — LEVEL 5 PROFESSIONAL ROUTING	
CAMPUS		ARISTA ACE L3 SPECIALIST CAMPUS OPERATIONS — LEVEL 3 SPECIALIST CAMPUS OPERATIONS EXAM: AN-CA-OP01	ARISTA ACE L3 SPECIALIST CAMPUS ENGINEERING — LEVEL 3 SPECIALIST CAMPUS ENGINEERING EXAM: AN-CA-EN01	ARISTA ACE L5 PROFESSIONAL CAMPUS — LEVEL 5 PROFESSIONAL CAMPUS	ARISTA ACE EXPERT L7 — LEVEL 7 EXPERT EXAM: AN-EX-EX01
DATA CENTER		ARISTA ACE L3 SPECIALIST DATA CENTER OPERATIONS — LEVEL 3 SPECIALIST DATA CENTER OPERATIONS EXAM: AN-DC-OP01	ARISTA ACE L3 SPECIALIST DATA CENTER ENGINEERING — LEVEL 3 SPECIALIST DATA CENTER ENGINEERING EXAM: AN-DC-EN01	ARISTA ACE L5 PROFESSIONAL DATA CENTER — LEVEL 5 PROFESSIONAL DATA CENTER	
FOUNDATIONS	ARISTA ACE ASSOCIATE L1 — LEVEL 1 ASSOCIATE FOUNDATIONS EXAM: AN-FN-OP01				

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