

Arista Academy Certification: Your Path to Success.

Arista Academy Certification Exams

This overview offers key tips and valuable recommendations to help students significantly increase their chances of success in the challenging Arista Academy Certification Exams.

Assessing Knowledge

Arista Academy Certification Exams focus on testing knowledge & skills rather than basic information retention, emphasizing the importance of understanding and applying concepts in practical, hands-on situations, preparing candidates for the real-world challenges they will face in their careers.

Practical Skills

Arista Academy Certification Exams are live and hands-on, utilizing virtualized Arista equipment (vEOS-Lab). This evaluation approach fosters a deeper comprehension of learning material and nurtures critical thinking and problem-solving skills, rather than simply focusing on memorization. This practical testing method supports candidates in applying their knowledge to their daily work and effectively demonstrating their familiarity with key technologies. Additionally, it provides an objective evaluation of individual capabilities that managers and recruiters can rely on when assessing skillsets.

Exam Structure

Prerequisites

The Arista Academy Certification exams are open to anyone seeking to validate their networking and technology skills, regardless of prior Arista training. No official Arista training or previous certifications are required to take a standard exam. This accessibility welcomes a diverse range of individuals, especially those with significant networking expertise and practical experience.

Open Book

Arista Academy Certification exams are open-book, reflecting real-world troubleshooting scenarios where engineers utilize various resources. This approach encourages the use of available documentation and tools, with the sole exception of collaboration with other individuals, which is prohibited. While open-book, the exams are not easy; familiarity with the material, particularly the labs for your chosen track, is essential to successfully complete the evaluation within the allotted time. though collaboration with other individuals is strictly prohibited.

Training

While there are no mandatory prerequisites for taking an exam, active participation in relevant Arista Academy Learning Tracks, with a particular emphasis on completing hands-on labs, is crucial for success. Data shows a direct link between increased lab time and higher pass rates (25% for minimal lab time versus 65% for extensive lab time), indicating that skipping labs significantly raises the risk of failure. Failing an exam results in a mandatory 14-day waiting period and additional fees for retakes, representing a considerable investment of time and resources.

Live & Hands-On

It's vital to understand that these are live, hands-on practical exams. Candidates won't be answering multiple-choice questions; instead, they'll be configuring devices in a virtualized lab environment. This format brings a level of complexity and realism that truly reflects real-world networking scenarios.

Online & Automated

All Arista ACE exams (Associate, Specialist and Professional) are conducted online and, with the exception of the ACE Expert exam, are essentially automated. No scheduling or other pre-configuration of exams is required. Once an exam is purchased (either directly online or through an Arista Account Manager or authorized Arista Training Partner) the candidate can then decide when to activate the exam, at which point they must begin their session within a 30-minute window. Exam integrity is maintained through the Honorlock automated proctoring service, which utilizes AI and requires a functioning webcam, microphone, and government-issued ID for verification.

Prepare and Succeed!

Success on these exams demands more than just theoretical knowledge. It requires demonstrable hands-on experience and the ability to apply your understanding effectively under time constraints. Therefore, while the exams are open to all, candidates without formal Arista training or substantial practical experience face a significantly higher risk of failing, as the assessment rigorously evaluates both your knowledge and your ability to apply it in a practical setting.

Exam Content

Arista Academy Certification exams assess specific skills directly aligned with the content of our Learning Track program syllabus. These practical exams feature tasks derived from the syllabus, requiring hands-on application in a virtual lab environment to configure devices and software to achieve desired outcomes.

Academy Certification exams are aligned with our Learning Track content, and the following summarizes the topics covered in each. For a comprehensive list of exam topics, please consult the "Arista Academy Overview Detailed" PDF document or other Arista Academy data sheets relevant to your Learning Track.

It is important to note that exam tasks are exclusively derived from the individual sub-tracks and do not include the Supplemental Content. While the Supplemental Content offers additional assistive material, it is not tested.

Exam	Topics	Duration	Badge
Foundations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network Engineering Fundamentals • Arista EOS Fundamentals • Layer 2 Switching Fundamentals 	2 hours	
Data Center - Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Layer 2 Technologies • Build & Basic Troubleshooting L2LS Fabrics • Build & Basic Operation L3LS Overlay 	2 hours	
Data Center - Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Layer 2 Technologies • Design, Build & Troubleshoot L2LS Fabric • Design, Build & Troubleshoot L3LS Overlay 	4 hours	
Campus - Wired Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Layer 2 Technologies • Build & Basic Troubleshoot L2LS Campus Fabrics • Build & Basic Operation L3LS Campus Overlay 	2 hours	
Campus - Wired Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Layer 2 Technologies • Design, Build & Troubleshoot L2LS Campus Fabric • Building & Troubleshooting L3LS Campus Overlay 	4 hours	
Automation - Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD on release of Automation Track 	TBD	
Automation - Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD on release of Automation Track 	TBD	
Routing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD on release of Routing Track 	TBD	
Expert Qualification Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sampling from all tracks 	4 hours	
Expert Level 7 Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing on all tracks and topics 	2 days (8hrs/day)	

Process

1. Exam Requirements:

To ensure a smooth exam experience and avoid any issues, participants must ensure that they meet the following mandatory requirements before they begin.

- Windows 10/11, MacOS 10.15 or newer, or ChromeOS laptops and desktops. Exam proctoring is not compatible with smartphones or tablets.
- Google Chrome browser, with permission to install extensions ([Honorlock Chrome Extension](#))
- Functioning webcam and microphone.
- Dual monitors are not supported (other than an external mirrored display).
- Stable and unrestricted internet connectivity is required, as the exam environment (and Academy Labs) utilizes websockets and gRPC, which may be blocked by corporate firewalls and networks.
- Valid identification (e.g., driving license, passport, government issued ID).

2. Pay & Register for Exam

To start the certification process, participants need to enroll in the desired exam. This is done by logging into their Academy portal and navigating to the exam section. Enrollment requires providing a primary professional and a backup email address for certification purposes.

Payment for the exam is mandatory before it can be scheduled or activated, ensuring eligibility. However, payment is not required if the exam is already associated with the participant's portal profile, such as when it's included in a subscription package.

3. Exam Activation & Commencement

Upon successful payment, the selected certification exam will appear within the candidate's dashboard in the Arista Academy, a central hub for all enrolled training and certification activities.

After preparing for the exam, participants must watch several instructional videos about the exam process and acknowledge their understanding before activating the exam. Once activated, the exam must be started within a strict 30-minute time window. Failure to do so may result in the need for reactivation or rescheduling.

4. Accessing the Exam Topology

To start their exam, candidates click the "Click Here to Access Topology" button. This launches their dedicated exam environment, providing all tools and configurations needed for their practical assessment. They should only click when ready, as this often starts their timed exam.

Important: The topology page must not be closed as that will end the exam.

5. Exam Integrity Management

The integrity of our examinations is maintained through the use of Honorlock proctoring. Please adhere to the following setup instructions:

- Browser Requirement: Participants must use Google Chrome as the web browser for the entire duration of the exam. Other browsers are not supported.
- Honorlock Chrome Extension Installation: Participants must install the official Honorlock Chrome extension. This extension is essential for the proctoring software to function correctly.
- Webcam and Microphone Access: Honorlock must be granted full access to the webcam and microphone installed on the system. These peripherals are vital for identity verification and continuous proctoring during the exam. A quiet, well lit room is also required for the proctoring system to function properly.
- Screen Sharing: Participants will be prompted to share their entire screen with the Honorlock extension. This allows proctors to monitor activity and ensure no unauthorized resources are being used.
- Identity Verification: Participants must present a valid, government-issued photo ID to their webcam for Honorlock to verify their identity. ID must be clear and legible on camera. Headgear (hats, headphones, etc.) is not permitted.
- Navigate to the Exam Page: Once all Honorlock checks are complete, participants then proceed to the specific exam page within your testing portal.

Note: Honorlock proctoring automatically starts when the exam topology page loads, ensuring a smooth beginning to the test. The proctoring interface then minimizes, allowing participants to concentrate on their exam while it operates in the background, which helps maintain the integrity of all examinations.

6. Initiating the Exam:

If the CVP (Cloudvision Portal) has already loaded, the user may click the "Start Exam" button immediately. If CVP is still loading, the "Start Exam" button will remain inactive until CVP has fully initiated and is ready.

7. Exam Countdown Commencement:

Once the "Start Exam" button is clicked, a countdown timer will begin, displaying the time remaining for the examination. Test-takers are advised to manage their time efficiently. Pop-up notifications will appear periodically to remind students of the time left.

8. Taking and Passing the Exam:

Candidates are to dedicatedly complete all sections of their exam to the best of their ability with the goal of achieving a passing score.

9. Exam Submission Procedures:

Candidates have the option to manually submit an exam once all questions are finished, or the system will automatically submit it if the allotted time expires. To maintain fairness and consistency, Arista Academy certification exams have a defined time limit. Once this duration has elapsed, the virtual lab environment and participant's configurations will be automatically submitted for grading, ensuring all candidates have the same amount of time to complete the assessment.

10. Exam Grading:

Exam results are typically sent via email within 72 hours. Candidates who narrowly miss passing will be invited to a follow-up session with an official proctor.

11. Certification Badges

Upon passing an Arista Academy Certification exam, individuals will be recognized for their achievement with a digital certification badge. This industry-recognized credential serves as a verifiable testament to their Arista expertise and can be easily shared across professional networks and platforms, enhancing their credibility within the networking community.

12. Zero Tolerance Policy

Arista maintains a strict zero-tolerance policy against cheating. Any detected dishonesty will result in immediate exam failure, revocation of current certifications, and a potential 12-month retesting ban, with Arista retaining the final decision in all such matters. In exceptional cases, a lifetime ban may result.

Additional Participant Details

Exam Support

Should a user encounter any issues during their exam, they should contact support at the following:

- Arista: exams@arista.com
- Honorlock: support@honorlock.com

Proctoring System

Arista utilizes the Honorlock online proctoring service to uphold exam integrity. It achieves this by monitoring test-takers via their computer's webcam and microphone. This comprehensive proctoring solution records student video, audio, desktop activity, and website traffic.

Proctoring Functions

Honorlock utilizes AI to supervise the exam setting. Its capabilities include browser lockdown, video and audio recording, and flagging of suspicious activities for later review. This AI based system monitors for unusual behavior (such as another individual entering the room) and can alert standby proctors to intervene and briefly observe the session to resolve any issues. A live person does not continuously

watch the student throughout the exam. After an exam session concludes, Arista instructors and testing center proctors can review flagged recordings to ascertain if a cheating incident transpired.

Proctoring Requirements

To take the exam, a participant will need a computer (Windows 10/11, macOS 10.15+, or ChromeOS) with a webcam, microphone, and a stable internet connection. Please note that smartphones and tablets are not supported. A participant will also need to install the Honorlock Chrome Extension beforehand. Dual monitors are not supported, other than being in mirror mode.

Privacy

Arista and Honorlock prioritize user privacy and data security. All recordings and data are stored securely using encryption and industry-leading protocols. Access is restricted to authorized, trained personnel. Systems are regularly audited and updated to maintain a continuously secure environment, reflecting our commitment to user trust.

Device Detection

Honorlock utilizes AI through the participant's webcam video to monitor for other devices and will flag any suspicious activity for review. However, Honorlock does not scan home networks or monitor data from any device on the network other than the one actively being used for testing.

Technical Support

For immediate assistance during an exam, contact the live proctor. Honorlock provides 24/7 chat support via their support page or directly within the Honorlock tool. You can also email support@honorlock.com. If you encounter an access password screen, refer to the troubleshooting guide.

Exam Restrictions

To ensure a fair and secure testing environment, the following are strictly prohibited during the exam, enforced by the Honorlock proctoring system:

- Mobile phones
- Handheld calculators
- Headgear (hats, headphones or other head / facial obscuring wear)
- Public areas (for taking the exam)
- Disruptive background noise

Open Book Allowances

Arista Academy Certification exams are open-book, reflecting real-world engineering challenges where professionals utilize various resources. Candidates are encouraged to use all available documentation and tools, including manuals, books, notes, scratch paper, and internet resources. The sole restriction is collaboration with other individuals during the exam.

Breaks

Restroom and other breaks are permitted; however, the exam timer continues to run if the participant leaves the exam for any reason. Upon returning, the participant will have to show their face to the camera for proper identification for the exam to resume.

General Preparation

To prepare for an Arista Academy Certification exam, candidates should ensure their computer meets the system requirements and select a quiet, well-lit environment. For verification, a photo ID (school or government-issued) is required. During the exam, candidates must keep Screen Sharing active, remain well-lit, avoid dark rooms, remove any headgear, and follow all instructions from their Arista exam administrator.

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