

# Arista Academy Certification: Recertification Policy

## ACE Recertification Policy Overview

The Arista Certified Engineer (ACE) recertification policy was introduced on June 1, 2025, alongside the launch of the enhanced Arista Academy and its certification program. This policy outlines how certified individuals can maintain their ACE credentials and transition to the new program.

### General Recertification Schedule

- **For certifications earned before June 1, 2024:** Recertification is required by **June 1, 2026**.
- **For certifications earned after June 1, 2024:** Recertification is required within **two (2) years** of the certification date.
- Subsequent recertifications are required every **two years** thereafter, following the Unified Learning Track Recertification Cycle.

### Level 6 Certification

- This certification level has been **retired**.
- Current Level 6 holders may continue to use their credential.
- Pursuing the **Level 7 Expert certification** is recommended.

### Expert Level 7 Certification

- Holding an Expert Level 7 certification **removes the requirement** to recertify for any lower-level certifications, as it encompasses all other Arista certifications.

### Unified Learning Track Recertification Cycle

Arista's new Unified Learning Track Recertification Cycle streamlines the recertification process for individuals holding multiple Specialist or Professional level certifications. By obtaining a new certification at an equal or higher level, or by renewing just one existing certification at the same or higher level every two years, all other relevant certifications at the same or lower level across all Learning Tracks will automatically have their validity extended. This streamlined recertification policy removes the requirement for students to complete multiple sequential exams to keep their credentials current.

## Certification / Recertification Exam Considerations

With the transition of the Arista Academy to the new Learning Track program and associated certifications, please note the following:

- Existing Level 1 through Level 5 exams were end-of-life on December 31, 2025.
- All new certifications (or recertifications) are now based on the new Learning Track Exams and follow the Unified Learning Track Recertification Cycle.
- The Level 6 certification and its corresponding exam are no longer available. Level 6 holders are advised to pursue the Level 7 Expert certification when possible.
- The new program will retain the existing Level 7 Expert exam. A "recertification" version, a subset of the primary Expert exam, is expected by Q1 2026.
- The new Learning Track recertification exams cover similar subject matter to the previous L-level exams, demonstrating compatibility. However, the new exams are not direct replacements due to updated content and featured topics. Therefore, success on an older L-level exam does not guarantee success on the newer Learning Track exams.
- **Compatible Exams**
  - Foundations (compatible with L1 / L2) - available now
  - Data Center (compatible with L3) - available now
  - Routing - MPLS Core (compatible with L4) - available Q1 2026
  - Automation Engineering (compatible with L5) - available Q1 2026

## Recertification Examples

- **John:** Passed his L3 exam on March 15, 2023. He must recertify by July 1, 2026 by taking the Data Center Engineering Specialist exam before his recertification date.
- **Cathy:** Passed her L2 exam on September 15, 2024. She must recertify by September 15, 2026 with the Data Center Operations Specialist exam before her recertification deadline.
- **Michael:** Passed his L2 exam on March 10, 2023 and his L5 exam on August 12, 2024. He must recertify by August 12, 2026. He can take the Automation Engineering Specialist exam (available by Q1 2026), which is the nearest compatible exam to the previous L5 certification.
- **Sarah:** Based on the new program, Sarah holds Data Center Engineering Specialist (Dec 1, 2025) and Campus Engineering Specialist (June 1, 2026) certifications. Her Campus exam updates all Specialist certs to June 1, 2026. Under the new Unified Learning Track Recertification Cycle, to maintain all, she only needs to recertify one, e.g., pass the Data Center Engineering Specialist exam by December 1, 2028; this singular recertification renews all Specialist-level certifications.

- **Chris:** Based on the new program, Chris holds Campus Engineering Specialist (earned December 23, 2025) and Data Center Professional (earned February 1, 2026). Under the new Unified Learning Track Recertification Cycle, to maintain both certifications, he needs to recertify on the highest level cert, that being Data Center Professional by February 1, 2028.

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