Advanced Specializations

Partners with an active Gold Cloud Platform Competency who demonstrate deep knowledge in a specific area, with extensive experience and proven success in implementing Microsoft solutions, may seek an advanced specialization.

What is it?
An advanced specialization is a validation of a partner’s capability to deliver high-fidelity services in a specific solution area. Advanced specializations are customer-facing labels displayed on a partner’s business profile in the Partner Directory, enabling partners to showcase their differentiated skills. To earn an advanced specialization, partners must first attain gold status in an aligned competency.

What are the requirements?
The requirements to earn an advanced specialization are designed to identify specialists in specific solution areas that have high customer demand and relevance. The requirements will vary depending on the advanced specialization being sought, but will include the following:

1. Attain and maintain a Gold Cloud Platform Competency.
2. Demonstrate your company meets the Azure Consumed Revenue (ACR) performance thresholds.
3. Have a minimum number of unique individuals who pass specific certifications.
4. Meet additional requirements, including but not limited to:
   - Advanced or third-party certifications
   - Microsoft technology-performance indicators
   - Public case studies
   - Architecture review
All requirements will be verified by Microsoft and/or a third-party vendor, either automatically or by manual review, and are subject to change. Please refer to Partner Center for detailed requirements for individual advanced specializations as they become available.

**How is an advanced specialization different from a competency?**

A competency measures a partner’s broad technical capability in a Microsoft product or technology. An advanced specialization measures more in-depth capabilities in a specific solution area, such as SAP on Microsoft Azure. Advanced specializations require that a partner must first have an active gold competency aligned to the advanced specialization they are interested in earning.