

// free certifications guide

# Your Free AI Certification Roadmap.

Earn verifiable certificates from Anthropic, Google, Amazon, IBM, and Microsoft — all at zero cost. Four stages, 16 courses, one clear path from total beginner to practising AI developer.

**16+**

FREE COURSES

**4**

STAGES

**\$0**

TOTAL COST

**~90**

DAYS TO COMPLETE

## OVERVIEW

# Four Stages. One Clear Path.

You do not need to pay for AI certifications. Anthropic, Google, Amazon, IBM, and Microsoft have all released free, verifiable courses. This guide organises the best of them into a progression from total beginner to practising AI builder — in a sequence that actually makes sense.

## Stage 01

## AI Foundations

Understand what AI is, how it works, and how to think with it. No code needed. The essential starting point before anything else.

4 COURSES · ~40 HOURS · ALL FREE

## Stage 02

## Working With Claude

Get fluent with Claude and prompt engineering. Learn the tools that AI developers use every day — directly from the people who built them.

4 COURSES · ~18 HOURS · ALL FREE

## Stage 03

## Building With AI

Write code, build agents, and deploy real applications. This is where you go from user to builder — with Claude Code as your co-developer.

4 COURSES · ~15 HOURS · ALL FREE

## Stage 04

## Advanced & Cloud

Connect AI to cloud platforms, build production-grade systems with MCP and subagents, and earn the credentials employers and clients recognise.

4 COURSES · ~19 HOURS · ALL FREE

## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Work through the stages in order — each one builds on the last. Stage 1 can be done in a weekend. Stages 2–4 take a few weeks each at a comfortable pace of 3–5 hours per week. Every course listed issues a free verifiable digital certificate unless otherwise noted. All links on the following pages go directly to the course enrolment page.

01

STAGE ONE · START HERE

## AI Foundations

ANTHROPIC

FREE CERTIFICATE

### AI Capabilities and Limitations

⌚ ~1 hour · Introductory

[anthropic.skilljar.com/ai-capabilities-and-limitations](https://anthropic.skilljar.com/ai-capabilities-and-limitations)

ANTHROPIC

FREE CERTIFICATE

### AI Fluency: Framework & Foundations

⌚ ~3 hours · Co-developed with university professors

[anthropic.skilljar.com/ai-fluency-framework-foundations](https://anthropic.skilljar.com/ai-fluency-framework-foundations)

UNIV. OF HELSINKI

FREE CERTIFICATE

### Elements of AI

⌚ ~30 hours · 2M+ students worldwide, no maths

[elementsofai.com](https://elementsofai.com)

IBM

FREE CERTIFICATE

### AI for Everyone: Master the Basics

⌚ ~4 weeks · 2 hrs/week · No tech background needed

[edx.org](https://edx.org) → search "IBM AI for Everyone"

02

STAGE TWO

## Working With Claude

ANTHROPIC

FREE CERTIFICATE

### Claude 101

⌚ ~2 hours · Everyday work tasks and core features

[anthropic.skilljar.com/claude-101](https://anthropic.skilljar.com/claude-101)

ANTHROPIC

FREE CERTIFICATE

### Claude Code 101

⌚ ~2 hours · Daily development workflow with Claude Code

[anthropic.skilljar.com/claude-code-101](https://anthropic.skilljar.com/claude-code-101)

AMAZON

FREE CERTIFICATE

### Foundations of Prompt Engineering

⌚ ~4 hours · Zero-shot, few-shot, chain-of-thought

[skillbuilder.aws](https://skillbuilder.aws) → "Foundations of Prompt Engineering"

GOOGLE

FREE CERTIFICATE

### Google AI Essentials

⌚ ~10 hours · Hands-on real workplace scenarios

[grow.google/ai-essentials](https://grow.google/ai-essentials)

03

STAGE THREE · THE DEVELOPER TRACK

**Building With AI**

ANTHROPIC

FREE CERTIFICATE

**Claude Code in Action**

🕒 ~3 hours · Integrate Claude Code into your dev workflow  
[anthropic.skilljar.com/claude-code-in-action](https://anthropic.skilljar.com/claude-code-in-action)

ANTHROPIC

FREE CERTIFICATE

**Claude Platform 101**

🕒 ~4 hours · Build on the Claude Developer Platform from scratch  
[anthropic.skilljar.com/claude-platform-101](https://anthropic.skilljar.com/claude-platform-101)

ANTHROPIC

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**Introduction to Agent Skills**

🕒 ~2 hours · Build and share reusable Skills in Claude Code  
[anthropic.skilljar.com/introduction-to-agent-skills](https://anthropic.skilljar.com/introduction-to-agent-skills)

ANTHROPIC

FREE CERTIFICATE

**Building with the Claude API**

🕒 ~6 hours · Full spectrum of working with the Claude API  
[anthropic.skilljar.com/claude-with-the-anthropic-api](https://anthropic.skilljar.com/claude-with-the-anthropic-api)

04

STAGE FOUR · INDUSTRY RECOGNITION

**Advanced & Cloud Platforms**

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FREE CERTIFICATE

**Introduction to Model Context Protocol**

🕒 ~4 hours · Connect Claude to any external service  
[anthropic.skilljar.com/introduction-to-model-context-protocol](https://anthropic.skilljar.com/introduction-to-model-context-protocol)

ANTHROPIC

FREE CERTIFICATE

**Introduction to Subagents**

🕒 ~2 hours · Delegate tasks and build specialised workflows  
[anthropic.skilljar.com/introduction-to-subagents](https://anthropic.skilljar.com/introduction-to-subagents)

MICROSOFT · LINKEDIN

FREE CERTIFICATE

**Career Essentials in Generative AI**

🕒 ~5 hours · Widely recognised LinkedIn credential  
[linkedin.com/learning](https://linkedin.com/learning) → "Career Essentials in Generative AI"

GOOGLE CLOUD

FREE BADGE

**Introduction to Generative AI Learning Path**

🕒 ~8 hours · Beginner to intermediate, badge included  
[cloudskillsboost.google/paths/118](https://cloudskillsboost.google/paths/118)

## YOUR PLAN

# The 90-Day Path.

At 3–5 hours per week, this is how the four stages spread out. You can move faster — motivated students finish in 30 days. The order matters: each stage is what makes the next one click.

**1** DAYS 1–21 · STAGE 1

## AI Foundations

Start with Anthropic's AI Capabilities & Limitations — just one hour, zero jargon. Then AI Fluency: Framework & Foundations for a deeper conceptual grounding. If you want more, add Elements of AI from the University of Helsinki (the most popular AI intro course in the world, 2M+ students, no maths). You finish with 2–4 verifiable certificates and a solid mental model of what AI actually is.

**2** DAYS 22–42 · STAGE 2

## Working With Claude

Claude 101 first — this is the fastest way to become genuinely productive with your primary tool. Then Claude Code 101 to understand the developer environment. Add Amazon's Foundations of Prompt Engineering to make your prompts predictable and consistent. Finish with Google AI Essentials for a broader industry credential. You now have 5–6 certificates and real tool fluency.

**3** DAYS 43–63 · STAGE 3

## Building With AI

Claude Code in Action is the centrepiece — this is where you build real things. Add Claude Platform 101 for the API layer, and Introduction to Agent Skills to create reusable, shareable Claude workflows. Building with the Claude API is for those who want to go fully code-level. This stage is the transition from user to builder — the most important shift in the whole roadmap.

**4** DAYS 64–90 · STAGE 4

## Advanced & Cloud Platforms

Model Context Protocol (MCP) lets you connect Claude to any external service or dataset — databases, APIs, file systems. Subagents let you delegate complex tasks to specialised Claude instances. Finish with Microsoft/LinkedIn's Generative AI certificate (recognised on every LinkedIn profile globally) and the Google Cloud Generative AI badge. You now have a complete AI developer portfolio that's provable and shareable.

**THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT FIRST ACTION**

Open **anthropic.skilljar.com** and create your free account right now — before you close this PDF. That one action creates your learning profile, tracks your progress, and issues your certificates automatically as you complete each course. Everything else follows from there.

WHAT COMES NEXT

# Certifications get you in the door. Building gets you paid.

This roadmap gives you the credentials. The next step is applying them — building real AI software, owning it, and turning it into income. That is exactly what the AI Doctor workshop was designed for.

[theskillsclinic.com](https://theskillsclinic.com)