

CLAUDE CERTIFIED ARCHITECT

Foundations Workshop Learning Series

6-module progressive workshop: Beginner → Intermediate → Advanced

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YOUR LEARNING PATH

MODULE 00

Pre-requisite

Getting Started: Claude API Fundamentals

Beginner → Intermediate → Advanced

Topics: API setup, Messages API, streaming, caching, error handling

MODULE 01

27% of exam

Agentic Architecture & Orchestration

Beginner → Intermediate → Advanced

Topics: Agentic loops, coordinator/subagent patterns, hooks, session management

MODULE 02

18% of exam

Tool Design & MCP Integration

Beginner → Intermediate → Advanced

Topics: Tool descriptions, error responses, tool scoping, .mcp.json configuration

MODULE 03

20% of exam

Claude Code Configuration & Workflows

Beginner → Intermediate → Advanced

Topics: CLAUDE.md hierarchy, slash commands, skills, path rules, CI/CD

MODULE 04

20% of exam

Prompt Engineering & Structured Output

Beginner → Intermediate → Advanced

Topics: Explicit criteria, few-shot, tool-use JSON schemas, retry loops, Batch API

MODULE 05

15% of exam

Context Management & Reliability

Beginner → Intermediate → Advanced

Topics: Context windows, handoff protocols, human-in-the-loop, multi-instance review

EXAM AT A GLANCE

Exam Name	Claude Certified Architect — Foundations (CCA)
Questions	60 multiple-choice questions
Duration	120 minutes
Passing Score	720 / 1000 (scaled)
Format	Scenario-based: 4 of 6 scenarios randomly selected
Scenarios	Customer Support Agent, Code Generation, Multi-Agent Research, Developer Productivity, CI/CD Integration, Structured Data Extraction
Prerequisites	6+ months hands-on with Claude API, Agent SDK, Claude Code, MCP
Cost	\$99 per attempt
Access	Via Claude Partner Network (free to join)

THE #1 CONCEPT ACROSS THE ENTIRE EXAM

Programmatic Enforcement vs Prompt-Based Guidance

When a system behavior must be **GUARANTEED** — financial operations, identity verification, compliance rules, data access controls — use programmatic enforcement (hooks, prerequisite gates, schema validation). Prompt instructions have a non-zero failure rate (~5%). The exam consistently rewards the programmatic solution over 'add it to the prompt'. Build your mental model around this distinction and a significant portion of the exam becomes clearer.