

AWS Solution Architect Associate Prep (SAA-C03)

AWS SAA-C03 Solutions Architect Associate. Compute, storage, networking, and architecture design.

IT Certifications Instructor: Nick Williams • 5 sections • 47 lessons • 15.50h total

[View this course online](#) [Browse all courses](#)

About this course

This course prepares you for the AWS Solution Architect Associate (SAA-C03) exam. We cover compute, storage, networking, databases, security, and cost-optimized architectures. Hands-on labs and practice exams included.

Course curriculum

Foundations and Exam Overview

- **Understanding the SAA-C03 Exam Structure for 2026 (12m)**
Learn the exam format, domains, and scoring to set a clear study plan from the start.
- **Key AWS Services You Must Know for the Exam (18m)**
Get a focused overview of core AWS services like EC2, S3, and VPC that are heavily tested.
- **Setting Up Your AWS Free Tier for Practice (8m)**
Step-by-step guide to configure your AWS account safely for hands-on labs without surprise costs.
- **Common Exam Pitfalls and How to Avoid Them (15m)**
Real case study analysis of past exam mistakes to save you time and frustration.
- **Creating a Personalized Study Schedule (10m)**
Downloadable template to plan your study sessions based on your current skill level.
- **Introduction to the Well-Architected Framework (14m)**
Learn how the five pillars guide exam questions and real-world solutions.
- **Hands-On: Your First AWS Console Tour (20m)**
Practical walkthrough of the AWS Management Console to build familiarity quickly.

Core Cloud Architecture Concepts

- **Designing Secure VPCs and Subnets (22m)**
Step-by-step guide to building isolated networks with security groups and NACLs.
- **EC2 Instance Selection and Auto Scaling (19m)**
Learn how to choose instance types and set up auto-scaling groups for high availability.
- **S3 Storage Classes and Lifecycle Policies (16m)**
Practical session on optimizing storage costs with real data tiering examples.
- **RDS vs DynamoDB: Choosing the Right Database (24m)**
Problem-solving session comparing relational and NoSQL options for exam scenarios.
- **Load Balancers and Elastic Load Balancing (17m)**
Hands-on lab to deploy ALB and NLB for distributing traffic effectively.
- **CloudFront and Content Delivery Networks (13m)**
Learn how to accelerate web apps and reduce latency with CDN configurations.
- **IAM Policies and Roles for Secure Access (21m)**
Real case study on least privilege access to avoid common security issues.
- **Route 53 for DNS and Domain Management (11m)**
Step-by-step guide to set up DNS routing policies for exam questions.
- **AWS Organizations and Multi-Account Strategy (15m)**
Practical overview of managing multiple accounts for enterprise scenarios.
- **Exam Practice: Core Concepts Quiz (25m)**
Timed practice session with detailed explanations for each question.

Deep Dive into Advanced Services

- **Lambda and Serverless Architectures (28m)**
Learn how to design event-driven solutions with Lambda, including triggers and permissions.
- **API Gateway for RESTful Services (20m)**
Hands-on lab to create and secure APIs that integrate with other AWS services.
- **SQS and SNS for Decoupled Messaging (18m)**
Problem-solving session on choosing between queues and topics for app communication.
- **Kinesis for Real-Time Data Streaming (23m)**
Real case study analysis of streaming architectures for analytics and monitoring.
- **Elastic Beanstalk and Container Services (19m)**
Step-by-step guide to deploying apps with managed platforms for faster launches.
- **EKS and Kubernetes on AWS (26m)**
Practical overview of container orchestration for scalable microservices.
- **CloudFormation and Infrastructure as Code (22m)**
Downloadable templates to automate resource deployment and ensure consistency.
- **Exam Practice: Advanced Services Scenarios (30m)**
Timed practice questions with focus on integrating multiple services.

Security, Compliance, and Cost Optimization

- **AWS Security Hub and GuardDuty Basics (16m)**
Learn how to monitor and respond to security threats in exam scenarios.
- **Encryption with KMS and AWS Certificate Manager (14m)**
Hands-on lab to implement encryption for data at rest and in transit.
- **Compliance Frameworks: HIPAA, PCI, and GDPR (21m)**
Real case study on designing compliant architectures for regulated industries.
- **Cost Explorer and Budgets for AWS Spending (13m)**
Step-by-step guide to track and optimize costs using AWS tools.
- **Reserved Instances and Savings Plans (18m)**
Practical session on committing to resources for long-term savings.
- **CloudWatch for Monitoring and Alarms (20m)**
Problem-solving session to set up alerts for performance and security issues.
- **Exam Practice: Security and Cost Questions (27m)**
Timed quiz with detailed breakdowns of security and cost optimization strategies.
- **Designing for Disaster Recovery (24m)**
Downloadable templates for RTO and RPO planning in exam answers.
- **Hands-On: Building a Secure Multi-Tier App (35m)**
End-to-end lab combining security, networking, and compute services.

Implementation Strategies and Final Review

- **Creating a Full Architecture Diagram for the Exam (19m)**
Step-by-step guide to drawing diagrams that match exam question requirements.

- **Whitepaper Review: AWS Best Practices** (22m)
Practical summary of key whitepapers often referenced in exam questions.
- **Time Management During the Exam** (12m)
Real case study on pacing yourself to complete all questions effectively.
- **Handling Scenario-Based Questions** (25m)
Problem-solving session with tips for dissecting complex exam scenarios.
- **Practice Exam 1: Full Simulation** (40m)
Timed full-length practice test with score analysis and weak area identification.
- **Practice Exam 2: Advanced Scenarios** (38m)
Another full simulation focusing on integration and cost optimization questions.
- **Reviewing Your Practice Exam Results** (16m)
Downloadable worksheet to log mistakes and track improvement over time.
- **Final Study Plan Before Exam Day** (14m)
Step-by-step guide to last-minute review and mental preparation.
- **Common Exam Questions Walkthrough** (28m)
Real case study analysis of frequently tested questions and how to answer them.
- **Post-Exam: Next Steps and Career Paths** (10m)
Practical advice on leveraging your certification for job opportunities.
- **Hands-On: Building a Portfolio Project** (32m)
End-to-end lab to create a deployable architecture you can showcase to employers.
- **Community Resources and Continued Learning** (11m)
Overview of forums, blogs, and events to stay updated on AWS changes.
- **Exam Day Checklist and Tips** (9m)
Quick checklist to ensure you're ready for the test center or online exam.

Discover our blog

Learn more with free articles written by our professors and guest experts.

Latest article: **[Flight Attendant Preparation: What to Study Before You Apply](#)**

[Visit the blog](#) [All courses](#) [This course](#)