Best data engineering certifications in 2026

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Short answer: choose the certification for the data platform you use. Google Cloud's Professional Data Engineer, AWS's data engineer certification, Microsoft's Fabric data engineering certification, Databricks' data engineer certifications and Snowflake's SnowPro certifications are the most common. Data engineering is platform-heavy, so a vendor certification on the right platform is usually worth more than a generic one.

TL;DR The short version

- Data engineering is platform-heavy, so choose the certification for the data platform you use.
- Common options come from Google Cloud, AWS, Microsoft Fabric, Databricks and Snowflake.
- Underneath every platform are data modelling and pipelines that are safe to rerun, and data engineers are well placed to move into AI engineering.

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By platform

- **Google Cloud:** Professional Data Engineer.
- **AWS:** the associate-level data engineer certification.
- **Microsoft:** the Fabric data engineer certification.
- **Databricks:** data engineer certifications at associate and professional levels.
- **Snowflake:** SnowPro Core, then advanced data engineer tracks.

Skills underneath every platform

- Data modelling and table formats. See S3 Tables and Iceberg.
- Pipelines that are safe to rerun: idempotency.
- Event streams: event-driven architecture.
- Cost control: FinOps for engineers.
- Data for AI: vector databases and RAG.

Moving into AI

Data engineers are well placed to move into AI engineering, because data quality and retrieval decide most AI application quality. See best AI certifications and IICTP's AIP.

Related answers

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- Vendor-neutral certifications for software engineers

Before you book

Certification bodies rename, update and retire exams often. Check each issuer’s own page for current versions, prerequisites and fees before you book.

> Related credential: AI Practitioner. Explore the exam facts and syllabus.

Sources and further reading

1. Google Cloud. Google Cloud certification. cloud.google.com/learn/certification.
2. AWS. AWS Certification. aws.amazon.com/certification.
3. Microsoft. Microsoft Credentials. learn.microsoft.com/credentials.
4. Databricks. Certification. databricks.com/learn/certification.
5. Snowflake. SnowPro certification. snowflake.com.

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