

SnowPro Core Certification (COF-C03)

Course Duration ~40 Hours · Exam-Aligned Curriculum

Architecture — 31%

Performance — 21%

Governance — 20%

Data Movement — 18%

Collaboration — 10%

In short: This is an instructor-led certification program mapped 1:1 to the current Snowflake SnowPro Core exam (COF-C03, English version launched February 16, 2026, replacing COF-C02) — Snowflake's foundational credential and the prerequisite for all SnowPro Advanced and Specialty certifications. You learn to use the Snowflake AI Data Cloud architecture; manage accounts and virtual warehouses; load, unload, and transform structured, semi-structured, and unstructured data; monitor and optimize performance; govern and protect data; and collaborate via Secure Data Sharing and the Marketplace — including the new COF-C03 topics: Snowflake Cortex AI, Apache Iceberg tables, Snowflake Notebooks, Streamlit in Snowflake, and Git integration. The program closes with full-length mock exams and a lakehouse-style capstone. On completion you are ready to pass COF-C03 and take on Snowflake data platform roles.

Certification	SnowPro Core Certification	Offered by	Snowflake
Exam code	COF-C03 (current live version; replaced COF-C02, retired May 2026)	Level	Foundational / Core — prerequisite for all SnowPro Advanced & Specialty certifications
Prerequisite	None required; Snowflake recommends 6+ months of hands-on Snowflake experience		
Format	100 questions — multiple choice, multiple select, and interactive (may include unscored items)	Time limit	115 minutes
Passing score	750, on a scaled score of 0–1000	Validity	2 years
Delivery	Pearson VUE — online proctored (OnVUE) or test center	Languages	English (localized versions rolling out through 2026)

Domain 1: Snowflake AI Data Cloud Features and Architecture

31%

ESTIMATED TIME

11–12 Hours

TOPICS

- Describe and use the Snowflake architecture: Cloud Services layer, Compute layer, Database Storage layer; compare Snowflake editions
- Use Snowflake interfaces and tools: Snowsight, Snowflake CLI, IDE integrations (e.g., Visual Studio Code)
- Differentiate the Snowflake object hierarchy and types: organization/account objects; database objects (stages, schemas, tables, views, UDFs, file formats, stored procedures, pipes, shares, sequences, ML models, applications); session and context variables; parameter hierarchy and precedence
- Configure virtual warehouses: types (Standard Gen 1/Gen 2, Snowpark-optimized); scaling policies; sizing and scaling best practices (up/down, in/out, auto-suspend); use-case configurations (ad-hoc queries, data loading, BI/reporting, high concurrency)
- Explain storage concepts: micro-partitions, data clustering; table types (permanent, temporary, transient, Apache Iceberg, external, dynamic); view types (standard, materialized, secure)
- Explain AI/ML and application development features: Snowflake Notebooks, Streamlit in Snowflake, Snowpark, Snowflake Cortex (AI SQL functions, Cortex Search, Cortex Analyst), Snowflake ML

HANDS-ON

- Navigate Snowsight and the CLI; create the full object hierarchy
- Configure warehouses per workload and explore Cortex AI functions in a Notebook

Assessment: Quiz + Lab

Domain 2: Performance Optimization, Querying, and Transformation

21%

ESTIMATED TIME

8–9 Hours

TOPICS

- Evaluate query performance: Query Profile / query insights, bytes spilled to storage, inefficient pruning, exploding joins, queuing; ACCOUNT_USAGE views (query attribution, query history); workload management best practices
- Optimize query performance: query acceleration service, search optimization service, clustering keys, materialized views
- Use Snowflake caching: query result cache, metadata cache, warehouse cache
- Perform data transformation techniques: structured, semi-structured, and unstructured data; aggregate functions; SQL for query optimization; window functions

HANDS-ON

- Diagnose a slow query with Query Profile and fix spilling/pruning issues
- Transform semi-structured data with SQL and window functions

Assessment: Quiz + Lab

Domain 3: Account Management and Data Governance**20%****ESTIMATED TIME**

7–8 Hours

TOPICS

- Explain the Snowflake security model and principles: RBAC and DAC; securable object hierarchy; network policies; authentication (MFA, federated auth, SSO, OAuth, key-pair); system-defined, functional, custom, and secondary roles; account identifiers; logging and tracing
- Define data governance features: data masking (row-level and column-level security), object tagging, privacy policies, Trust Center, encryption key management, alerts and notifications, data replication and failover, data lineage
- Explain monitoring and cost management: resource monitors (cost and warehouse monitoring), virtual warehouse credit usage, the ACCOUNT_USAGE schema

HANDS-ON

- Build an RBAC role hierarchy with MFA and network policies
- Apply masking policies, tags, and resource monitors to an account

Assessment: Quiz + Lab

Domain 4: Data Loading, Unloading, and Connectivity**18%****ESTIMATED TIME**

6–7 Hours

TOPICS

- Perform data loading and unloading: file formats; internal and external stages (server-side encryption, directory tables); COPY INTO command; error handling
- Perform automated data ingestion: Snowpipe, Snowpipe Streaming, streams, tasks, dynamic tables
- Identify Snowflake connectors and integrations: drivers, connectors, storage integration, API integration, Git integration

HANDS-ON

- Load and unload data through stages with COPY INTO and error handling
- Automate ingestion with Snowpipe, streams, tasks, and a dynamic table

Assessment: Quiz + Lab

Domain 5: Data Collaboration**10%****ESTIMATED TIME**

4–5 Hours

TOPICS

- Explain data collaboration and protection: data replication and failover, secure data sharing, cloning, Time Travel, Fail-safe
- Explain data sharing capabilities: provider/consumer/reader accounts, Secure Data Sharing, sharing and resharing, direct shares, data clean rooms
- Share data via the Snowflake Marketplace and listings: Marketplace, private and public listings, Native Apps

HANDS-ON

- Clone objects, use Time Travel, and set up a direct share to a reader account
- Browse and consume a Marketplace listing

Assessment: Quiz + Lab

Exam Readiness & Mock Exams**ESTIMATED TIME**

3–4 Hours

TOPICS

- Domain-by-domain review keyed to the official weightings; pacing for 100 questions in 115 minutes, including interactive item types
- Question strategy and elimination techniques
- Certification path: 2-year validity and the road to SnowPro Advanced and Specialty tracks

HANDS-ON

- Full-length timed mock exams with detailed review
- Capstone: end-to-end Snowflake build — load, transform, govern, and share a dataset

Assessment: Capstone + Mock Exams