

MILESTONE PLANNING AND RESEARCH, INC.

Certification Partner Alignment Guide

Mapping Industry Certifications to Program Competency Standards

Occupations A-D

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Purpose

This guide identifies industry certifications and credential programs whose content aligns most closely with the competency standards of the AI Innovation With Trust Program. It is intended for use by program managers, academic partners, practitioners, and certification providers in selecting, recommending, and designing Related Technical Instruction (RTI) content.

Certifications listed here are not required for program completion. The program’s credential is the qualification card and portfolio evidence reviewed by mentors and journey workers — not third-party certification. However, certifications can serve three legitimate purposes in the program: as RTI content that develops Know-dimension competency, as evidence of conceptual understanding relevant to specific competency areas, and as stackable credentials that accompany the program record.

This is a living document. The illustrative examples below are based on publicly available curriculum information and secondary research conducted at time of preparation. They are intended to orient prospective partners to the program’s competency architecture — not to provide definitive assessments of any organization’s offerings. Coverage ratings reflect estimated alignment at the time of research and may not reflect current content, updated syllabi, or new credentials. They are not endorsements. Organizations are encouraged to review current certification syllabi directly and to use the Partner Mapping Template in this guide to document their own alignment. Certification and training organizations, colleges, and universities interested in formal partnership alignment should contact Milestone Planning and Research, Inc. directly to initiate a curriculum review.

The Win-Win-Win-Win Value Architecture

The AI Innovation With Trust Program creates simultaneous value for four stakeholders who currently face related but unresolved problems. Certification providers represent a fourth stakeholder whose success is structurally linked to the program’s growth.

Stakeholder	Current Problem	What the Program Provides	How Certs Amplify the Win
Graduates	Cannot find AI work because they lack work experience. Academic credentials signal knowledge, not performance.	Paid work from day one. Verified portfolio of real deliverables. DOL-registered occupational credential that demonstrates performance — not seat time.	Certifications mapped to program competencies signal conceptual preparation to employers. Stackable credentials accompany the portfolio. Graduates enter the job market with both theoretical and performance evidence.
Employers	Cannot reliably assess AI capability in interviews. AI talent is expensive, uneven, and carries governance risk.	Observed competency development over 12–24 months before full-time placement. Practitioners produce real business value during the program. Governance, validation, and accountability habits are built under direct supervision.	Certifications from recognized providers provide employers with additional signal about specific technical capabilities. A Developer practitioner who holds a cloud ML cert and a statistical modeling cert has documented technical preparation alongside observed workplace performance.
Schools	Enrollment pressure from students who want job guarantees. Curriculum–jobs gap in AI where academic preparation does not reliably translate to employment readiness.	A direct bridge from AI coursework to employment outcomes. RTI modules create demand for academic instruction. Employer partnerships create placement pathways and capstone opportunities.	Cert providers who align their content to program competency standards give schools a way to incorporate recognized technical preparation into RTI delivery. Schools can point to cert completion as evidence of Know-dimension attainment

Stakeholder	Current Problem	What the Program Provides	How Certs Amplify the Win
			alongside academic coursework.
Cert providers	Need market relevance in a rapidly changing AI landscape. Seek structured demand for their credentials beyond individual learner decisions.	A defined competency architecture with specific knowledge standards for each occupation. A growing population of practitioners, mentors, employers, and academic partners who need preparation evidence.	Providers who align their curriculum to program competency standards are positioned as recommended RTI preparation for specific occupation-competency combinations. Program adoption creates structured, recurring demand for relevant certifications across all five occupational tracks.

Coverage Rating Guide

Rating	Meaning	Use in Program
★★★ Strong	The certification content directly and substantially addresses the identified competency standards. Current curriculum covers most or all of the Know-standard requirements for the mapped competencies.	May be used as primary RTI content for the mapped competencies. Recommend as first-priority credential for the relevant occupation track.
★★☆ Partial	The certification addresses related concepts but with less depth, different framing, or with significant gaps relative to the program's competency standards.	Use as supplementary RTI content alongside program-specific instruction. Recommend with explicit identification of gaps to be addressed in additional RTI.
★☆☆ Foundational	The certification provides useful background knowledge but does not reach the depth required by the program's competency standards.	May be used as pre-program preparation or entry-level orientation. Not sufficient alone as RTI for any occupation at L2 or above.

Certification Alignment by Occupation

Common Trunk (All Occupations)

The following certifications provide the best current coverage of trunk competencies T-2.1 through T-2.9. Because trunk competencies underlie all five occupational pathways, these represent the highest-priority certifications for program-wide RTI planning.

Certification	Vendor	Trunk Competencies Covered	Rating	Notes for RTI Use
NIST AI RMF Practitioner (various)	NIST-aligned providers	T-2.4 Human Authority; T-2.5 Falsification; C-C1, C-C3 governance	★★★	Best current alignment with governance and oversight trunk competencies. Validate depth per provider before RTI assignment.
Responsible AI certificates (reviewed)	LinkedIn/edX/IBM/Microsoft	T-2.4 Human Authority; T-2.5 Falsification; T-2.6 Problem-Finding (partial)	★★☆	Quality varies. Review each offering for NIST AI RMF coverage specifically. Best options for T-2.4–T-2.6 at L1–L2.

Certification	Vendor	Trunk Competencies Covered	Rating	Notes for RTI Use
AI For Everyone (DeepLearning.AI)	DeepLearning.AI / Coursera	T-2.1 Inductive Systems Literacy; T-2.2 Business Value Creation	★★☆	Good introductory coverage of T-2.1 and T-2.2 at L1. Accessible to non-technical practitioners. Supplement with governance and validation content for L2+.
Statistical methods credentials (Stata, SAS, MATLAB)	StataCorp; SAS Institute; MathWorks	T-2.3 Signal Quality and Data	★★★	Best current coverage of T-2.3 signal quality and data competencies. Strongly recommended for quantitative-track practitioners.
AI Security credentials (ISACA CISA, CompTIA Security+, vendor AI security modules)	ISACA; CompTIA; vendor-specific	T-2.7 AI Security Awareness	★★☆	Partial coverage of AI-specific threat landscape at the Know level. No current credential covers prompt injection, adversarial inputs, and data poisoning together at the practitioner level. Supplement with program-developed AI security awareness RTI module.
ISACA AAIA (Advanced in AI Audit)	ISACA	T-2.8 AI-Enabled Innovation Judgment (Know level)	★★☆	AAIA scenario-based examination assesses governance judgment in novel AI contexts, providing a strong Know-level foundation for T-2.8. The Do and Become dimensions — the documented thinking partnership session and innovation artifact — require program-specific OJL and cannot be assessed through examination.
ISACA AAIA / AAIR (Advanced in AI Risk)	ISACA	T-2.9 AI-Assisted Decision Quality (Know level)	★★★	Strongest current alignment. AAIA and AAIR both address the gap between model accuracy and decision quality in governance and risk contexts. Directly covers confidence transfer and accountability diffusion at the Know level. Recommended as primary RTI foundation for T-2.9 Know standard. Do and Become require program OJL and mentor observation.

Occupation A: Artificial Intelligence Analyst

Certification	Vendor	Competencies Covered	Rating	Notes
Microsoft Azure AI Engineer Associate (AI-102)	Microsoft	A-A1 Safe and Productive Use; A-A3 Workflow Improvement	★★☆	Good L1–L2 Analyst track RTI. Supplement with A-A2 contradiction detection and A-A4 quality management content.
Certified AI Professional (CAIP)	USAI	A-A1 Safe Use; T-2.1, T-2.2 trunk	★★☆	Introductory fit for Analyst

Certification	Vendor	Competencies Covered	Rating	Notes
				track. Covers safe use and business value fundamentals. Does not reach L3 standards.
IBM AI Engineering Professional Certificate	IBM / Coursera	A-A1 Safe Use; A-A3 Workflow Improvement	★★☆	Practical Python and ML focus. Good workflow improvement foundation. Gap: contradiction detection, quality management, use case framing.
Agile / Scrum certifications	Scrum.org / PMI-ACP	A-A3 Workflow Improvement (process level)	★★☆	Supporting credential only. Not sufficient as primary RTI for Analyst track.

Key gap for Analyst occupation: no currently available certification provides strong coverage of A-A2 (Contradiction Detection and Validation) or A-A4 (Quality Management of AI Deliverables). These are program-distinctive competencies that require program-developed RTI content. Certification providers that develop specific content addressing the five AI quality dimensions and contradiction detection methodology are strongly positioned as preferred Analyst track partners.

Occupation B: Artificial Intelligence Operations and Governance Specialist

Certification	Vendor	Competencies Covered	Rating	Notes
NIST AI RMF Practitioner (various providers)	NIST-aligned providers	B-B3, C-C1, C-C3, F-F1; T-2.4, T-2.5	★★★	Highest current alignment with Ops & Gov occupation. Primary RTI recommendation for B and C competency families. Validate provider depth.
Certified in Risk and Information Systems Control (CRISC)	ISACA	C-C1 Model Risk; F-F1 Charter; F-F2 Project Plan; B-B1 Strategic Judgment	★★☆	Strong risk and governance foundation. Supplement with AI-specific failure modes (C-C2) and human authority content (B-B3).
Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA)	ISACA	V-V5 IV&V; C-C1 Model Risk; C-C3 Explainability; F-F2 Project Accountability	★★☆	Best available coverage of audit trail principles and

Certification	Vendor	Competencies Covered	Rating	Notes
				IV&V foundations. Supplement with AI-specific validation and falsification content.
Project Management Professional (PMP)	PMI	F-F1 AI Initiative Charter; F-F2 Project Plan Management	★★☆	Solid project accountability foundation. No AI governance content. Must be supplemented with all occupation-specific competencies.
Certified AI Professional (CAIP)	USAI	B-B1 Strategic AI Judgment (partial); T-2.1, T-2.2	★★☆	Introductory governance coverage. Does not reach L3 governance standards without substantial supplementation.

Key gap for Ops & Gov occupation: no currently available certification provides strong coverage of C-C2 (Falsification Architecture) or the OCC-specific contradiction audit methodology. ISACA and NIST-aligned providers are best positioned to develop this content given their existing governance and audit frameworks. Providers who extend their existing risk and audit content to include AI-specific falsification and contradiction audit design will directly close the largest gap in Ops & Gov RTI coverage.

Occupation C: Artificial Intelligence Quality and Validation Specialist

Certification	Vendor	Competencies Covered	Rating	Notes
NIST AI RMF Practitioner (various)	NIST-aligned providers	C-C1 Model Risk; C-C3 Explainability; V-V7 Assurance Reporting	★★★	Best current coverage of quality and validation governance dimensions. Primary RTI supplement for quality and validation occupation governance layer.
Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA)	ISACA	V-V5 IV&V; C-C1 Model Risk; C-C3 Explainability	★★☆	Best available IV&V foundation. Supplement with AI-specific test design (V-V1), benchmark construction (V-V2), and falsification

Certification	Vendor	Competencies Covered	Rating	Notes
				engineering (V-V3, V-V4).
Statistical methods credentials (Stata, SAS, MATLAB)	StataCorp; SAS Institute; MathWorks	V-V2 Benchmark Construction; T-2.3 Signal Quality	★★★	Strongest available coverage of benchmark construction and quantitative validation methodology. Directly relevant to V-V2 and V-V3 at the technical level.
AWS ML Specialty	Amazon Web Services	D-D4 Validation Engineering; V-V1 Test Design (partial)	★★☆	Partial coverage of test design and model evaluation. No falsification, IV&V, or assurance reporting content.

Key gap for Quality & Val occupation: no currently available certification provides direct coverage of V-V3 (Falsification Engineering), V-V4 (Contradiction Analysis), or V-V5 (IV&V with auditor independence) at the depth required. This is the program’s most differentiated occupation and the one where certification providers have the largest current gap to close. A vendor that develops a dedicated AI Quality and Validation credential aligned to the program’s V-competency standards would be positioned as the program’s preferred quality and validation partner nationwide.

Occupation D: Artificial Intelligence Developer

Certification	Vendor	Competencies Covered	Rating	Notes
Statistical methods credentials (Stata, SAS, MATLAB)	StataCorp; SAS Institute; MathWorks	D-D1 Probabilistic System Engineering; D-D6 Governed AI Development Practices	★★★	Best current coverage of probabilistic system engineering and statistical computational integrity. Primary RTI recommendation for D-D1 and D-D6.
AWS Certified Machine Learning – Specialty	Amazon Web Services	D-D1 Probabilistic System Engineering; D-D4 Validation Engineering	★★☆	Strong ML pipeline and deployment engineering content. Supplement with governance-aware development (D-D5), hybrid cognition

Certification	Vendor	Competencies Covered	Rating	Notes
				architecture (D-D2), and HITL design (D-D7).
Google Professional Machine Learning Engineer	Google Cloud	D-D1 Probabilistic System Engineering; D-D4 Validation Engineering	★★☆	Strong production ML systems content. Similar gap profile to AWS cert. Does not cover D-D2, D-D3, D-D5, or D-D7.
Certified Artificial Intelligence Scientist (CAIS)	USAI	D-D1 Probabilistic System Engineering; D-D2 (partial)	★★☆	Technical depth reasonable for L2–L3. Gap: governance-aware development, intermediate output compliance, HITL architecture.
IBM AI Engineering Professional Certificate	IBM / Coursera	D-D1 Probabilistic System Engineering (partial)	★★☆	Practical foundation. Not sufficient alone for L3+ developer competencies.

Key gap for Developer occupation: no currently available certification provides coverage of D-D2 (Hybrid Cognition Architecture / Cortical Hierarchy pattern), D-D5 (Governance-Aware Software Engineering with intermediate output compliance mandate), or D-D7 (Human-in-the-Loop Architecture). These are program-distinctive competencies requiring program-developed RTI content. Cloud platform providers and AI engineering credential providers are best positioned to develop D-D5 and D-D7 content given their existing production AI engineering curricula.

Certification Provider Partnership Opportunities

The Value Proposition for Certification Partners

Certification providers who align their content to program competency standards gain three structural advantages:

- Preferred RTI designation. When a certification’s content demonstrably meets the Know-standard requirements for one or more program competencies, Milestone Planning and Research, Inc. can designate it as a recommended RTI resource. Practitioners, employers, and academic partners look to the program’s guidance when selecting preparation credentials.
- Structured, recurring demand. As the program grows — adding employer cohorts, academic partners, and program registrations — each new practitioner represents a potential certification enrollment. The program’s occupational structure creates five defined talent pipelines with consistent preparation needs across all program partners.
- Competency framework as curriculum anchor. The program’s Know standards provide certification providers with a precise definition of what AI workforce preparation means in an evidence-based, DOL-aligned framework. Providers who develop content to these standards are positioned for the credentialing infrastructure that is emerging around the NIST AI RMF, DOL workforce development, and AI governance requirements.

Priority Alignment Opportunities by Occupation

Occupation	Highest-Value Gap to Fill	Positioning Opportunity	Recommended Approach
AI Analyst	A-A2 Contradiction Detection and Validation; A-A4 Quality Management of AI Deliverables	No current certification covers the five AI quality dimensions or practical contradiction detection methodology. First mover captures a clearly defined, underserved need.	Develop a dedicated micro-credential or add-on module covering the five quality dimensions (factual accuracy, logical coherence, scope appropriateness, calibration, actionability) and practical contradiction detection by AI system type. Map explicitly to A-A2 and A-A4 standards.
AI Ops & Gov Specialist	C-C2 Falsification Architecture; AI-specific governance design	ISACA and PMI have strong governance foundations. A vendor that bridges from general IT governance to AI-specific falsification architecture closes the most important remaining gap.	Extend existing risk or governance credentials with an AI governance module covering the 12-dimension contradiction audit, FATAL/WARN/INFO severity protocol, and human authority governance design. Map to C-C2, F-F1, F-F2.
AI Quality & Val Specialist	V-V3 Falsification Engineering; V-V4 Contradiction Analysis; V-V5 IV&V	This occupation has no strong existing certification coverage. Entire market position available for a vendor willing to develop a purpose-built AI Quality and Validation credential.	Develop a dedicated AI Quality and Validation credential covering test design, falsification engineering, contradiction analysis, IV&V with auditor independence, and assurance reporting. Map directly to V-V1 through V-V7. Partner with MPR as the competency architecture owner.
AI Developer	D-D2 Hybrid Cognition Architecture; D-D5 Governance-Aware Engineering; D-D7 HITL Architecture	Cloud platform providers and AI engineering credential providers have the technical foundation. Governance and human authority architecture content is the gap.	Add a governance-aware engineering module to existing ML engineering credentials covering intermediate output compliance, audit trail architecture, escalation path design, and human override implementation. Map to D-D5 and D-D7.

Partner Self-Assessment: Mapping Your Offerings to Program Competencies

This section is designed to be completed by certification providers, training organizations, and credentialing bodies who wish to document how their offerings align with the program’s competency standards. Completing this template and submitting it to Milestone Planning and Research, Inc. initiates the formal partnership alignment review. Organizations whose curriculum meets the program’s Know-standard requirements for one or more competencies may be listed as RTI resources in future editions of this guide.

To complete the self-assessment, document the following for each credential or course you are proposing for alignment:

Organization name and credential or course title.

Program competency IDs and names you believe the credential addresses (e.g., T-2.4, B-B1, V-V3).

The specific learning objectives or modules in your curriculum that address each competency's Know standard.

Your proposed coverage rating (Strong / Partial / Foundational) with brief rationale.

Any gaps you identify between your current content and the program's Know standard, and whether you are willing to address them.

Delivery format, approximate hours, and current cost or licensing model.

Submit completed self-assessments with supporting curriculum documentation to john.aaron@milestoneplanning.net. Milestone Planning and Research, Inc. will review submissions against the Know-standard requirements in the competency framework and respond with a formal alignment assessment within 30 days.

Partnership Process

Certification providers interested in formal alignment with the AI Innovation With Trust Program should contact Milestone Planning and Research, Inc. to initiate a curriculum alignment review. The process involves three steps of self-reporting for inclusion into the program documentation made generally available:

1. Curriculum submission. The vendor provides certification title, topical, learning objectives, salient features and contact details.
2. Competency mapping. maps the curriculum against the program's Know-standard requirements for the identified competencies. Gaps and alignment strength to be documented.
3. Designation and publication. Certifications with sufficient alignment are posted as RTI resources for the relevant competency areas and published in the program's partner documentation. Partial-alignment certifications are listed with explicit supplementation guidance.

Partnership designations are reviewed annually as certification content evolves. Providers who update their content to close identified gaps may update the documentation at any time.

For partnership inquiries: john.aaron@milestoneplanning.net | dale.vl@mprteam.com | ratio-weekly.com

Summary: The Four-Party Value Architecture

The AI Innovation With Trust Program is not structured as a zero-sum competition between credentialing options. It is designed as a complementary architecture in which:

- Graduates benefit from a verified portfolio credential backed by DOL registration, supplemented by technical preparation certifications that signal specific capabilities to employers.
- Employers benefit from observed competency development over time, with certification evidence providing an additional preparation signal for specific technical skills.
- Schools benefit from employer-aligned RTI delivery that can be supported by recognized certification content, creating academic pathways with visible employment outcomes.
- Certification providers benefit from a structured, competency-defined market of practitioners, mentors, employers, and academic partners who need recognized technical preparation for each of the program's five occupational tracks.

The program's growth creates certification demand. Certification adoption strengthens program candidates. The architecture is designed to be mutually reinforcing — not competitive.