

Getting Started with the F5 Certification Program

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Congratulations on beginning your adventure into F5 Certifications.

The F5 Certified! Program was developed to foster individual professional development through a high-quality, credible technology certification. Certifications are earned by completing a series of exams to verify skills in application delivery, design, installation, and management of F5 technology. These certifications provide a competitive advantage for candidates and employers in the marketplace. There is increasing industry recognition of the integrity, credibility, and quality of F5 certifications and the individuals who obtain them.

Introduction

About this Guide

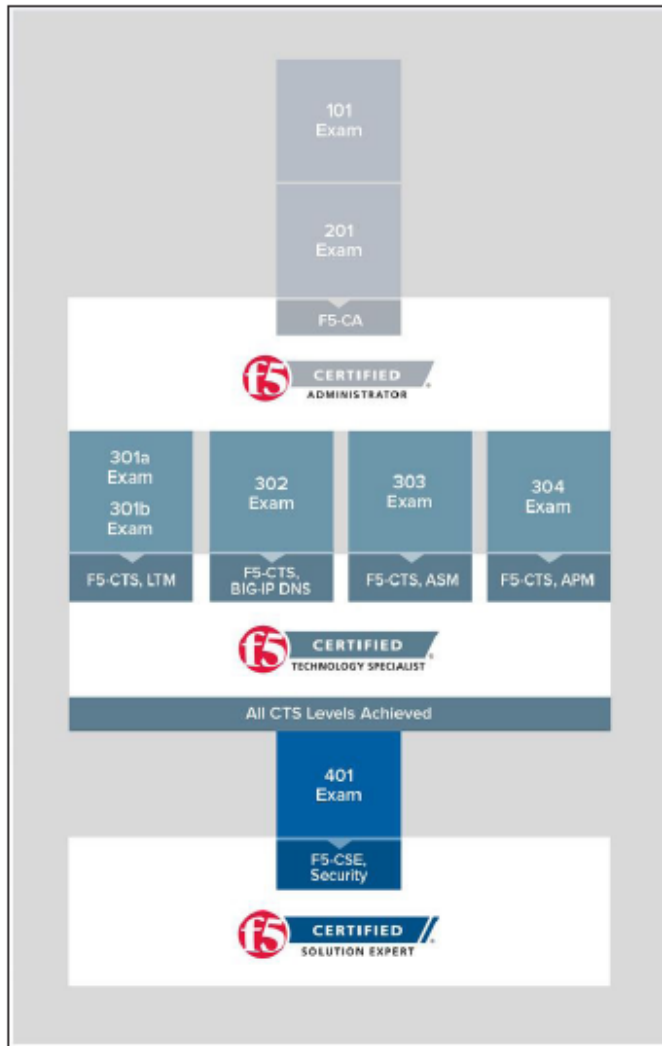
This introduction guide is for candidates who are just getting started with the F5 Certification Program. It will help guide you through registration, preparing for your first certification exam, and scheduling. When you register for the program, you will be assigned an F5 Candidate ID number. The F5 Candidate ID number is your primary identifier for the program and is 12 characters long formatted like the following:

F50000000000

As you read through this guide, you will find resources and embedded links. At the end of the handbook is a list of the full URLs associated with the embedded links.

Certifications Summary

The F5 Certified! Program is progressive and builds on the skills and knowledge demonstrated in previous exams. The graphic below shows how certification levels progress through the program. Requirements for each certification are shown beside the image.



F5 Certified BIG-IP® Administrator (F5-CA)

F5-CA, BIG-IP Requirements

- Exam 101 - Application Delivery Fundamentals
- Exam 201 - F5® TMOS® Administration

F5 Certified Technology Specialists (F5-CTS)

F5-CTS, BIG-IP, Local Traffic Manager™ (LTM) Requirements

- F5-CA Certification
- Exam 301a - BIG-IP LTM: Architect, Setup, and Deploy
- Exam 301b - LTM: Maintain and Troubleshoot

F5-CTS BIG-IP DNS Requirements

- F5-CA Certification
- Exam 302 - BIG-IP DNS Specialist

F5-CTS, BIG-IP Application Security Manager™ (ASM) Requirements

- F5-CA Certification
- Exam 303 - BIG-IP ASM Specialist

F5-CTS, BIG-IP Application Policy Manager™ (APM) Requirements

- F5-CA Certification
- Exam 304 - BIG-IP APM Specialist

F5 Certified Solution Expert (F5-CSE)

F5-CSE Security Requirements

- F5-CA, BIG-IP Certification
- F5-CTS, BIG-IP LTM Certification
- F5-CTS, BIG-IP GTM Certification
- F5-CTS, BIG-IP ASM Certification
- F5-CTS, BIG-IP APM Certification
- Exam 401 – Security Solution Expert

Getting Registered in the F5 Program

Every candidate must have an F5 Certification ID in order to participate in the F5 Certified! Program.

Process to get an F5 Certification ID:

- The candidate must go to certification.f5.com and create an account.



Candidate Sign In

Please sign in using your F5 Candidate sign in ID and password. If this is your first time signing in, please click the link below the "Sign In" button ("Create an F5 Certified! account").

Sign in ID * ⓘ This field is required.

Password * This field is required. [Forgot your password or sign in ID?](#)

[Create an F5 Certified! account and F5-ID. Already have a sign-in to the old F5-CMS? Click here to continue.](#)

- Candidates will receive an email from F5 with their F5 Certification ID. The email will contain instructions in how to go back to the certification.f5.com website and login with the new account and set the password and agree to EUA.

Your First F5 Certification

F5 Certified Sales Professional (F5-SP) There are two paths to take to for your first F5 certification. Each path is separate from the other. The first professional certification in the program is the F5 Certified! Administrator, BIG-IP (F5- CA). This certification consists of two exams: 101 - Application Delivery Fundamentals and 201 - TMOS Administration. Exam 101 is a prerequisite to Exam 201; no certificate is issued after passing Exam 101.

The sections that follow give a brief overview of the first two exams and the skills needed to pass them.

Exam 101 - Application Delivery Fundamentals

This is the first exam required to achieve either F5 Certified BIG-IP Administrator status or F5 Certified Sales Professional. All candidates must take this exam to move forward in the program.

Successful completion of the 101-Application Delivery Fundamentals exam acknowledges the skills and understanding necessary for day-to-day management of Application Delivery Networks (ADNs). This exam identifies candidates that possess the knowledge that is necessary to work with F5 products and technologies.

Summary description of the minimally qualified candidate (MQC)

The MQC has a basic understanding of network fundamentals, protocols, and common traffic management concepts. The MQC also understands the basic concepts of F5 technology as applied to network fundamentals, protocols, and traffic management (for example, TMOS).

The MQC can do the following without assistance:

- Articulate the advantages of a full application proxy.
- Explain the seven layers of the Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) model.
- Describe valid uses/methods of HTTP.
- Identify and define the components of TMOS.

Prerequisite for exam:

- None

Exam 201 - TMOS Administration

This is the second exam required to achieve Certified F5 BIG-IP Administrator status. Candidates must have passed the 101-Application Delivery Fundamentals exam in order to be eligible for the 201 exam.

Successful completion of the BIG-IP Administrator exam identifies candidates who can independently perform day-to-day operations and basic troubleshooting of TMOS-based devices in various application environments after it has been installed, configured, and implemented.

Summary description of the MQC

The MQC is capable of performing day-to-day operations of TMOS-based devices which have already been installed. The MQC is also capable of basic troubleshooting of a TMOS-based device in order to provide full, accurate, and appropriate information to senior engineers and/or F5 support.

The MQC can do the following without assistance:

- Enable a virtual server that has already been defined.
- Locate where iRules are facilitated within QKView.
- Use QKView troubleshooting tools (for example, obtain a Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) dump and a qkview using QKView, and upload a qkview to BIG-IP iHealth).

Prerequisite for exam:

- Exam 101 - Application Delivery Fundamentals

Exam 202 - Pre-Sales Fundamentals

This is the second exam required to achieve F5 Certified Sales Professional status. All candidates must have passed the 101-Application Delivery Fundamentals exam in order to achieve F5 Certified Sales Professional status.

Successful completion of the 202 Pre-Sales Fundamentals exam acknowledges the skills and understanding necessary for technical selling of F5 solutions.

Summary description of the MQC

The MQC has a proven track record of successfully selling F5 solutions. The MQC should have a working understanding of F5 solutions and be able to:

Prepare and deliver technical presentations explaining products or services to customers and prospective customers. Confer with customers to assess business and technical requirements and collaborate with sales teams to understand customer landscape and provide technical sales advisement. Plan and design solutions to meet customer needs/requirements and align solution with existing customer initiatives and infrastructure.

Recommend and explain proposed solutions and benefits to customers. Understand market awareness that differentiates industry solutions (Security, Cloud, ADC).

Prerequisite for exam:

Exam 101 - Application Delivery Fundamentals

Exam Preparation

Available Resources

To prepare for certification exams, there are a number of resources available to candidates. Seven of these resources are listed below. Please know that there are no specific “exam prep” classes that guarantee you will pass an exam the first time. Earning an F5 certification typically requires both hands-on experience as well as studying the material. It is important to note that the responsibility of preparation lies with you, the candidate.

AskF5

[AskF5](#) is a centralized knowledge base of documents, links, and resources—including sections on the F5 Certified! Program. You can find official exam blueprints, community-created study guides, program policies, exam descriptions, and more on AskF5. Most of the information within this guide is pulled from the certification pages found on AskF5.

- F5 Certification and Introduction <https://support.f5.com/csp/article/K93611383>

- Exams and study guides <https://support.f5.com/csp/article/K29900360>
- Policies and program details <https://support.f5.com/csp/article/K90101564>

Exam Blueprint

Each exam has its own unique blueprint that was developed by subject matter experts (SMEs). The blueprint provides a detailed breakdown of the skills and knowledge that you should possess in order to pass the exam. Blueprints can be used to identify areas for additional study and are best used in conjunction with the exam study guides.

Exam Study Guides

Exam-specific unofficial study guides are available here on F5 Cloud Docs as well as on AskF5 in PDF format. These study guides feature a collection of information and resources that may be helpful for exam preparation. Study guides have been created by the F5 Certified! community and are not refreshed at the same time as exams. The content here on F5 Cloud Docs will be the most current study guide content available.

Learn F5

[Learn F5](#) provides several free web-based trainings appropriate to use to prepare for Exam 101. A good place to start with F5 web-based training is the “Getting Started” series.

LinkedIn Groups

F5 Certified! LinkedIn groups are a great place to engage with a community of candidates and Certification Team support. In the various LinkedIn groups, you may ask or answer questions, provide and gather resources, and give feedback on the program. The “F5 Certified! Professionals” group is the main group, and there are separate study groups for each exam. To find a group, log into your LinkedIn account and perform a search. The two groups that are the most helpful for getting started are:

- F5 Certified! Professionals
- F5 Certified! 101 Study Group



As you become more familiar with the F5 Certified! Program and advance to subsequent exams, you can access additional F5 Certified! groups that have been created specifically for the next level that you wish to pursue.

The following is strictly prohibited in the LinkedIn groups: sharing specific exam questions or topics; detailed exam questions; and sharing exam scenarios, situations, examples, or exhibits. Failure to follow these guidelines will lead to expulsion from the certification program.

Practice Exams

F5 Certified! practice exams are designed to help gauge preparedness for the production (“real”) exams. They contain the same number of items, time constraints, and level of difficulty. They simulate the proctored, production exam experience. In addition, practice exams provide a score report with section-level guidance on your performance. This score report is only available with the official F5 Certified! practice exam. A nominal fee is charged for practice exams. An example of a practice exam score report is shown below:

Thank you for taking the F5 101 Application Delivery Fundamentals Practice Exam. Your qualitative score report is shown below and will be emailed to you.

Based on your practice exam scoring, you have PASSED.

Section	Below	Borderline	Meets
1 OSI			x
2 F5 Solutions and Technology			x
3 Load Balancing Essentials		x	
4 Security			x
5 Application Delivery Platforms	x		

The feedback in the score report provides a general assessment of your readiness for each section in the exam. Feedback is provided based on the following general levels of preparedness:

- Below: You are not prepared for this section. More study is required.
- Borderline: You demonstrate understanding, but not consistently. More study would benefit your exam performance.
- Meets: Suggests that you have sufficiently mastered this section.

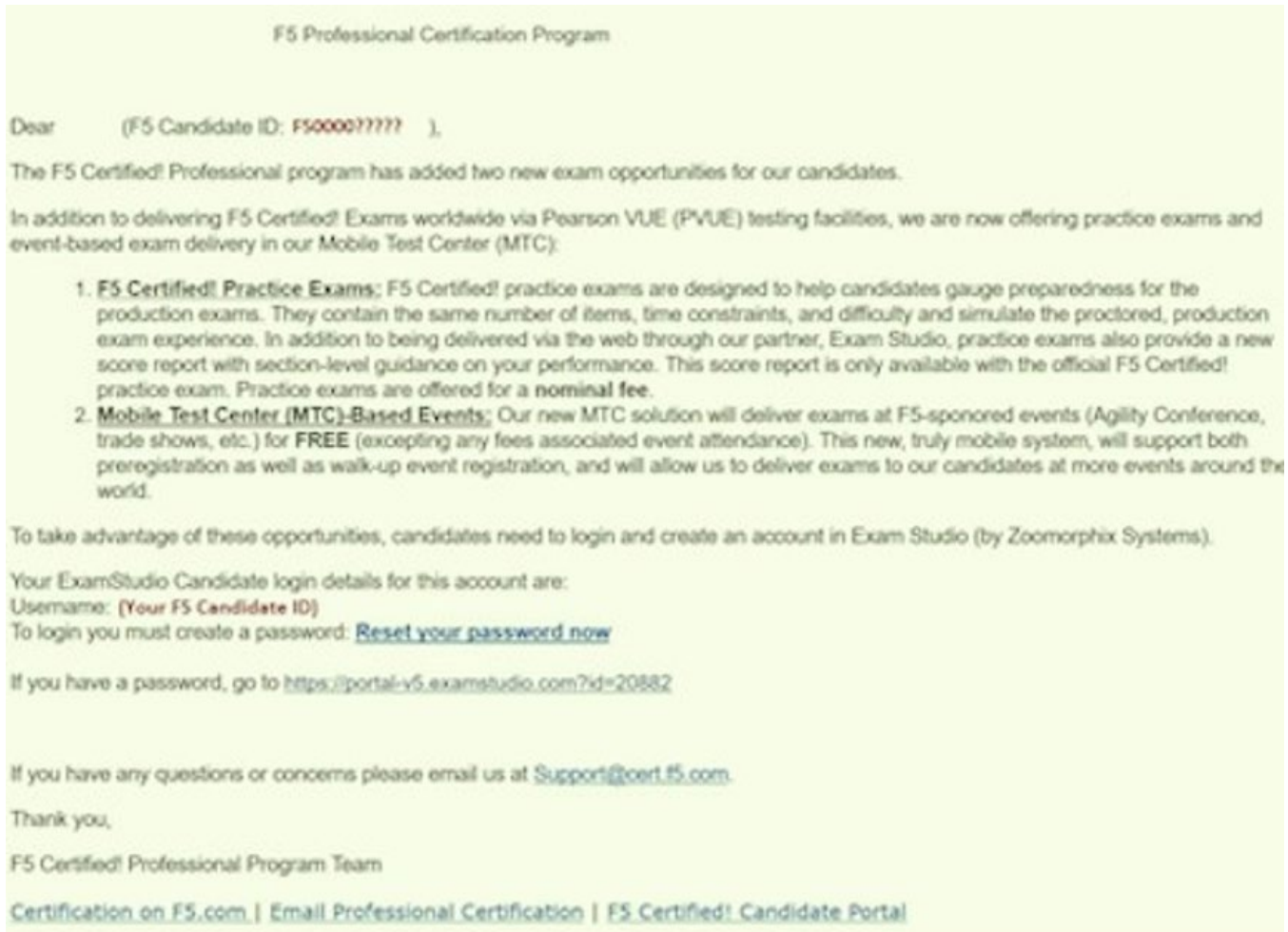
This section-level feedback is intended only as guidance. While earning a “Meets” score for all sections in the practice exam suggests that you would likely pass the real exam, it does not guarantee it. A practice exam is merely a tool to help you evaluate where you would benefit from additional preparation.

How to Purchase a Practice Exam:

Practice exams can be purchased via ExamStudio, a third-party vendor with which we have partnered to deliver our practice exams. You must be a registered F5 Certified! candidate to get an ExamStudio account allowing you to purchase practice exams.

Please note, your ExamStudio account and your F5 Certified! account are not the same, although both will use your F5 Candidate ID as the username.

1. When you registered on the F5 Candidate Portal you received an email from support@examstudio.com. The email contains a link and credentials for ExamStudio. (Please note: After registering, it can take 24-48 hours to receive this email.)



2. When you follow the link, you must first create a password by clicking the “Reset your password now” link in the email. You will be redirected to a site where you will be prompted to create and confirm a new password:

 **CERTIFIED** // **F5 Networks**
Reset Password

Enter and confirm your new password.

New Password

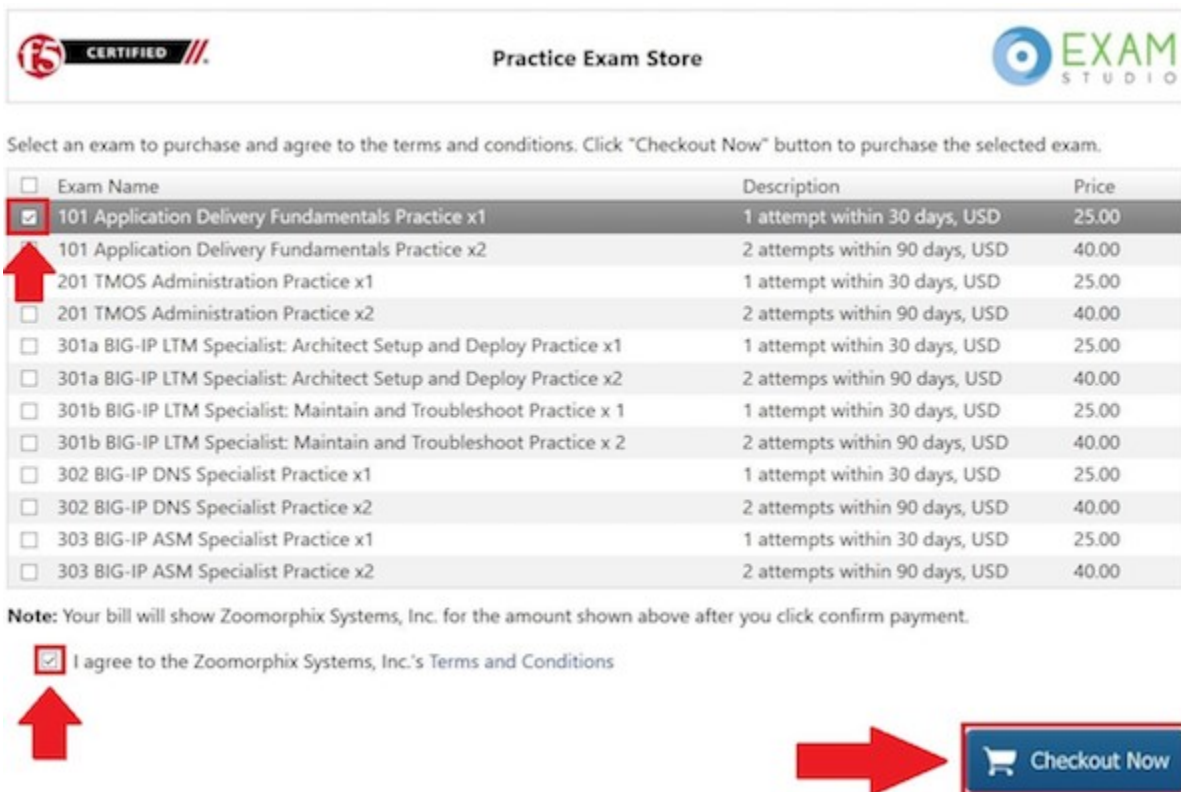
Confirm Password

[If you have your password click here to login](#)

3. Once your password is created, you will be automatically logged in and directed to the home page of your ExamStudio account. To complete a purchase of practice exams, proceed to the “Shop Front” tab:




4. In the Shop Front you will see a list of the available practice exams, details around allowed attempts, and the price of practice exams available for purchase (in USD). To purchase a practice exam, you must select the exam and agree to the “Terms and Conditions” before clicking the “Checkout Now” button:




5. After you have selected the practice exam, accepted the terms and conditions, and clicked “Checkout Now” you will be directed to a Payment Methods page. Accepted forms of payment are PayPal or bank card. After you have entered your payment information, click

“Confirm Payment”:



Practice Exam Store



Please enter your contact details below with a valid email address. Your login details will be sent to the email address provided.

Login Details

Logged in as: F50000170075

[Logout](#)

Payment Mode

Fill in your credit card details or click PayPal to pay with PayPal.

[PayPal](#)

Card Number


Expiration Date

Exam Name	Price
101 Application Delivery Fundamentals Practice x1	25
TOTAL	25


Note: Your bill will show Zoomorphix Systems, Inc. for the amount shown above after you click confirm payment.

[Confirm Payment](#)

6. Next you will see a purchase confirmation page:



Practice Exam Store



Thank you for your purchase. An email from ExamStudio Support has been sent to you containing your login details.

If you do not receive the email in 30 minutes, please check your spam/junk mail folder.

If you still have any issues, please contact ExamStudio Support at support@zoomorphix.com.

7. Click on the “My Exams” tab and you will see your practice exam listed in the “Available Exams” section. When you are ready to start your practice exam click the “Start Exam” link under “Actions”: Note - As soon as you click on the “Start Exam” link, your practice exam will begin.

Exam Name	Series Code	Description	Attempt#	Start Date	End Date	Scheduled Date	TimeZone	Status	
Application Delivery Fundamentals v2	101		1	04/12/2018 00:00	05/01/2100 00:00			Waiting For Schedule	
101 Application Delivery Fundamentals Practice v1	101-Practice	1 attempt within 30 days, USD	1	05/13/2018 21:38	06/14/2018 21:38			In Progress	Continue Exam
101 Application Delivery Fundamentals Practice v1	101-Practice	1 attempt within 30 days, USD	2	05/22/2018 20:59	06/23/2018 20:59			Ready	Start Exam


F5.com

An overview of basic information about the F5 Certified! Program is available on the F5 corporate website, f5.com. This website contains information that will help you understand the F5 product suite and provides a high-level overview of the F5 Certified! Program.

F5 Candidate Portal


The first step to certification was creating an account in the [F5 Candidate Portal](#). If you are reading this handbook, you have already completed this step and have been assigned a Candidate ID. The F5 Candidate Portal continues to be a helpful resource even after creating an account. You can log into the F5 Candidate Portal to get program updates, track your certification progress, check exam scores, update your personal information, and schedule exams at Pearson VUE testing centers.

Welcome to the F5 Certified! Candidate Portal




F5 Certified! Professional Certification Program


WELCOME [REDACTED]




View your exam history



Track your certification status




Change your personal information




Schedule an exam


FORMS



Special test accommodations



Test center additions



Admissions data waiver

Additional Resources

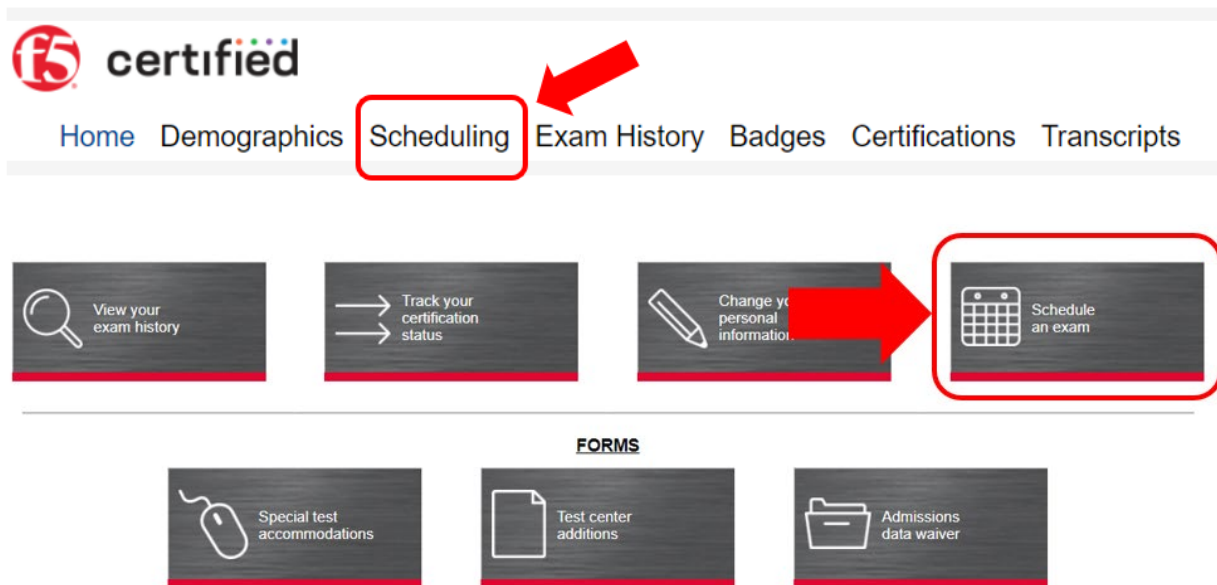
A commercially available study guide has been created for Exam 101. The book is titled *F5 Networks Application Delivery Fundamentals Study Guide* by Philip Jonsson and Steven Iverson. It is available for purchase in either hardcopy or electronic formats. Please know that the commercially available study guide was written and produced independent of the F5 Certified! Program. It may not align with the current version of the exam, although exam versioning is of minor concern for content included in Exam 101.

Scheduling the Exam

Test Centers

F5 Certified! exams are available at Pearson VUE and Prometric testing centers worldwide. To schedule an exam, simply log into your account in the [Candidate Portal](#):

1. Log in to the [Candidate Portal](#).
2. Click on the “Schedule” tab at the top of the home page, or click on the “Schedule an exam” button in the middle of the page:



3. Find the exam you wish to schedule and click the appropriate link to schedule with Pearson VUE or Prometric.



Open Exam Eligibilities ▾

Name	Code	Earliest test date	Exam Administration Ends	Schedule with Pearson VUE	Schedule with Prometric
Application Delivery Fundamentals	101	2020-Sep-10		Schedule - Pearson Vue	Schedule - Prometric

[Reschedule/Cancel at Pearson Vue](#) | [Reschedule at Prometric](#) | [Cancel at Prometric](#)

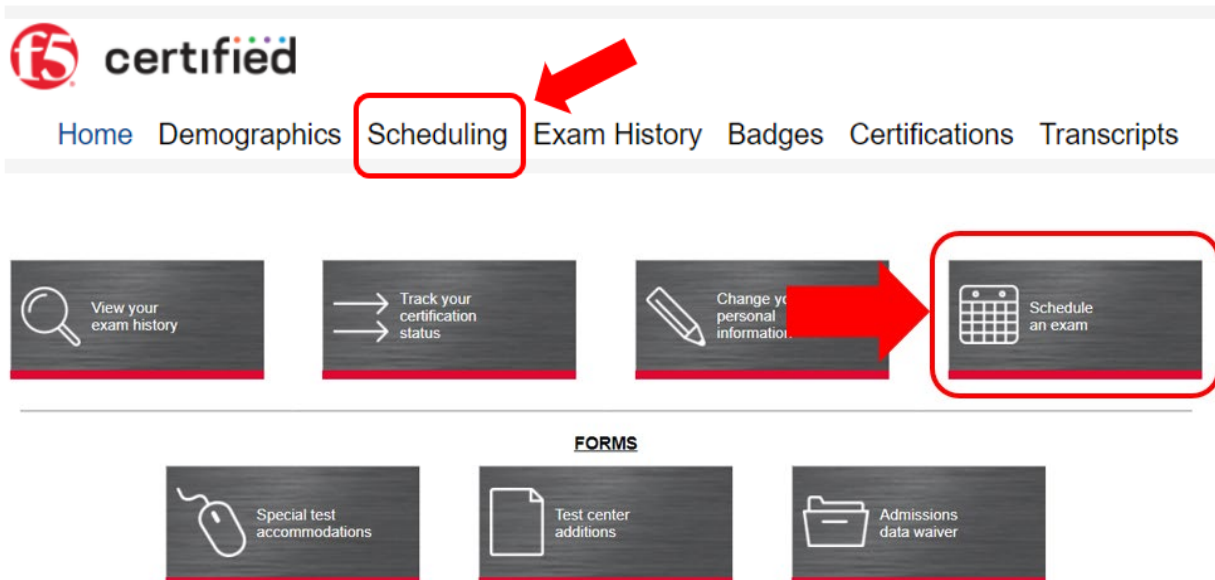
^M Manually Granted Eligibility

4. Clicking on these links will take you to the F5 Certification section of the Pearson VUE or Prometric websites without requiring any additional login or account information.
5. Follow the prompts to schedule your exam at the testing center of your choice.

Cancel or Reschedule an Exam Appointment

An existing exam appointment can be rescheduled or canceled via the [Candidate Portal](#).

1. Click on the “Scheduling” tab or click on the “Schedule an exam” button.



2. Click on the “Reschedule” or “Cancel” buttons for the appropriate exam delivery provider.
3. Follow the instructions from the exam delivery provider to complete the reschedule or cancellation.

Canceling or rescheduling an exam less than one business day before your appointment, or missing an exam appointment, may result in forfeiting your exam fees. F5 **cannot** reschedule your exam. If you need to reschedule or cancel an appointment, you must contact the delivery provider directly or log into the [Candidate Portal](#) as instructed above.

Test Center Requirements

Test center requirements are defined by [Pearson VUE](#) and [Prometric](#). Always check the test delivery provider website for up-to-date information regarding requirements for identification, conduct, and security.

You must bring two forms of valid, signed identification (ID). One must be government-issued and include a photo. The name on the ID must match the name listed on your F5 account. If it does not match, please email F5 Certified! support (support@cert.f5.com) **at least 72 hours before your exam appointment** to update your name before your exam.

Both Pearson VUE and Prometric testing facilities require a signature when checking in for an exam. Pearson VUE testing centers take a photo and palm vein scan in addition to a digital signature. The information you provide at a testing center will be treated in accordance with the [F5 Privacy Notice](#).

You may request an admissions data waiver via the [Candidate Portal](#):

1. Log into the [F5 Candidate Portal](#).
2. Click on the “Admissions data waiver” button.



3. Download and complete the Admissions Data Waiver form.
4. Send the form to support@cert.F5.com

Note: In the interest of program security and fraud prevention, you may opt-out of only one (1) of the three (3) admissions data requirements.

Locate a Test Center

Both Pearson VUE and Prometric operate secure testing centers around the world. To locate a test center near you, visit the test delivery provider website: [Pearson VUE](#), [Prometric](#).

If you live more than 55 miles/100 km from a testing center, you can request a Pearson VUE testing center closer to you. A test center request takes approximately 30 days to process and validate.

To request an additional test center:

1. Log into the [Candidate Portal](#).
2. Click on the “Test center additions” button.



3. Download and complete the form.
4. Email the form to support@cert.f5.com

Test Length and Number of Questions

Exam 101 — Application Delivery Fundamentals is 90 minutes long, with 80 multiple choice questions. Some items may include exhibits that will need to be opened and viewed before moving on to the next items. Scrolling (both vertical and horizontal) may be required before answering or moving on to the next item.

Exam Scoring

Preliminary Results

When you complete the exam, you will receive a preliminary “pass” or “fail” score report. This is only a preliminary result and is subject to change until official results are posted to your account in the F5 Candidate Portal.

When Final Results Are Available

You will receive an email notification of your final results. It could take up to 72 hours for this email to arrive. You can then log into the F5 Candidate Portal and click the “Exam History” tab to download and view your test results. It will show the percentage you answered correctly along with the required passing score.

F5 PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

NOTICE OF EXAM RESULTS

CANDIDATE:
CANDIDATE ID:
EXAM TESTING DATE: 2014-Apr-04
EXAM SCORE: 87
REQUIRED PASSING SCORE: 69
EXAM TIME SPENT: 00:45:21



CONGRATULATIONS!

You **PASSED** the exam for
Application Delivery Fundamentals (101)

Retake Policy

In the event of failing an exam one or more times, the following waiting periods apply:

- The first time you fail an exam, you must wait 15 days before taking the exam again.
- The second time, you must wait 30 days.
- The third time, you must wait 45 days.
- The fourth time, you must wait one year.
- The fifth time (or more), you must wait 90 days between retakes.

At the end of the waiting period, you will receive an email as soon as you are eligible to schedule a retake exam. Though you are required to wait the times detailed above, you can log in to Pearson VUE and schedule an exam before the end of the exam-hold period. This retake count is reset when you pass an exam.

Need Further Help?

If there are any questions or suggestions concerning the F5 Certified! Program or the content listed in this guide, please contact us at: support@cert.f5.com