Point Loma Nazarene University
Mathematical, Information and Computer Sciences
CIT3081 Cloud+ Exam Prep
1 Unit

Fall 2025
Online
Time and Place: Online and anytime
Instructor: Maria Zack, Ph.D.
Email: mzack@pointloma.edu
Office Hours: Remote only (please send an email to make an appointment)

Textbook
A **t**ext is included as an electronic copy in the course.
If students would prefer a written copy of the textbook, they may purchase one at their own expense.
CompTIA Cloud+ Study Guide: Exam CV0-004, 3rd Edition
Author: Ben Piper
Publisher: Wiley Sybex
ISBN: 978-1394333776

PLNU Mission
To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send
Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

Department Mission
 The Mathematical, Information, and Computer Sciences department at Point Loma Nazarene University is committed to maintaining a curriculum that provides its students with the tools to be productive, the passion to continue learning, and Christian perspectives to provide a basis for making sound value judgments.

Course Description
CIT 3081 is an independent study, self-paced, competency-based course designed for students who wish to prepare for the CompTIA's Tech+ certification exam. The course is intended for students who are starting in the CIT program and have completed CIT3074.
Students must complete a predetermined number of practice certification exams, assess knowledge domain deficiencies, and focus on acquiring the requisite knowledge to pass the certification exam. A faculty adviser provides support and accountability in completing the course requirements. Although the course is self-paced, all exams and quizzes must be completed on or before their listed due date. Attempting the certification exam within the assigned course time is also required. Although passing the certification exam is not required to pass this course, the certification exam results will be used to determine the final grade in the course. Students already holding a current certification for this course are not eligible to take this course.

Philosophy and Approach
Self-paced competency-based courses are designed to allow students to move through course material as quickly as they like while demonstrating a minimum level of competency on a given

topic before they are permitted to move forward in the course. The course is divided into practice quizzes and other learning activities to help prepare students in the knowledge areas for the certification exam.

Although this is a self-paced course, students must complete all quizzes, exams, and the certification exam by the dues dates listed. **25 points will be deducted from the final score for each due date missed**. In addition, students must attempt the certification exam at least once by the end of week 15. Once students attempt the certification exam, no additional work in the course is required. However, if the student did not pass the certification exam on their first attempt, they can continue to study and retake the exam to improve their grade in the course until the end of week 16. Points will be deducted from the student's overall grade if minimum progress is not made each week. However, students are encouraged to move as quickly as possible and complete all course requirements before the 16-week time limit.

Objectives
The course is designed to help you:
- Acquire and reinforce knowledge and develop an understanding of the conceptual foundations of Cloud Computing.
- Prepare for and take the CompTIA Cloud+ certification exam.

Course Learning Outcomes
1. Students will be able to describe various Cloud Architectures.
2. Students will be able to identify and describe Cloud Security practices.
3. Students will be able to implement various Cloud Deployment strategies and tactics.
4. Students will be able to describe and implement Cloud Operations and Support.
5. Students will be able to describe and implement Cloud Troubleshooting methods.

Program Learning Outcomes
Graduates will have a coherent and broad-based knowledge of the discipline of Computer Information Technology.
1. Students will be able to identify and evaluate information technology infrastructure necessary to meet an organization's business needs.
2. Students will be able to develop, plan, and evaluate appropriate processes for managing information systems and information technology projects.
3. Students will be able to design, develop, and evaluate software solutions to meet an organization's business needs.
4. Students will be able to apply their technical knowledge to solve problems.
5. Students will be able to speak about their work with precision, clarity, and organization (Oral Communication).
6. Students will be able to write about their work with precision, clarity, and organization (Written Communication).
7. Students will collaborate effectively in teams.
8. Students will be able to identify, locate, evaluate, and effectively and responsibly use and cite information for the task at hand (Information Literacy).
9. Students will be able to gather relevant information, examine information, and form a conclusion based on that information (Critical Thinking).
10. Students will be able to understand and create arguments supported by quantitative evidence, and they can clearly communicate those arguments in various formats (Quantitative Reasoning).
11. Students will understand the professional, ethical, legal, security, and social issues and responsibilities with the implementation and use of information technology.

12. Computer Information Technology graduates will be adequately prepared for entry into graduate school or jobs in the computing profession.

Needed Supplies
Students will need access to a computer, a high-speed internet connection, Microsoft Word, and the ability to create PDF documents or screen capture images.
Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law. All supplemental materials posted on this course site (including articles, book excerpts, or other documents) are provided for your personal academic use. These materials may be protected by copyright law and should not be duplicated or distributed without permission of the copyright owner.

Course Credit Hour Information
In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 1-unit class delivered over 14 weeks. It is anticipated that students will spend a minimum of 37.5 participation hours per credit hour on their coursework. For this course, students will spend an estimated 38 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes. The time estimations are provided below.

Knowledge Domain Review	20
Practice Exams	12
Certification Exams	6
TOTAL	**38**

Tests and Learning Activities
All chapter tests, practice exams, and learning activities can be redone as often as needed to achieve the desired score. A minimum score of 80 on all practice exams is required to pass the course if a passing score on the certification exam is not achieved.

Final
The final exam in the course is the CompTIA Cloud+ certification exam. All students are required to attempt the certification at least once before the end of week 15. The cost of the first attempt is included as part of this course. Students may retake the certification exam if they do not pass on their first attempt but must pay for any subsequent attempts.

Assessment and Grading
Students must earn 60% or more in the course to earn a passing grade of "D-".
Your grade for the course is based on the points earned by the following criteria at the end of the course:
- Certification exam score of 750 or more and the exam – 1000 points (100% or "A")
- Certification exam score between 650 and 749 and practice exams complete with 80+ - 860 points (86% or "B")
- Certification exam score between 550 and 649 and practice exams complete with 80+ - 760 points (76% or "C")
- Certification exam score between 450 and 549 and practice exams complete with 80+ - 660 points (66% or "D")

- Certification exam score below 450 or all quizzes and exams not complete with 80+ - zero points (0% or "F")

Grading Scale

The grading scale for the course, in percentages of the maximum points in class is:
- A = 92.50 - 100%
- A- = 90.00 - 92.49%
- B+ = 87.50 - 89.99%
- B = 82.50 - 87.49%
- B- = 80.00 - 82.49%
- C+ = 77.50 - 79.99%
- C = 72.50 - 77.49%
- C- = 70.00 - 72.49%
- D+ = 67.50 - 69.99%
- D = 62.50 - 66.49%
- D- 60.00 - 62.49%
- F = 0 - 59.99%

Note: 25 points will be deducted from a student's overall point total for each assignment completed after the listed due date.

10 points per day will be deducted for each day the exam appointment confirmation and exam result is not submitted.

Incompletes and Late Assignments

There is a point deduction penalty for assignments not completed by their respective due dates. Practice exams and the post-assessment exam must be passed with a score of 80% or more before their due dates.

State Authorization

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on State Authorization to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini Pro 1.5, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc) to generate ideas, but you are not allowed to use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any work submitted to be graded for this course. If you have any doubts about using AI, please gain permission from the instructor.

PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2533).

Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. Professors are able to view a student's approved accommodations through Accommodate.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course. Accommodations are not retroactive so clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to ensure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any accommodations.

Certification Exam Accommodations
Students wishing to receive accommodations for the official CompTIA certification exam must contact PearsonVue and request the accommodation through PersonVue at Pearson's Test AccommodationsLinks to an external site.. This process can take several weeks, so students must begin the process early to seek an accommodation. The university can not assist in the CompTIA accommodation request; it is the student's responsibility to apply directly with PersonVue and provide the required paperwork.

PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy
Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. Therefore, regular attendance and participation in each course are minimal requirements.

If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an "F" grade.

Students who anticipate being absent for an entire week of a course should contact the instructor in advance for approval and make arrangements to complete the required coursework and/or alternative assignments assigned at the discretion of the instructor. Acceptance of late work is at the discretion of the instructor and does not waive attendance requirements.
Refer to Academic PoliciesLinks to an external site. for additional details.

Synchronous Attendance/Participation Definition
For synchronous courses that have specific scheduled meeting times (including in-person, hybrid, and synchronous online courses), absences are counted from the first official meeting of the class regardless of the date of the student's enrollment. For courses with specific attendance requirements, those requirements are outlined in the course syllabus.
Note: For synchronous courses with an online asynchronous week, refer to the Online Asynchronous Class Attendance policy listed below.
Online Asynchronous Attendance/Participation Definition

Students taking online courses with no specific scheduled meeting times are expected to actively engage throughout each week of the course. Attendance is defined as participating in an academic activity within the online classroom which includes, but is not limited to:
- Engaging in an online discussion
- Submitting an assignment
- Taking an exam
- Participating in online labs
- Initiating contact with a faculty member within the learning management system to discuss course content

Note: Logging into the course does not qualify as participation and will not be counted as meeting the attendance requirement.

E-mail and Messages

It is expected that students regularly use email. The instructor will periodically send you information and updates via e-mail and/or via Canvas. In the first week of class, you **must** activate your PLNU e-mail account if you are not currently using it. Please send questions about specific problems or course details to the instructor by posting them in Canvas so that all members of the class can see the response.

Additional Syllabus Information

Additional PLNU policies and practices that apply to this course can be found HERE.

Assignments-at-a-Glance

The course summary below lists our assignments and their due dates. Click on any assignment to review it.

Date	Details	Due
Sun Sep 7, 2025	Assignment Pre-Assessment Exam	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 5, 2025	Assignment Practice Exam A	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 19, 2025	Assignment Practice Exam B	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 9, 2025	Assignment Practice Exam C	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 23, 2025	Assignment Post Assessment Exam	due by 11:59pm
Tue Nov 25, 2025	Assignment Exam Appointment Confirmation - Cloud+	due by 11:59pm
Sun Dec 14, 2025	Assignment Certification Exam Results	due by 11:59pm
Sun Dec 21, 2025	Assignment Official Course Evaluation	due by 11:59pm