

SITE RELIABILITY ENGINEERING

Get the SRE Jobs Pathway

Your complete route into a reliability career — a full role-to-module map across 5 SRE careers, a structured 10-week pathway, the complete 7-module syllabus with hands-on activities, exam details, and the GSDC job-support package.

5 SRE Careers Mapped

10-Week Pathway

7 Modules + LBDs

Exam & Certificate

Job-Support Package

INTRODUCTION

From skills to a reliability job — by design

Site Reliability Engineering blends software engineering with IT operations to keep systems resilient, automated, and always available. It's one of the fastest-growing roles in tech — but breaking in takes more than theory. This pathway connects what you learn directly to the jobs you want.

The GSDC SRE Jobs Pathway maps five real career destinations to the exact modules that prepare you for them, sequences your learning across ten focused weeks, and backs it with hands-on activities and a job-support package — so the credential turns into interviews and offers.

5

SRE careers mapped to modules

10

Weeks from start to certified

7

Core modules with hands-on LBDs

What makes this a pathway, not just a course

Role-aligned

Every module is mapped to the SRE careers it unlocks, so you learn with a destination in mind.

Time-boxed

A 10-week plan turns "someday" into a schedule you can actually finish.

Job-ready

Hands-on activities, interview practice, and job support bridge learning to hiring.

WHERE THIS PATHWAY LEADS

5 SRE careers you can target

SRE skills open more than one door. The pathway prepares you for five connected, high-demand career destinations — each building on the same reliability foundation.

#	Career	What you'd own
1	Site Reliability Engineer	Service reliability end-to-end — SLOs, automation, incident response.
2	DevOps Engineer	CI/CD pipelines and delivery velocity backed by reliability practices.
3	Cloud Reliability Engineer	Scalable, resilient cloud-native systems across AWS, Azure, or GCP.
4	Observability / Monitoring Engineer	SLIs, dashboards, tracing and alerting that reveal true system health.
5	AIOps / AI Reliability Engineer	ML-driven detection, autonomous remediation, and AI-service reliability.

One foundation

All five roles share core SRE principles — learn once, branch many ways.

Lateral mobility

Move between roles as your interests and the market evolve.

Upward mobility

Each role has a clear ladder toward senior and leadership positions.

On the next pages you'll see exactly which of the seven modules matter most for each of these careers — the role-to-module map.

WHAT EMPLOYERS SCREEN FOR

The skills behind every SRE job

Across all five careers, hiring managers look for a common core of technical and human skills. The pathway builds these deliberately, module by module.

Skill area	Why it matters on the job
Programming (Python, Go, Java)	Automate manual work and build internal tooling at scale.
Linux / Unix administration	Most production systems run here — configure, troubleshoot, optimize.
Infrastructure as Code (Terraform, Ansible)	Provision consistent, version-controlled, repeatable environments.
Containers & orchestration (Docker, Kubernetes)	Deploy, scale and manage services reliably across clusters.
Cloud platforms (AWS, Azure, GCP)	Design and operate scalable, distributed cloud systems.
Monitoring (Prometheus, Grafana, Datadog)	Gain real-time visibility and proactive alerting.
Incident management & RCA	Mitigate outages calmly and fix root causes for good.

Don't forget the human skills

Communication

Coordinate cleanly during incidents and across Dev/Ops teams.

Decisions under pressure

Stay calm and methodical when services are degraded.

Collaboration

Lead blameless postmortems and shared reliability ownership.

ROLE-TO-MODULE MAPPING

Which modules power which career

This is the heart of the pathway. Every one of the seven modules contributes to all five careers — but the emphasis differs. Use the map to see where to focus for your target role.

Module	SRE	DevOps	Cloud Rel.	Observ.	AIOps
1 · SRE Principles & Practices	●	●	●	●	●
2 · SLOs & Error Budgets	●	○	●	●	●
3 · Reducing Toil	●	●	○	○	●
4 · Monitoring & SLIs	●	○	●	●	●
5 · SRE Tools & Automation	●	●	●	○	●
6 · Anti-Fragility & Failure	●	○	●	●	●
7 · Organizational Impact	●	○	○	○	○

● Core focus for the role ○ Supporting knowledge

★ PATHWAY OFFER

Found your role? Earn the credential that fits it

Map your target SRE career to the modules above, then enroll in the GSDC SRE certification pathway and start building exactly the skills that role demands.

[Start the Pathway →](#)

ROLE DEEP DIVE · PART 1 OF 2

Site Reliability Engineer & DevOps Engineer

1 Site Reliability Engineer

Owns reliability end-to-end: defines SLOs and error budgets, automates toil, runs incidents, and balances release velocity with stability.

Core modules: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 (full spectrum). **Key skills:** SLOs/SLIs, automation, incident response, observability.

2 DevOps Engineer

Builds and maintains CI/CD pipelines and delivery automation, applying reliability practices so speed never compromises stability.

Core modules: 1, 3, 5 (principles, toil reduction, automation). **Key skills:** IaC, pipelines, configuration management, collaboration.

How the modules show up day-to-day

On the job	Backed by module
Define and defend service objectives	2 · SLOs & Error Budgets
Automate deployments and routine ops	5 · Tools & Automation
Cut repetitive manual work	3 · Reducing Toil
Lead incident response & postmortems	6 · Anti-Fragility

Both roles start from the same Module 1 foundation — which is why professionals move fluidly between SRE and DevOps positions.

ROLE DEEP DIVE · PART 2 OF 2

Cloud, Observability & AIOps roles

3 Cloud Reliability Engineer

Designs resilient cloud-native systems at scale. **Core modules:** 1, 2, 4, 5, 6. **Key skills:** AWS/Azure/GCP, Kubernetes, IaC, failover design.

4 Observability / Monitoring Engineer

Instruments systems so health is measurable. **Core modules:** 1, 2, 4, 6. **Key skills:** SLIs, golden signals, Prometheus/Grafana, alerting.

5 AIOps / AI Reliability Engineer

Applies ML to detection and remediation, and keeps AI services reliable. **Core modules:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Key skills:** observability, automation, anomaly detection, AI governance.

50% OFF

Train for any of these five careers — for less

One pathway prepares you for all five SRE roles. Claim 50% off the GSDC SRE certification and build the skill set hiring managers are competing for.

[Claim 50% Off →](#)

THE 10-WEEK PATHWAY · PART 1 OF 2

Your first five weeks

A focused, week-by-week plan takes you from reliability fundamentals to working knowledge of automation — each week pairing a module with hands-on practice.

- WEEK 1** **Onboarding & SRE Principles**
Module 1 — what SRE is, SRE vs DevOps, the reliability mindset. Set up your learning plan and target role.
- WEEK 2** **SLOs & Error Budgets**
Module 2 — define SLAs, SLOs and error-budget policies. LBD: draft an objective set for a sample service.
- WEEK 3** **Reducing Toil**
Module 3 — identify, measure and eliminate toil. LBD: audit a workflow and score its toil.
- WEEK 4** **Monitoring & SLIs**
Module 4 — the four golden signals, observability vs monitoring. LBD: map signals to a dashboard.
- WEEK 5** **SRE Tools & Automation**
Module 5 — IaC, CI/CD, self-healing. LBD: design an automation that removes a toil source.

Pace yourself
Roughly one module per week — manageable alongside a full-time job.

Practice as you go
Each week's Learn-by-Doing activity locks in the concept immediately.

THE 10-WEEK PATHWAY · PART 2 OF 2

From mastery to certified & hireable

WEEK
6**Anti-Fragility & Failure**

Module 6 — blameless postmortems, incident management, chaos basics. LBD: run a simulated incident.

WEEK
7**Organizational Impact**

Module 7 — SRE culture, team models, adoption. LBD: build an SRE adoption roadmap.

WEEK
8**Capstone & consolidation**

Bring it together in an end-to-end reliability capstone and complete remaining LBDs.

WEEK
9**Exam prep & interview practice**

Practice exams to the passing threshold, 1-on-1 SME sessions, and mock interviews.

WEEK
10**Certify & activate job support**

Sit the proctored exam, earn your credential, and switch on LinkedIn, resume and job-support help.

 LIMITED TIME

Ten weeks from today, you could be certified

The next cohort window is open for a limited time. Enroll in the GSDC SRE certification pathway now and start week one without delay.

[Secure My Place →](#)

COMPLETE 7-MODULE SYLLABUS · PART 1 OF 2

The full curriculum

1 SRE Principles & Practices

- What is Site Reliability Engineering
- SRE vs. DevOps
- Core SRE principles
- Embracing & managing risk
- The role of an SRE
- Reliability as a feature

2 Service Level Objectives & Error Budgets

- SLAs, SLOs & SLIs
- Defining meaningful objectives
- Error budgets & purpose
- Error budget policies
- Reliability vs. velocity
- Measuring success

3 Reducing Toil

- What is toil
- Identifying toil
- The cost of toil
- Eliminating toil via automation
- Toil-reduction strategies
- Measuring reduction

4 Monitoring & Service Level Indicators

- Monitoring fundamentals
- The four golden signals
- Service Level Indicators
- Observability vs. monitoring
- Alerting & on-call health
- Dashboards & metrics

COMPLETE 7-MODULE SYLLABUS · PART 2 OF 2

Automation, resilience & adoption

5 SRE Tools & Automation

- Automation principles
- Infrastructure as Code
- CI/CD & release engineering
- Configuration management
- Self-healing systems
- Tooling landscape

6 Anti-Fragility & Learning from Failure

- Designing for failure
- Blameless postmortems
- Incident management
- Chaos engineering basics
- Anti-fragile systems
- Continuous improvement

7 Organizational Impact & Adopting SRE

- Building an SRE culture
- Team models & engagement
- Psychological safety
- Measuring SRE success
- Scaling SRE
- Adoption roadmap

48 HOURS ONLY

Your offer is valid for the next 48 hours

Get the complete 7-module pathway — every module, every hands-on activity, and full job support. Enroll before the 48-hour window closes.

[Enroll Within 48h →](#)

ALL HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

Learn-by-Doing (LBD) index

Every module is paired with hands-on activities so you build job-ready skill, not just exam recall. These LBDs also become talking points in interviews.

#	Hands-on activity (LBD)	Module
01	Draft an SLA / SLO / SLI set for a sample service	2
02	Calculate and allocate an error budget	2
03	Audit a workflow to identify and score toil	3
04	Design an automation to remove a toil source	5
05	Map the four golden signals to a dashboard	4
06	Tune alerting to reduce noise & on-call fatigue	4
07	Run a simulated incident-response exercise	6
08	Write a blameless postmortem from a scenario	6
09	Plan a basic chaos-engineering experiment	6
10	Build an SRE adoption roadmap for a team	7
11	Capstone: end-to-end reliability plan	All

Portfolio-ready

Completed LBDs give you concrete work to show interviewers.

Scenario-based

Activities mirror real production situations you'll face on the job.

EXAM FORMAT, PASSING SCORE & VALIDITY

How the certification exam works

40

Multiple-choice questions

60 min

Total exam duration

Lifetime

Credential validity

Exam attribute	Detail
Question type	Multiple-choice (knowledge & scenario-based)
Number of questions	40
Duration	60 minutes (extra time may apply for non-native English speakers)
Passing score	Approximately 65–70%
Delivery	Online, remotely proctored, closed book
Attempts	2 attempts (1 free retake included)
Validity	Lifetime — no renewal or recertification fees
Result	Recognized credential with a unique certification ID

Exam parameters reflect the standard SRE Foundation format; confirm current specifics at enrollment, as details may be updated by the certification body.

★ EXAM-READY

Walk into the exam with confidence

The pathway includes practice exams, a free retake, and 1-on-1 SME sessions. Enroll in the GSDC SRE certification and prepare the proven way.

[Enroll & Prepare →](#)

SAMPLE CERTIFICATE

What you'll earn

Complete the pathway and pass the exam to receive a globally recognized, verifiable certificate and digital badge — proof of reliability expertise you can show employers and add to LinkedIn.



Verifiable

A unique certification ID lets employers confirm your credential instantly.

Shareable badge

Add a digital badge to LinkedIn, resumes and email signatures.

Lifetime validity

No expiry, no renewal fees — earn it once, keep it for good.

Illustration only. Final certificate design, wording, and seal are issued by GSDC.

SALARY GUIDE

What SRE careers pay

SRE consistently ranks among the better-paid engineering tracks because reliability directly protects revenue. Pay rises steadily as you progress along the pathway.

\$120K–\$170K

Typical US average SRE range

\$210K+

Lead / Principal SRE upper range

Global

Demand across many industries

Career stage	Indicative annual range (US)
Entry-level SRE	\$80,000 – \$110,000
Mid-level SRE	\$110,000 – \$145,000
Senior SRE	\$145,000 – \$185,000+
Lead / Principal SRE	\$170,000 – \$210,000+

Indicative US ranges per GSDC's SRE career analysis and public 2025 estimates. Pay varies by location, employer, experience, and skills; tech hubs trend higher.

50% OFF

Invest once, earn the difference for years

A recognized credential helps you compete for higher salary bands. Get the GSDC SRE certification at 50% off and put the pathway to work.

Get 50% Off →

CAREER ROADMAP

From entry-level to reliability leadership

The SRE career path typically starts from a systems or DevOps background and climbs through hands-on engineering into strategy and leadership. The certification is your accelerant at the start of this ladder.

- START** **SysAdmin / DevOps background**
Foundational experience with infrastructure, automation, and operations.
- 01** **Junior / Associate SRE**
Hands-on with automation, monitoring, and cloud infrastructure under guidance.
- 02** **Mid-level SRE**
Own services, define SLOs, drive reliability and automation improvements.
- 03** **Senior SRE**
Lead architecture and reliability strategy; mentor and shape standards.
- 04** **Principal SRE**
Set technical direction and design resilience across the organization.
- 05** **SRE Manager / Head of Reliability**
Own reliability policy, team growth, and resilience across the enterprise.

Keep advancing

After the Foundation pathway, the **GSDC Certified SRE Practitioner** deepens expertise in designing, implementing and maintaining reliable, scalable systems — the natural next credential on this ladder.

AI GOVERNANCE & RELIABILITY ROLES

The AIOps frontier

Teams now integrate AI for predictive reliability and autonomous remediation — and someone must keep AI-powered systems trustworthy, observable, and accountable. SRE skills are the foundation for this fast-emerging family of roles.

Emerging role	Focus
AIOps Engineer	ML-driven detection, prediction, and auto-resolution of incidents.
ML Platform SRE	Reliable model-training and inference pipelines at scale.
AI Reliability Engineer	SLOs for AI services — latency, availability, accuracy drift.
AI Governance & Compliance Lead	AI systems that meet reliability, safety & regulatory standards.
Observability Engineer (AI)	Instrumenting AI so behavior stays measurable and auditable.

Why your SRE foundation transfers

- ✓ **Measurable objectives** — SLO/SLI discipline extends to AI guarantees.
- ✓ **Observability first** — governing AI needs the instrumentation SRE teaches.
- ✓ **Automation with guardrails** — autonomous remediation needs SRE safety controls.

★ ENROLLMENT OPEN

Position yourself for AI-era reliability roles

AIOps and AI-governance careers start with SRE fundamentals. Enrollment is open now — join the GSDC SRE certification pathway and get ahead of the shift.

Reserve My Spot →

HIRING TRENDS

Where the SRE jobs are

As companies shift to cloud-native architectures and real-time services, demand for SRE roles keeps climbing — and it has spread far beyond big tech.

Industries hiring SREs

- Big Tech
- Finance & Banking
- Healthcare
- E-commerce
- Telecom
- SaaS & Cloud
- Startups
- Gaming & Streaming

Trend	What it means for you
Cloud-native & real-time services	Reliability skills are needed on nearly every platform team.
Startups building resilient early	More entry points for newly certified engineers.
AI Ops & observability growth	New, higher-value specializations opening up.
Global, remote-friendly hiring	English fluency + cloud + SRE skills travel across borders.

Credential = visibility

A recognized certification helps recruiters find you faster.

Choose your scale

Thrive in a global enterprise or build reliability from scratch in a startup.

48 HOURS ONLY

Demand is rising — claim your offer in 48 hours

Position yourself for in-demand SRE jobs now. Enroll in the GSDC SRE certification pathway before this 48-hour offer expires.

[Claim Within 48h →](#)

THE GSDC JOB-SUPPORT PACKAGE

Built to get you hired, not just certified

Your enrollment includes a full job-support package that bridges learning to landing the role.

1-on-1 SME Connect

Personalized sessions with practitioners who run reliable systems at scale.

Interview practice

Mock interviews and an interview-practice platform to sharpen your answers.

Capstone & practice exams

Portfolio-ready project plus practice tests to confirm you're ready.

LinkedIn & resume

Profile enhancer and resume builder so recruiters find you faster.

Job-support program

Guidance to convert your credential into interviews and offers.

GSDC membership

A global community of certified professionals across industries.

Confidence built in

- ✓ **2 exam attempts** — a free retake reduces exam-day pressure.
- ✓ **Money-back guarantee** on eligible enrollments.
- ✓ **Verifiable badge** and unique certification ID to share.

 **FINAL 48 HOURS**

Last call — your offer expires soon

This is the final window. Enroll in the GSDC SRE certification pathway within 48 hours and unlock the full job-support package.

[Enroll Before It Ends →](#)

YOUR NEXT STEP

Start the SRE Jobs Pathway

You've seen the five careers, the role-to-module map, the 10-week plan, the syllabus, the activities, and the payoff. The reliable next move is simple — begin.

How it works

- 01** **Enroll & pick your role**
Choose your target SRE career and start the 10-week pathway online.
- 02** **Learn & practice**
Work the modules and hands-on LBDs week by week, with live sessions.
- 03** **Certify**
Sit the online proctored exam — with a free retake if needed.
- 04** **Get hired**
Activate LinkedIn, resume, interview practice, and job support.

Ready to turn reliability skills into a reliability career?

Start the GSDC SRE Jobs Pathway and join 75,000+ professionals who chose a globally recognized credential.

[Start the Pathway →](#)

Global Skill Development Council
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Lewes, Delaware, USA
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