

SITE RELIABILITY ENGINEERING

Get the SRE Pathway

A personalized route into a reliability career — four persona pathways, a focused 10-week roadmap, real-world career-switcher journeys, the complete GSDC SRE syllabus with 12 hands-on activities, and exam details.

4 Persona Pathways

10-Week Roadmap

7 Modules · 12 Activities

Career-Switcher Stories

Exam & Certificate

INTRODUCTION

One destination, four starting points

Site Reliability Engineering blends software engineering with operations to keep systems resilient and always-available. It's one of the most future-proof roles in tech — but everyone arrives from a different place. This pathway meets you where you are.

Whether you're switching careers, coming from DevOps, running systems today, or writing code, the GSDC SRE Pathway maps a personalized route to the same goal: a recognized credential and a reliability career. The same seven modules; a different emphasis for each persona.



How the pathway personalizes

- Start where you are**
Pick the persona that fits your background and follow its emphasis.
- Focus what matters**
Each persona highlights the modules that close its specific gaps.
- Arrive job-ready**
Hands-on activities and job support turn learning into offers.

FIND YOUR STARTING POINT

Which pathway is yours?

Four personas cover the most common routes into SRE. Find the one that sounds like you — the detailed pathways follow on the next pages.

Persona	You are...	Target outcome
P1 · Career Switcher	Moving in from QA, support, or another field	Junior / Associate SRE
P2 · DevOps Engineer	Building pipelines & automation already	Site Reliability Engineer
P3 · SysAdmin / IT Ops	Running systems and operations today	SRE / Cloud Reliability Eng.
P4 · Software Developer	Strong at coding, new to operations	SRE with a developer edge

What every persona shares

All four build the same reliability core — SLOs and error budgets, observability, toil reduction, automation, incident response, and SRE culture. The difference is where each spends more time to close their specific gaps.

Common foundation

Module 1 grounds everyone in SRE principles and the reliability mindset.

Personalized emphasis

Each pathway flags the modules that matter most for that background.

THE COMMON CORE

Skills every pathway builds

Whatever your starting point, these are the skills hiring managers look for. The pathway develops them deliberately, module by module.

Skill area	Why it matters
Programming (Python, Go, Java)	Automate manual work and build internal tooling.
Linux / Unix administration	Operate the platforms production runs on.
Infrastructure as Code (Terraform, Ansible)	Provision consistent, repeatable environments.
Containers & Kubernetes	Deploy and scale services reliably.
Cloud platforms (AWS, Azure, GCP)	Design distributed, scalable systems.
Monitoring (Prometheus, Grafana, Datadog)	Gain visibility and proactive alerting.
Incident management & RCA	Mitigate outages and fix root causes.

Plus the human skills

Communication

Coordinate cleanly during incidents and across teams.

Calm under pressure

Stay methodical when services degrade.

Collaboration

Lead blameless reviews and shared ownership.

PERSONA PATHWAY · 1 OF 4

The Career Switcher

P1

The Career Switcher

QA · Support · Other field → Junior / Associate SRE

STARTING POINT

Limited production-ops experience but eager to break in. You need vocabulary, fundamentals, and a portfolio that proves capability.

WHERE TO FOCUS

Build the base first, then layer on practice. Lean heavily on SME sessions and every hands-on activity.

PRIORITY MODULES

1 · Principles 2 · SLOs 4 · Monitoring then 3 · 5 · 6 · 7

- ✓ **Win early** by mastering SRE vocabulary and the reliability mindset in Module 1.
- ✓ **Build proof** — complete all 12 activities to create a portfolio from scratch.
- ✓ **Use support** — SME sessions, interview practice, and resume help close the gap fastest.

★ RELATED

New to the field? This is your on-ramp

No SRE background needed to start. Enroll in the GSDC SRE certification and follow the Career-Switcher pathway from fundamentals to a job-ready portfolio.

[Start My Pathway →](#)

PERSONA PATHWAY · 2 OF 4

The DevOps Engineer

P2

The DevOps Engineer

CI/CD & automation → Site Reliability Engineer

STARTING POINT

You already ship with pipelines and automation. What's missing is the reliability framing: objectives, error budgets, and incident discipline.

PRIORITY MODULES

2 · SLOs 6 · Anti-Fragility 7 · Org Impact reinforce 3 · 5

WHERE TO FOCUS

Add the measurement and resilience layers that distinguish SRE from DevOps; reinforce what you know.

- ✓ **Reframe delivery** around SLOs and error budgets, not just deployment speed.
- ✓ **Level up incidents** — blameless postmortems and anti-fragility thinking.
- ✓ **Move laterally** — a fast, natural step from DevOps into a reliability-focused SRE role.

Build on strengths

Your automation skills transfer directly — Modules 3 & 5 reinforce them.

Close the gap

Modules 2, 6 & 7 add the reliability discipline employers expect of SREs.

PERSONA PATHWAY · 3 OF 4

The SysAdmin / IT Ops Pro

P3

The SysAdmin / IT Ops Pro

Systems & operations – SRE / Cloud Reliability Engineer

STARTING POINT

You keep systems running today. The shift is from manual operations to an engineering-and-automation mindset that scales.

PRIORITY MODULES

1 · Principles 3 · Reducing Toil 5 · Automation then 2 · 4

WHERE TO FOCUS

Replace repetitive ops with code; learn to measure reliability and treat operations as a software problem.

- ✓ **Automate the toil** you already know — Module 3 turns daily pain into engineering wins.
- ✓ **Adopt IaC** — Module 5 modernizes how you provision and manage systems.
- ✓ **Measure reliability** — Modules 2 & 4 add the objectives and observability layer.

50% OFF

Modernize your ops career — for less

Turn hands-on systems experience into an engineering-driven SRE role. Get the GSDC SRE certification at 50% off and follow the IT-Ops pathway.

Claim 50% Off →

PERSONA PATHWAY · 4 OF 4

The Software Developer

P4

The Software Developer

Strong coding → SRE with a developer edge / Platform Engineer

STARTING POINT

You write solid code but haven't owned production reliability. The pathway adds the operations, observability, and incident skills.

PRIORITY MODULES

4 · Monitoring 6 · Incidents 2 · SLOs then 1 · 3 · 5 · 7

WHERE TO FOCUS

Apply your engineering instinct to reliability: instrument systems, define objectives, and lead incidents.

- ✓ **Make services observable** — Module 4 adds the production visibility developers often lack.
- ✓ **Own incidents** — Module 6 builds response and postmortem discipline.
- ✓ **Think in objectives** — Module 2's SLOs reframe "done" as "reliable in production."

Coding is your edge

Automation and tooling come naturally — lean into Modules 3 & 5.

Add the ops half

Monitoring, SLOs, and incidents complete the SRE skill set.

THE 10-WEEK ROADMAP · PART 1 OF 2

Your first five weeks

Whatever persona you follow, the roadmap shares one cadence — roughly a module per week, each paired with a hands-on activity. Adjust emphasis to your starting point.

WEEK
1

Onboarding & SRE Principles

Module 1 — what SRE is, SRE vs DevOps, the reliability mindset. Pick your persona and plan.

WEEK
2

SLOs & Error Budgets

Module 2 — objectives and error-budget policies. Activity: draft an SLA/SLO/SLI set.

WEEK
3

Reducing Toil

Module 3 — identify and eliminate toil. Activity: audit a workflow and score its toil.

WEEK
4

Monitoring & SLIs

Module 4 — golden signals and observability. Activity: map signals to a dashboard.

WEEK
5

SRE Tools & Automation

Module 5 — IaC, CI/CD, self-healing. Activity: design a toil-removal automation.

 LIMITED TIME

Ten weeks from today, you could be certified

The roadmap works for any starting point. Enroll in the GSDC SRE certification while this limited-time offer lasts and begin week one.

[Secure My Place →](#)

THE 10-WEEK ROADMAP · PART 2 OF 2

From mastery to certified

WEEK
6

Anti-Fragility & Failure

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

WEEK
7

Organizational Impact

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

WEEK
8

Capstone & consolidation

Assemble an end-to-end reliability capstone and finish remaining activities.

WEEK
9

Exam prep & interview practice

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

WEEK
10

Certify & activate job support

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

Flexible by persona

Switchers spend longer on early weeks; DevOps pros accelerate where they're strong.

Built for working pros


One module a week is manageable alongside a full-time job.

CAREER-SWITCHER JOURNEYS

From one career to reliability

These illustrative journeys show how each persona can move into SRE. They represent typical paths the pathway is designed to support.

Maya · Support Analyst → Junior SRE ILLUSTRATIVE · P1		
BEFORE Tier-2 support, strong troubleshooting, no SRE vocabulary or portfolio.	PATHWAY Focused weeks 1–4 on principles, SLOs, and monitoring; finished all 12 activities.	AFTER Landed a Junior SRE role with a 12-piece portfolio and the credential.
Dan · DevOps Engineer → SRE ILLUSTRATIVE · P2		
BEFORE Owned CI/CD but measured success by deploys, not reliability.	PATHWAY Emphasized SLOs, anti-fragility, and org impact; reinforced automation.	AFTER Moved laterally into an SRE role owning service objectives.
Priya · SysAdmin → Cloud Reliability Eng. ILLUSTRATIVE · P3		
BEFORE Years of manual operations; growing toil and on-call fatigue.	PATHWAY Leaned into toil reduction and IaC; automated recurring tasks.	AFTER Stepped into a cloud reliability role built on automation.

 48 HOURS ONLY

Write your own SRE switch story

Journeys like these start with one decision. Enroll in the GSDC SRE certification before this 48-hour offer closes and begin yours.

[Enroll Within 48h →](#)

COMPLETE GSDC SRE SYLLABUS · PART 1 OF 2

The 7-module 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 GSDC SRE 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

★ RELATED

One syllabus, your personalized path

Whatever your persona, these seven modules get you there. Enroll in the GSDC SRE certification and follow the route that fits you.

[Get Certified →](#)

12 LEARN-BY-DOING ACTIVITIES

Hands-on, portfolio-building work

Twelve activities turn theory into job-ready skill — and each produces a deliverable you keep for your portfolio and interviews.

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

Portfolio-ready

Completed activities give every persona proof to show interviewers.

Especially for switchers

For P1, this portfolio replaces years of on-the-job evidence.

SALARY GUIDE

What the pathway pays toward

SRE is one of the better-paid engineering tracks because reliability protects revenue. Pay climbs steadily as you progress from your starting persona toward senior roles.

\$120K–\$170K

Typical US average SRE range

\$210K+

Lead / Principal SRE upper range

+20–40%

Total comp uplift from bonus & equity

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 aggregated from public 2025–2026 sources (Glassdoor, Built In, Payscale and GSDC analysis). Pay varies by location, employer, experience and skills.

50% OFF

Invest once, earn the difference for years

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

Get 50% Off →

CAREER ROADMAP

Where each persona is heading

All four pathways converge on the same ladder. Here's the journey from your first SRE role to reliability leadership.

- START** **Your persona's entry role**
Junior/Associate SRE, lateral SRE, or developer-edge SRE depending on your path.
- 01** **Site Reliability Engineer**
Own services, define SLOs, drive automation and reliability work.
- 02** **Senior SRE**
Lead incidents and architecture; mentor and set standards.
- 03** **Staff / Principal SRE**
Set technical direction; design resilience across teams.
- 04** **SRE Manager / Head of Reliability**
Own reliability strategy, headcount, and culture enterprise-wide.

Keep advancing

After Foundation, the **GSDC Certified SRE Practitioner** deepens expertise for the senior and principal stages — the natural next credential on this ladder.

AI GOVERNANCE & RELIABILITY ROLES

Where the pathway can take you next

AI is reshaping reliability. Teams now use ML for detection and autonomous remediation — and a new family of high-demand roles keeps those AI systems reliable and governed. Your SRE foundation is the gateway.

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

Why your SRE foundation transfers

- ✓ **SLOs for AI** — objective discipline extends to AI-service guarantees.
- ✓ **Observability first** — governing AI needs the instrumentation SRE teaches.
- ✓ **Guardrailed automation** — autonomous remediation needs SRE safety controls.

★ ENROLLMENT OPEN

Future-proof your path into AI-era roles

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

[Reserve My Spot →](#)

HIRING TRENDS

Demand is broad and growing

As organizations depend more on always-on digital services, SRE hiring has spread well beyond big tech — good news for every persona entering the field.

Industries hiring SREs

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

Trend	What it means for you
Cloud-native & real-time services	Reliability skills needed on nearly every platform team.
Startups building resilient early	More entry points for newly certified switchers.
AIOps & observability growth	New higher-value specializations opening up.
75% enterprise SRE adoption by 2027	Sustained, rising demand for certified talent.

Credential = visibility

A recognized certification helps recruiters find you faster.

Many on-ramps

Every persona has a viable, in-demand route into the field.

Adoption and demand context from public industry roadmaps (2025–2026).


EXAM DETAILS & YOUR CREDENTIAL

How you get certified

Exam attribute	Detail
Question type	Multiple-choice (knowledge & scenario-based)
Number of questions	40
Duration	60 minutes
Passing score	Approximately 65–70%
Delivery	Online, remotely proctored, closed book
Attempts	2 attempts (1 free retake included)
Validity	Lifetime — no renewal fees



Certificate is illustrative; final design, wording and seal are issued by GSDC. Exam parameters reflect the standard SRE Foundation format — confirm current specifics at enrollment.

 **FINAL 48 HOURS**

Last call — your offer expires soon

This is the final window. Enroll in the GSDC SRE certification within 48 hours and start the pathway built for your background.

[Enroll Before It Ends →](#)

YOUR NEXT STEP

Start your SRE Pathway

You've found your persona, seen the 10-week roadmap, the case studies, the syllabus, and the payoff. The reliable next move is to begin.

How it works

- 01** **Enroll & pick your persona**
Choose the GSDC SRE certification and the pathway that fits your background.
- 02** **Learn & practice**
Work the modules and 12 activities week by week, with live sessions.
- 03** **Certify**
Sit the online proctored exam — with a free retake if needed.
- 04** **Get hired**
Use your portfolio, badge, and job support to land the role.

Ready to start the pathway built for you?

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

[Start the Pathway →](#)

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