



This course supports the assessment for Operating Systems. The course covers 7 competencies and represents 6 competency units.

## Introduction

### Overview

The 70-687 Microsoft MCSA Windows 8 exam is the first in a series of two exams that test the skills and knowledge necessary to implement and configure Windows 8.1 computers, devices, users, and associated network and security resources. After passing this exam, you will hold credit toward either the MCSA or MCSE certifications.

MCSA Desktop certification holders are usually qualified for a position as a computer support specialist.

Microsoft recommends candidates for this test should have at least 6-12 months experience within the specific objectives identified.

### Competencies

This course provides guidance to help you demonstrate the following 7 competencies:

- **Competency 4004.1.1 Install and Upgrade to Windows 8.1**  
The graduate develops plans to install and upgrade to Windows 8.1.
- **Competency 4004.1.2 Configure Hardware and Applications**  
The graduate configures hardware and applications.
- **Competency 4004.1.3 Configure Network Connectivity**  
The graduate configures network connectivity.
- **Competency 4004.1.4 Configure Access to Resources**  
The graduate configures access to resources.
- **Competency 4004.1.5 Configure Remote Access and Mobility**  
The graduate configures remote access and mobility.
- **Competency 4004.1.6 Monitor and Maintain Windows Clients**  
The graduate monitors and maintains Windows clients.
- **Competency 4004.1.7 Configure System and Data Recovery Options**  
The graduate configures system and data recovery options.

### Course Instructor Assistance

As you prepare to successfully demonstrate competency in this subject, remember that course instructors stand ready to help you reach your educational goals. As subject matter experts, mentors enjoy and take pride in helping students become reflective learners, problem solvers, and critical thinkers. Course instructors are excited to hear from you and eager to work with you.



Successful students report that working with a course instructor is the key to their success. Course instructors are able to share tips on approaches, tools, and skills that can help you apply the content you're studying. They also provide guidance in assessment preparation strategies and troubleshoot areas of deficiency. Even if things don't work out on your first try, course instructors act as a support system to help you prepare for another attempt. You should expect to work with course instructors for the duration of your coursework, and you are encouraged to contact them as soon as you begin. Course instructors are fully committed to your success!

## Preparing for Success

The information in this section is provided to detail the resources available for you to use as you complete this course.

## Learning Resources

Your primary learning resources for this course are:

- CBT Nuggets
- MeasureUp Lab Environment
- Transcender Practice Exam
- MS Imagine

Please review the article with the title, "*Best Practices for MS Resources*" in Course Tips (right navigation bar) to learn more about how to use these resources effectively and improve your chances of passing this test on your first attempt.



### **OPTIONAL: Review additional material**

- [Pluralsight \(90-day free trial\)](#)

## **Getting Started**

Before you start on this course you should assess your knowledge on this topic by taking the Transcender Preset Exam. Even if you get many questions wrong, the results will help you understand what you need to learn and what areas you should concentrate on.

The assessment consists of 50 items and you have 120 minutes for completion.

## **Course Work**

The Course Work guide suggests a structure to monitor your learning activities. It is provided as a suggestion and does not represent a mandatory schedule. Follow the guide carefully to complete the course in the suggested order.

The lectures, videos and exercises in your Course Work guide are constructed in a manner that they build on each other. Please make sure to complete each section in order. Each suggested module has:

- videos
- lecture/exam essentials
- labs and quizzes
- review questions
- exercises/simulations



## Preparing For Your Course

Explore	Practice	Assess
Watch CBT Nuggets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">About this Course Introduction</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Your 70-687 Exam</a></li> </ul>	Install personal lab. Please refer to " <i>Creating Your Personal Microsoft Lab</i> " under Course Tips (right navigation bar).	Self-Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Take Transcender Preset Exam</a></li> </ul>

## Install and Upgrade to Windows 8.1

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 4004.1.1 Install and Upgrade to Windows 8.1**  
The graduate develops plans to install and upgrade to Windows 8.1.

Explore	Practice	Assess
Watch CBT Nuggets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Evaluate Hardware Readiness and Compatibility</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Install Windows 8.1</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Migrate and Configure User Data</a></li> </ul>	Complete MeasureUp Lab: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Install and Upgrade to Windows 8</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Migrate and Configure User Data</a></li> </ul>	Self-Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transcender Optimized Exam: <a href="#">Install and Upgrade to Windows 8.1</a></li> </ul>

## Configure Hardware and Applications



This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 4004.1.2 Configure Hardware and Applications**  
The graduate configures hardware and applications.

Explore	Practice	Assess
Watch CBT Nuggets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Configure Devices and Device Drivers</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Install Apps</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Control Access to Local Hardware and Apps</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">IE 11 and Desktop IE</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Configure Hyper-V</a></li> </ul>	Complete MeasureUp Lab: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Install and Configure Desktop Applications</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Configure Internet Explorer</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Configure Hyper-V</a></li> </ul>	Self-Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transcender Optimized Exam: <a href="#">Configure Hardware and Applications</a></li> </ul>

## Configure Network Connectivity

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 4004.1.3 Configure Network Connectivity**  
The graduate configures network connectivity.

Explore	Practice	Assess
Watch CBT Nuggets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">IP Settings</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Configure Network Settings</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Configure Network Security</a></li> </ul>	Complete MeasureUp Lab: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Configure IP Settings</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Configure and Maintain Network Security</a></li> </ul>	Self-Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transcender Optimized Exam: <a href="#">Configure Network Connectivity</a></li> </ul>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Configure Remote Management</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Configure Remote Management</a></li> </ul>	
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## Configure Access to Resources

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 4004.1.4 Configure Access to Resources**  
The graduate configures access to resources.

Explore	Practice	Assess
Watch CBT Nuggets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Configure Shared Resources</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Configure File and Folder Access</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Configure Authentication and Authorization</a></li> </ul>	Complete MeasureUp Lab: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Configure Shared Resources</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Configure File and Folder Access</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Configure Local Security Settings</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Configure Authentication and Authorization</a></li> </ul>	Self-Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transcender Optimized Exam: <a href="#">Configure Access to Resources</a></li> </ul>

## Configure Remote Access and Mobility

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 4004.1.5 Configure Remote Access and Mobility**  
The graduate configures remote access and mobility.



Explore	Practice	Assess
Watch CBT Nuggets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Configure Remote Connections</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Configure Mobility Options</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Configure Security for Mobile Devices</a></li> </ul>	Complete MeasureUp Lab: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Configure Remote Connections</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Configure Remote Desktop Connections</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Configure Security for Mobile Devices</a></li> </ul>	Self-Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transcender Optimized Exam: <a href="#">Configure Remote Access and Mobility</a></li> </ul>

## Monitor and Maintain Windows Clients

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 4004.1.6 Monitor and Maintain Windows Clients**  
The graduate monitors and maintains Windows clients.

Explore	Practice	Assess
Watch CBT Nuggets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Configure and Manage Updates</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Manage Local Storage</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Monitor System Performance</a></li> </ul>	Complete MeasureUp Lab: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Configure and Manage Updates</a></li> </ul>	Self-Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transcender Optimized Exam: <a href="#">Monitor and Maintain Windows Clients</a></li> </ul>



## Configure System and Data Recovery Options

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 4004.1.7 Configure System and Data Recovery Options**  
The graduate configures system and data recovery options.

Explore	Practice	Assess
Watch CBT Nuggets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Configure System Recovery</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Configure File Recovery</a></li> </ul>	Complete MeasureUp Lab: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Configure Backup and System Recovery Options</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Configure System Recovery Options</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Configure File Recovery Options with OneDrive</a></li> </ul>	Self-Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transcender Optimized Exam: <a href="#">Configure Backup and Recovery Options</a></li> </ul>

## Final Assessment Tips

One of the many things that makes WGU unique is its competency-based education model. If you know the material, all you have to do is prove it by passing the exam. If you can do this, you can accelerate the receipt of your degree.

To make sure you have the best chance possible to pass the exam on your first attempt, the following steps should be completed successfully before you take it:

- Read, review, and utilize the learning resources in their entirety: CBT Nuggets, MeasureUp and Transcender Practice exams.
- Take Transcender "preset exam experience" practice exams. Repeat this process until you can score 90% or higher at least 2 times on the Transcender preset practice exam, and send your results to your program mentor and course instructor.





- If you have completed the steps above and you feel comfortable with all of the concepts presented, you are most likely ready to attempt the exam and should request approval from your program mentor.

If you fail your first attempt, you will be required to work with a course instructor to make a modified study plan, and to obtain an additional attempt approval. After determining you are ready, your course instructor will approve your next exam attempt.

***Outside Vendor Assessment Information to complete the 70-687: Configuring Windows 8.1 certification assessment.***

For directions on how to receive access to outside vendor assessments, see the "Accessing Objective and Outside Vendor Assessments "page.

**Submitting Outside Vendor Assessment Scores**

After completing your Microsoft assessment, complete and follow the directions as stated on the [Score Report Cover Sheet](#).