

## **Microsoft Office Specialist for Microsoft 365 Apps Version Information**

Certiport is pleased to announce the coming release of Microsoft Office Specialist for Microsoft 365 Apps, the next version of exams in the Microsoft Office Specialist program. The first exams in this version are scheduled to release in September 2022. For the latest information on which exams and localizations will be available when, please refer to this webpage: <https://certiport.pearsonvue.com/Educator-resources/Exam-details/Exam-releases>

### ***Version Name Changes***

On June 30, the Microsoft Office Specialist version known as *Microsoft 365 Apps and Office 2019* will be renamed to be *Office 2019*, to avoid confusion with the Microsoft 365 Apps exams, which will be released starting in September, and to clarify what feature sets are covered by each set of exams.

As we launch the Microsoft 365 Apps version, and as MOS moves away from year-specific versions of Office we will be changing the badges and certificates to more clearly indicate when the certification was earned.

### ***Implications for Earning Associate or Expert Certifications***

Candidates who have taken a Microsoft 365 Apps and Office 2019 exam prior to June 30, 2022, and who are interested in pursuing a Pathway certification, such as Microsoft Office Specialist: Associate or Microsoft Office Specialist: Expert, will have the option of finishing that pathway in both the Office 2019 and Microsoft 365 Apps versions of the exams. This is in recognition of the fact that both versions of software were covered in the exams previously and both the new Office 2019 and Microsoft 365 Apps pathways are options for candidates who previously started the Microsoft 365 Apps and Office 2019 Pathway.

For candidates who start their pathways from July 1, 2022, they will need to complete their pathway in one version of the exams or the other. This is in recognition of the fact that the different versions will cover different functionality and a Microsoft Office Specialist: Associate or Microsoft Office Specialist: Expert certification in one of the versions will represent proficiency in a specific set of features and tasks unique to the software versions.

To illustrate how this will work, if a student takes Word (Microsoft 365 Apps and Office 2019) prior to June 30 they can take PowerPoint and Excel after June 30 in either Office 2019 or in Microsoft 365 Apps (as that version is released) to earn their Microsoft Office Specialist: Office 2019 Associate and/or Microsoft Office Specialist: Microsoft 365 Apps Associate credential. They must take both PowerPoint and Excel in the same version of the exams.

If a student takes Word (Office 2019) after June 30, they can take PowerPoint and Excel in the Office 2019 version of the exams to earn their Microsoft Office Specialist: 2019 Associate credential.

The requirements for the Microsoft Office Specialist: Associate and Microsoft Office Specialist: Expert credentials will not change between the Office 2019 and Microsoft 365 Apps versions of the exams. Please note, however, that Access certification will not be available in the Microsoft 365 Apps version of the

exams. So, if someone would like to take, or use their existing Access exam as part of their Expert credential, they will need to pursue the Office 2019 version of the exams.

### ***Office Compatibility Implications***

The only version of Microsoft 365 Apps that will be supported by both the Office 2019 exams and the Microsoft 365 Apps exams is 2202. Support for subsequent builds after that will only be found in the Microsoft 365 Apps exams. For the latest information on technical requirements, please see this webpage: <https://certiport.pearsonvue.com/Support/Technical-requirements>

Microsoft's strategy with non-Microsoft 365 Apps versions of the applications is to offer them as a "snapshot" of Microsoft 365 Apps at a given point in time. In other words, Office 2021 would be a snapshot of the features found in Microsoft 365 Apps at that certain point in time. Because of this, any version of the applications after build 2202 would be supported by the Microsoft 365 Apps versions of the exams.

Certiport is also working on providing testing centers with the ability to deliver Microsoft Office Specialist exams in a Virtual Machine, meaning that regardless of what software is installed on a computer, Certiport will serve up the exam in a virtual environment with a version of the software that is compatible with the version of the exams chosen. Additional detail on that offering will be provided as it gets closer to being released.

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