

The True Cost Calculator

Fill in every line, including the one that is hours instead of dollars - and do not finish the page until someone else has been asked to pay.

Certification being priced

Date

Price it here before you buy; the cash total feeds your ROI Scorecard’s cost dimension (Ch 7).

1. Exam

Vendor's page today, minus a voucher or bundle you have confirmed, not hoped for

amount

of which ME pays

of which NOT ME pays

2. Retake reserve

Half the exam fee, unless a bundled retake changes the math

amount

of which ME pays

of which NOT ME pays

3. Materials

Every guide, course, lab, bundle; subscriptions × timeline plus two months

amount

of which ME pays

of which NOT ME pays

4. Time

Honest hours × your real or target hourly rate. **Not billed - compared. These hours could build your portfolio project instead. Feeds the full cost only.**

amount

hours

× hourly worth

5. Renewal, per year

Every future fee and CE subscription, per-year figure × years you expect to hold it

amount

of which ME pays

of which NOT ME pays

CASH COST

lines 1 + 2 + 3 + 5

FULL COST

all five lines

The decision line: who pays what?

“Not me” owners: an employer, a voucher, a bundle - or, with no employer to ask, a scholarship or public fund (current programs: on the companion site).

Do not finish this page until the “not me” column has been genuinely attempted.

Caution: if an employer funds this, check for a repayment clause - leaving within a set period can flip the training cost back to you. That contingent cost belongs on the page, not in a footnote.

Funding ask sent / checked on (date):