Learner Guide

Welcome to WSA Academy Pro

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Your e-mail address is confirmed and your account is open. This letter sets out who we are, why the program exists, what you will study and how your work is protected, so that you may judge for yourself whether it deserves your time.

Your first three steps

- Sign in and set up two-step verification. It is required for every account, and ten one-time recovery codes are issued.
- Open lesson 1 of any course. It is free and needs no card.
- Decide later. If you wish to continue, add a plan; the first month is free and you may cancel before it ends at no cost.

Why we created Academy Pro

Every working day, people are asked to weigh claims they cannot verify, to assess risks they did not choose and to decide, under pressure of time, whom to trust. Very few are ever taught how. The consequences are measurable. The FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center reported potential losses of more than $16.6 billion for 2024, from 859,532 complaints; the Federal Trade Commission publishes its own, different count, because the two agencies count in different ways, and learning why is one of the first lessons of the program.

The professionals who do this work well, analysts, investigators, auditors and fact-checkers, rely on public sources and on written standards of evidence. Those methods are rarely taught outside government, universities and a few large firms. We built Academy Pro to teach them plainly, with every source linked, so that anyone willing to study can use them.

Our purpose

To raise the quality of judgment in people and in the organizations they serve. We do this with advanced, cited coursework, graded practice that is marked by the server and, for the Professional certificate, by a person, and certificates that anyone may verify. We use only public, lawful sources. We use no classified, leaked or non-public material.

What you will study

Five courses of six lessons each. Every lesson contains practice, a graded check and a list of sources.

Open-Source Intelligence and Analytic Tradecraft

Find, grade, verify and cite public information, state uncertainty precisely, and write an assessment a decision-maker can use.

1. What open-source intelligence is, and is not
2. Sources and their grades
3. Searching and collecting well
4. Verifying text, images and claims
5. Analysing: hypotheses, bias and uncertainty
6. Writing the assessment

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Fraud, Scams and Cyber-Crime Defense

The anatomy of modern fraud, from impersonation to business e-mail compromise, and the personal and organizational controls that stop it.

1. The scale and the anatomy of fraud
2. Impersonation and investment scams
3. Phishing, business e-mail compromise and account takeover
4. Protecting identity and money
5. Organisations: controls and response
6. If it happens: response and recovery

Global Affairs and Country Risk

Read a country from governance, security, economic and operational evidence, and know the age and the limits of every indicator.

1. What country risk is
2. Governance and institutions
3. Security and stability
4. Economy, finance and sanctions
5. Reading a country: data, dates and decay
6. Building a country risk brief

Critical Thinking and Information Integrity

How judgment fails, how to read claims, numbers and the web as a professional fact-checker does, and how to think in probabilities.

1. How judgment fails
2. Claims, evidence and argument
3. Reading the web like a fact-checker
4. Numbers, statistics and charts
5. Thinking in probabilities
6. Deciding and communicating well

Incident Response and Breach Reporting

Prepare for, detect, contain and recover from a cyber incident, and meet the reporting duties of GDPR, HIPAA, the FTC, banking regulators, New York and the SEC.

1. What an incident is and why the clock matters
2. Prepare: governance, plans and playbooks
3. Detect and triage
4. Contain, eradicate and recover
5. The reporting map: who must be told, and by when
6. Communicate and learn

The standards behind the coursework

Every lesson names its sources, says what is a figure and what is a judgment, and states how sure we are. The program draws on the following, among others.

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- Analytic Standards, Intelligence Community Directive 203, Office of the Director of National Intelligence: sourcing, uncertainty, alternatives and clear argument.
- Psychology of Intelligence Analysis and the Tradecraft Primer, CIA Center for the Study of Intelligence: how judgment fails and the structured techniques that guard against it.
- Internet Crime Report, FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center, and Consumer Sentinel, Federal Trade Commission: the scale and the shape of fraud.
- Cybersecurity Framework 2.0, National Institute of Standards and Technology: Govern, Identify, Protect, Detect, Respond, Recover.
- National Incident-Based Reporting System, FBI: how crime is counted, and why counts are not comparable without care.
- Travel Advisories, U.S. Department of State, and the Worldwide Governance Indicators, World Bank: reading a country.
- Lateral reading, Wineburg and McGrew, Stanford, 2018: how professional fact-checkers judge a source.

How you are graded

Every lesson ends with a graded check. The server marks it, and the answer key is never sent to your browser until you submit.

Six kinds of question are used: single choice; select all that apply, with partial credit and a penalty for wrong picks; ordering; matching; numeric answers with a stated tolerance; and short written answers scored against the concepts a good answer must contain.

You need 70% on a lesson check and 80% on the final exam. The exam draws 20 questions at random from a larger bank, in a different order each time, with 3 attempts in any seven days. After you submit, every answer is revealed with its reason and its sources.

The Professional case file is read by a person and scored from 0 to 4 on each criterion of a published rubric. If it falls short it is returned for revision at no charge.

Your certificates

- Foundation: pass the first three lesson checks of a course.
- Practitioner: pass all six lesson checks and the final exam.
- Professional: also complete the case file, which a person reviews ($29.00 per course).

Plans and prices

The prices below are list prices. A platform service fee of 5% and a hosting and delivery fee of 5% are added to every bill as separate lines. Tax, where it applies, is added by Stripe. Every plan begins with 30 days free.

Lesson 1 of every course	**Free**
One course (lessons 1 to 3, Foundation certificate)	**$10.00, once**
Single plan, every course	**$11.11 a month**
Team, 5 to 24 people	**$9.99 per person a month**
Team, 25 to 99 people	**$8.99 per person a month**
Team, 100 or more	**$8.00 per person a month**

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Our mission

> *World Scholars Arena strives to democratize access to elite intellectual competition, creating a transparent, merit-based system in which excellence is measurable, recognised and rewarded.*

Our vision

> *A world in which what a person can learn is never limited by where they were born or what they can pay, and in which achievement can be measured, recognised and trusted anywhere.*

Who stands behind it

Academy Pro is published by Alexia Network LLC of Phoenix, Arizona, the company that also operates World Scholars Arena, the WSA Academy, the Tutor Network, Alexia Publish and Alexia Advertising. Alexia Network LLC is a BBB Accredited Business.

The program was conceived and is led by Atem Astor Tangap, Founder and Chief Information Security Officer. He answers personally for its standards, and writes to you at the foot of this letter.

Our commitments to you

- Public sources only. Nothing classified, leaked or non-public is used, and every claim you can check is linked.
- Honesty about limits. We state what a figure is, what is a judgment and how sure we are, and we mark a source that is out of date. For example, the CIA World Factbook was retired on 4 February 2026, and the program teaches it as an archived source, with its date.
- Privacy. Administrators see progress and certificates only. The study room shows a first name only and blocks links, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers. There are no private messages.
- Inclusion and access. Every page works on a phone, a tablet and a computer, with a keyboard and with a screen reader. The interface, the e-mails and the certificates are available in 13 languages. The lesson text is in English for now, because it is cited and advanced and must not change in translation.
- No academic claim. A certificate is a record of completion from a private training program. It is not a degree, is not accredited and carries no academic credit.

The seal and the lock

Every certificate and every manual we issue carries the World Scholars Arena security seal, a unique fingerprint and a QR code, and is locked against editing. Anyone, an employer or a registrar for example, can check a certificate code on our verification page without signing in. The certificate is a record of completion from a private training program; it is not a degree, is not accredited and carries no academic credit, and we say so on its face.

If you need help

Open Support in your portal to send a ticket to the same team that supports the whole Academy, or write to atastor@alexianetwork.com or telephone (774) 544-7829, on business days from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Arizona time.

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